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SALEM'S ART DEPARTMENT

The ideal college is one which offers equal opportunities in each line of study. Every department is well developed and well supported. Salem conforms to this ideal more than she fails to conform. But she does not conform enough. On our campus we have an excellent music department, a fine science department, a good business department, and so on down the line. But what about our Art department? Why is this side of Salem so distinctly under-developed?

There is an art department, though many students fail to realize that it exists. This department, though in its infancy, has immense possibilities and could be an extremely vital part of Salem College — if it were given the proper support. It needs to be built up, and this building up process cannot come entirely from within the department itself. There must also be external support.

It is true that recent progress has been made, for until three years ago, modern Salem had no art studio. For a year and a half the department existed only as an outsider, an unaccredited part of the curriculum. Last year it was decided to allow students to get credit points for studying art. But these credits were limited to upper classmen, and even among upper classmen, to a one year period. After that year was up, the student got no credit for her art course, had to take another subject in its place; and, even if she wanted to go on with her art as outside work, had very little time left to do so. This situation still exists.

In addition to the credit question there is the problem of actual material or financial support. Even an art department, as much as it depends upon individual work and individual materials, cannot develop without some general equipment. At present the art department has a teacher, a studio, and several very interested members. Outside of that it has practically nothing.

The existence of an art department does not need to be defended. Art itself is an essential part of life, both commercially and aesthetically. Art is given community support, state support, national support — Why isn't it given college support?

—A. M.

THE UNKNOWN ART

Conversation is a course which is never completed. It is an art which very few people have mastered. It is a study of friendliness, and continually exposes one's intellect and imagination. There are but few people alive today who fully realize or understand its wonderful power.

According to an article which was published in "The News and Observer" a few weeks ago, we find that the average woman (men are in the same predicament), has a supply of only seven subjects upon which she can converse fluently. Of these subjects we find that from seventy-five to ninety-five per-cent of the material which is discussed is irrelevant; and, though it may not be depreciative, there is no constructive quality in its prevalence. The most common subjects of discourse are: the weather, movie stars and movies, cooking, the home, and perhaps one or two sports. As a rule however, the average person's knowledge of sports is limited to baseball, football, tennis, and sometimes basketball, or track. The reason for this is the fact that these sports are our major national sports and the knowledge of the principles of minor sports is lacking in the minds of most of the people today. We realize that the subjects listed are nearly all exhausted, having lost their beneficial properties, and sometimes even becoming humorous in their continued usage.

We all seem to think that discussions on topics concerned with religion, news, progress, and politics should be left for social gatherings or for the more highly educated. We do not realize that if we would but keep our eyes and ears open we could be classed among the priceless few who know how to talk freely on subjects of more general importance.

Our purpose here is not to encourage scientific dissertations on subjects of purely technical interest, but to stimulate a desire for a broader knowledge of everything; for, the more we know, the more interesting conversation will become. We should talk on subjects which are of common interest among our companions, and yet comprehensive of provoking thought. V. H. Frielander says, in "Pied Piper's Street," (Reader's Digest), that: "the abolition of small talk would be a disaster." While Brenda Ueland, in "The Saturday Evening Post" (Reader's Digest, March, 1936), says that: "the underlying trouble with conversation is the lack of curiosity." We must not be bored with talks on Diesel Engines, including information on cam shafts, pistons,

CHECK UP

Once there was a very beautiful and popular girl who played along all year in the senior class and who considered herself well on the way to graduation. Her grades were low, but she thought she could barely skim over. There were one or two subjects required that she didn't bother to get in since she guessed she could at least get by. Then she over cut many times for inadequate reasons. Unfortunately, this same girl was sad on commencement day because she suddenly realized that seniors don't just happen to be and that diplomas are not handed out indiscriminately.

Seniors, do you know this lesson or are you waiting until June to find it out? Miss Blair suggests that we check our required subjects this week, so that we may not omit them next semester. Look up, too, those back papers and see if you can't find a red "F" to be "yanked up" by an "A" exam. Graduation begins now. Get started.

—F. J.

THANK YOU

The new cuts system put into effect this year has proved to be an excellent one. The students were well satisfied with the system, with the exception of one point. In the system, a girl who made a mark of B-, which is higher than the average grade, would receive one cut in that class; just so, a girl who made a mark of C-, which is almost a conditioning grade, would receive one cut.

