

Open Letter:

Graduation is fast approaching, and with it comes the necessity of saying good-byes. Good-byes cannot be said without sadness and regrets. Along with the traditional farewell I wish to say "thanks".

Thanks . . . first, to my dependable and efficient Executive Committee who met faithfully every Monday, rain or shine, to plan orientation, offer advice, consider petitions and to do many other jobs that I could never have done without them.

Thanks . . . to the judicial board who met endlessly and patiently. You who weighed problems so conscientiously in order to come to the right solution I want to commend.

Thanks . . . to Dr. Rondthaler and the Faculty Advisory Group for their careful guidance and advice. You were available day and night, and I would like you to know how much your sincere and carefully-thought-through suggestions meant to Student Government.

Thanks . . . to Miss Baynes, our advisor, who could see a solution to our problem when our minds were befuddled. Your new ideas and helpful suggestions were always an encouragement.

Thanks . . . to members of the student body for your efforts to cooperate with Student Government, often when you could not see the ultimate good of the situation at the moment. Your kind words and unceasing help have carried us over many low ebbs.

Thanks . . . to Sara Burts who recorded the innumerable call-downs and placed those slips in your room.

Thanks . . . because I can leave with a feeling of confidence that your new president will have a dependable and conscientious council, a willing Faculty Advisory Group, and a student body who will cooperate 100 per cent in making Student Government an organization composed of honorable members.

I wish Nell Penn Watt and her council the best of luck as they take over the job that has filled the happiest and best moments of my college life.

Mary Bryant

Thanks

. . . to Mr. Mann and Mr. Weinland for their cooperation in the renovation of the Salemite and Sights and Insights offices. Thanks also to Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Reagan, and Aaron Smith who did an excellent job of painting and carpentry. Their help has made working in the offices more pleasant. The staffs of both student publications appreciate their work.

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Mitropoulis Conducts Minneapolis Symphony

Dimitri Mitropoulos, noted conductor, pianist and composer will direct the Minneapolis Symphony in a Civic Music concert, Sunday afternoon, April 18, at 3:30, in Reynolds Auditorium.

The program is as follows: Overture, "Coriolanus", Beethoven; the "Jupiter" Symphony, Mozart; Suite, "Children's Games", Bizet; "Rhapsody for Orchestra and Saxophone", Debussy; and "Concerto for Orchestra", Morton Gould.

A native of Athens, Greece, Mitropoulos first thought of becoming a monk, but finding that the religion of the Greek Orthodox Church and music did not mix, he turned to his greater love. Beginning the study of the piano at seven, he also studied composition and in 1919 the Conservatory at the Greek capital produced his first opera "Beatrice".

Saint-Saens was so impressed with this work that he arranged for a scholarship in composition at Brussels and later with Ferruccio Busoni in Berlin. Gradually Mitropoulos turned toward conducting and after being assistant conductor of the State Opera he returned to Athens to organize and conduct the orchestra at the Conservatory.

From 1930 to 1937, Mitropoulos

was seen as solo pianist and conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic, the Orchestra Symphonique de Paris, as well as in England, Italy and several seasons at Monte Carlo.

Serge Koussevitzky made possible his American debut with the Boston Symphony in 1936. Returning the next year for a second American tour, he filled a number of guest concerts with the Minneapolis Symphony, and when Eugene Ormandy left to take over the Philadelphia Orchestra, Mitropoulos was engaged as permanent conductor of the Minnesota group.

Four years ago, Mitropoulos was secured as permanent artistic director of the Robin Hood Dell summer concerts in Philadelphia and each season since then his success has increased. On several occasions he has displayed his ability at these concerts by playing the solo piano passages and conducting the orchestra at the same time.

The Minneapolis Symphony celebrated its forty-fifth season during the past winter. Its annual tours have included concerts in over 400 cities of the United States, Canada and Cuba. Under the leadership of Dimitri Mitropoulos the Orchestra has reached even greater heights of perfection in symphonic music.

Knight Finds Dragonwyck Impressive And Complex

by Suzi Knight

"Dragonwyck", a movie adapted from Anya Seton's novel, is an historical melodrama set in the 1840's against a background of Dutch Patroon system on the Hudson River.

