

Downtrodden Salemite Says, "Down With Exams"

By Marion Gaither

Picture, if you can, a cold, damp morning about 5:30, a dark, dimly-lighted cellar. There are roaches on the floor playing tag and rats nibbling on your toes. Tormented moans and wails are heard, faintly rising above the ticking of a clock. Your eyes are bloodshot from lack of sleep and your entire body is racked with pain. These are not, as you might suppose, the horrors of a concentration camp, but only the day of your English lit. and history of civilization exams.

The problem is: Are exams necessary? My answer is no—Absolutely, No! And my goal is the abolition of them forever from the face of the earth. Exams are not a test of true mental ability—they are only the results of midnight cramming! The knowledge absorbed in a short period of frantic memorization vanishes quickly. The students' true comprehension of a field or familiarity with a subject cannot be discovered from an exam paper since these papers are not authentic results of knowledge accumulated over a long period of time but are only the outcome of forced periods of concentration.

The solution that I propose is the complete abolition of exam week, the emancipation of enslaved students, freedom from fear of amnesia and complete forgetfulness—freedom from want of words for expression. This solution would give the students a chance for intelligent understanding of the subject instead of a jungle of memorized phrases and time for clarity of thought. I visualize a day of complete relaxation—the tranquility of a professor's home in front of an open fire—a cup of tea and a leisurely cigarette—with the professor asking casual questions that can be answered with composure and time to collect your thoughts. A friendly atmosphere and eager encouragement when the question is not understood or words fail to come.

Students rise up! Assert yourselves! This is a problem with which only students can deal. Only you know the agony and torture of READING DAY and EXAM WEEK. The confusion and chaos which accompany them. Join in the nationwide student movement to abolish exams and insure liberty and justice for all.

APPRECIATION

The Student Government wishes to express its thanks to all students and faculty members who assisted with decorations for the dance last week-end.

Clubs Have Informal Teas

The Alpha Iota Pi will entertain at a tea on Wednesday, October 30, from 4 to 5:30 in the living room of Louisa Wilson Biting Dormitory. New Latin students will be invited.

Patsy Law is in charge of invitations. The committee which is planning the tea is composed of Geraldine Purcell, Ann Folger, Betsy Meiklejohn, and Margaret Styers.

The Spanish Club held the first of its informal teas Tuesday afternoon from 4 to 5 in the Day Student's Center. All who came played a game of anagrams in Spanish.

Mr. Lerch Gives Violin Concert

Mr. James R. Lerch, violinist, of the Salem College School of Music, gave a violin concert Monday night, October 21, in Memorial Hall. Mr. Lerch played both old classical works and modern studies. His concert program consisted of a varied selection of brilliant and interesting numbers.

Mr. Lerch displayed a most brilliant technique and sympathetic interpretation of the works which composed his program.

The concert numbers included Vivaldi's "Sonata in D Major," as arranged by Respighi, and the "Concerto in G Minor" of Max Bruch.

The modern numbers, which appeared in the second half of the program, included selections from Darius Milhaud's "Sandadas do Brazil," "Nigun" from Ernest Bloch's "Baal Shem Suite" contained an oriental theme. The lively "Cortege," by Lili Boulanger, completed the program.

Mr. Lerch is a new member of the music faculty of Salem College. He came to Salem this fall from the Juilliard School of Music.

Mr. Lerch was accompanied in his concert by Miss Margaret Vardell, who is also of the faculty of the Salem School of Music.

Juniors Give Novel Party

Tuesday, October 22, at 6 o'clock the Junior Class entertained their freshmen "little sisters" at a party in the club-dining room. Marilyn Watson was in charge of the informal supper which was served to nearly 100 per cent of both classes.

The theme of the program, planned by Marion Gaither, was a scoop edition of the Salemite. It was narrated by Peggy Sue Taylor, who introduced each news item. The first "story" was a skit about the new students, in which "take-offs" of various freshmen were presented. Next, Anne Dungan and Peggy Davis impersonated an opera singer and a typical lecturer, showing that Salem goes in for culture as well as for fun. Sarah Clark and Mary Bryant, Joshlyn and Pierre, imitated the famous Adagio dancers with Lib Price as accompanist. One of Waldo's typical cartoons, showing the freshmen and juniors playing hockey, was acted out by Mary Wells Bunting and Page Daniel. The climax of the edition was an informal faculty meeting with impersonations of the faculty given by Janie Morris, Virginia Smith, Agnes Bowers, Peggy Gray, Catherine Gregory, and Jean Griffin.

Smokers!

No longer must you suffer from wanting a cigarette and not having one. No longer must you smoke O. P.'s. No longer must YOU be known as the person-who-always-hums cigarettes.

To enable you to keep yourself and your friends in cigarettes, the Sophomore Class has installed a cigarette machine in Cozy Corner, accessible any time of day and part of the night.

Make your motto: "To bum not; not to be hummed." Buy your favorite brand at the Cozy Corner stand. Incidentally, the pennies in the machine package fatten piggy banks and may also be used to buy gum and peanuts.

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"Mother" Strong Celebrates Birthday Away From Salem



"MOTHEE" STRONG

Mrs. Henry Alvah Strong, Salem's "Mother Strong," will celebrate her birthday this Thursday, October 24th. "Mother Strong" has lived on campus in Strong Dormitory for three years. Before this she lived in Washington, D. C. at the Shoreham Hotel. It is interesting to know that when she left Washington to move into her apartment here, she brought all her personal belongings and although she has lived all over the world, she has since then spoken of Salem as "home."

At the present time Mrs. Strong is visiting her son, Colonel Corrin Strong in Washington, D. C., and is expected back at Salem in two or three weeks. For the past three years Salem has had an active part in celebrating her birthdays. Mr. Gus Brunner, the head baker of Corrin Hall, is sending her a birthday cake this year by mail. Mother Strong also gave to Salem Corrin Hall which is named for her son. The members of the College and Academy faculty are giving her a card shower. Salem's girls all send their love and best wishes to her for a Happy Birthday.

Day Students Entertain At Tea

The annual tea which the day students give for their parents was held Wednesday, October 23 from 4 until 5:30. The day student Center was decorated with candles, ivy, and flowers. Music was supplied by Sarah Haltiwanger and Becky Clapp.

The House Committee served tea to approximately 100 guests during the afternoon. This tea is always anticipated by both parents and faculty because it gives them a chance to get acquainted informally.

Melodrama

(Cont. from page one)

Showing a good sense of timing, the characters waited for laughs and their "punch lines" were excellently delivered. "The Curse of an Aching Heart" was certainly a welcome variation from the usually highly dramatic productions presented on campus.

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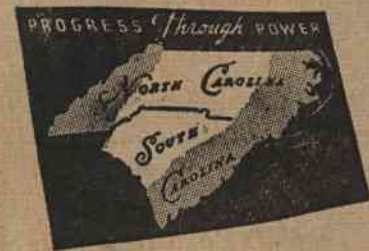
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