The change which was announced last week — that any grade, whether plus or minus would merit the same number of cuts in that class as a "straight" grade — remedies the only objectionable point in the new system. The student body is very grateful for this improvement.

SALEM'S DATE BOOK

Friday, December 10 —

German Club meets.

Tea for new day students and their mothers.

Saturday, December 11 —

Academy play, "The Goose Hangs High."

Sunday, December 13 —

Senior Vespers.

Wednesday, December 15 —

Christmas party.

Choral ensemble sings at the city Music Club.

Thursday, December 16 —

Senior Caroling service.

Friday, December 17 —

Academy students leave for Christmas holidays.

Saturday, December 18 —

College students leave for Christmas holidays.

and generators, but we must listen attentively to the speaker for "there is no magic like interested attention." It will enliven conversation and give it new life and appeal. There is of course, the extreme side of broadened conversation which is really more repulsive than attractive. This is very clearly shown by Elmer Davis in "I Resign From Social Life," found in "Harper's" for March, 1936. To be accosted at formal dinner parties to discuss "public health in Russia," or the "fine points of the city charter" or "rural rehabilitation" when really the desire for interesting, advantageous, friendly talk lay in old times or personal achievement is, in his opinion, a justifiable reason for resigning from society.

Generalizations and mixtures of ideas yield fruitful and worthwhile conversation. Arnold Bennett, in "The Savour of Life" (Reader's Digest, March, 1936), gives this excellent summary:

"The good talker lets himself go — and at the end of the sitting you may decide that you are a more sagacious individual than he is, but he has held you, diverted you, increased your acquaintance with human nature, incited you to thought, and above all, shown you an individuality. And you look forward to meeting him again."

SCHERZO IN "BE SHARP"

(Reprinted through courtesy of "Coronet Magazine" and "Band World").

Here are ten questions designed to test your general knowledge of music. Ten questions will be published for the next 4 weeks. Count 2 per cent for every correct answer. A rating of 60 per cent is fair, 70 per cent good, 80 per cent very good, 90 per cent exceptional and 100 per cent perfect:

1. Name the lowest compass of the adult male voice.
2. What device is used to deaden or reduce the volume of sound of a metal wind or string instrument?
3. What is the mouth (musical), organ called?
4. With what implement is tone produced in instruments of the viol class?
5. What kind of music is best suited to a private room or small hall?
6. What word is used by the audience to recall a performer?
7. Name the two flat metallic discs that can be clashed together.
8. What is an ensemble of four performers?
9. What is the name of the stick or wand employed by a conductor in leading?
10. What is the general term for a Christmas carol?

Answers will be found on Page 5

AS YOU GIVE, SO SHALL YOU RECEIVE

Take a lesson from the following: A minister was called one Sunday to fill the pulpit of a pastor who was sick. As the minister and his daughter entered the church, a contribution box which was placed near the door aroused the curiosity of the little girl. After her father explained that the box took the place of collection plates, the little girl said, "Aren't you going to put something into the box?"

The minister produced a few coins and selected a dime.

"You are going to put in more than that, aren't you?" asked the girl, reprovingly.

"All right, then," said the minister, "we will make it a quarter," and selecting a twenty-five cent piece he placed it in the box.

After the service an official said to the minister, "Just wait a few minutes until I open the contribution box, we always give the visiting minister the offering that is in the box."

The box was opened and one lone twenty-five cent piece was all that was found.

The little girl first looked at the coin and then at her father.

"Now, you see," she said, "if you had put more in you would have got more out!"

—B. R.

CHATTER & PATTEN

Three rahs for Harry! Even though he didn't come up for the week-end, Turnage had her hair fixed. How was the "weak-end" letter.

McCarty had just cause for her unusual mood last Monday night. A picture of Larry's blond and getting all dressed and nowhere to go is too much for girl — eh Mac?

Rockwell was back in town Sunday, Annette, what will you do Christmas when both Courtney and Rockwell will be alone? You'll have to court one and give the other the rocks.

Nan Totten has always been good at talking her way out of an embarrassing situation. Sunday night she had an unexpected caller who left hurriedly on the pretext of catching a train, but he really had another date. "I wasn't going to give him a date anyway," quoted Nan.

A letter a day will get the blues away. Did you by any chance see Maud's radiant face last Saturday?