The plot evolves around the dominating character of Nicholas Van Ryn (Vincent Price) who is the last in a long line of patroons. Van Ryn is one of those very possessive people who will do anything to hold on to their belongings. However, he goes farther than most, for he even resorts to murder to insure the continuance of his family line. It is here that the drama becomes excessive and the plot a little trying. All problems are cheerfully solved, however, by Van Ryn's going crazy, leaving the heroine free to run off with the noble doctor.

Gene Tierney plays the role of Miranda Wells, the farmer's daughter who marries Nicholas for his money but soon discovers she has made a bad bargain.

Both of these actors give excellent performances in spite of the obvious failings of the script.

The scene settings are impressive though gloomy and the costuming beautiful. All in all, it's a very entertaining movie but if you will please excuse the trite phrase, I think the book was better.

Anyway, see it tonight in Old Chapel, courtesy of the I. R. C.

Lerch, Vardell Give Concert

Dr. Charles Vardell and Mr. James Lerch will present a Sonata Recital on Sunday, April 18 at 4 p. m.

The recital is to be sponsored by the Charlotte Alumnae of Salem College. The program will consist of "Sonata in C Minor" by Mozart, "Sonatina" by Eldin Burton, and "Sonata" by Caesar Franck.

This is another in a series of joint recitals that Dr. Vardell and Mr. Lerch have presented throughout cities in the state during the year.

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Nell Penn Watt and Louise Stacy, president and secretary, respectively, of Salem Student Government, left Wednesday for Tallahassee, Florida. They are attending the 30th Annual Conference of the Southern Inter-Collegiate Association of Student Government. The meeting is being held at Florida State College and will last through Sunday. Girls who are representatives of colleges all over the south are attending this conference.

Of All Things

by Peirano Aiken

"Do you solemnly swear to fulfill the duties of your office—uphold the ideals of Salem"—installation—this week has been marked by old officers stepping down and new ones taking their places. In view of the fact that the 1947-48 administrations are officially over, we have decided to devote this column to recognizing a few changes instigated this year. Some were made by organizations, some by teachers and some by individual students. Some have already received encouragement and eulogy on this page, and others have not been formally noticed.

Perhaps this column will prove, incidentally, that Salemite writers do have a pro as well as a con side to their natures, for we have nothing but praise—

to Student Government, first of all, for the establishment of the Faculty-Student Relations Board and its successful solution of the Campus Living Room problem. If, in the future, this Board can produce understanding and level thinking to replace the childishness evident on both sides for a few weeks this winter, the need for a cooperative and workable attitude between administration and students will have been met.

to the "Y" for a well-planned Salem-Davidson Day and for such Vesper speakers as Mrs. Artom, who spoke on the needs of Italy and suggested specific means of helping the people. We feel that this type of program followed by action is more beneficial today than a poem and reading about the Great Stone Face, pretty and comforting as such stories are.

to the Coeds for the enthusiasm and solid support given campus activities. They have organized their own basketball team, entertained in Gingham Tavern, given dances, acted in Pierrette and Salem Player productions, written for the Salemite and revitalized club and classroom discussions. We hope that they feel, as we do, that they are an integral and necessary part of Salem.

to the I. R. S. for charm week and the marriage clinic, which definitely should have been of practical value, pertaining as it does to what the education people call "a life situation."

to Mr. Leach and other faculty members for organizing the Saturday Afternoon Work Camp, which at present is helping Harry Lee rebuild his house. Though small, this group is important for stimulating college relations with the community.

to Margaret Raynal and Cat Gregory for the cartoons and Little Mumbly columns that made the outgoing Salemite the wittiest ever—sheer funniness or a meaning if you looked for it.

to the faculty for the College Reading List. Such authors as Homer, Montaigne and Goethe have increased in sales since last fall; while the red and white, gold and black, pink and baby blue editions of the Rubaiyat have appreciably declined.

to Miss Baynes and Miss Welch for their exam techniques, which are different but have the same underlying idea: that the purpose of tests is to help the student organize his material and learn it, and that this can be accomplished as well or better when he knows what the test will cover. Miss Welch gave her classes a list of questions from which the exams were taken, and Miss Baynes assigned general discussion questions two weeks before they were due. These could be answered from the text and outside reading. According to smoke house discussion these were the fairest exams given. (May more teachers see the merits of the idea before May 20.)

to Janie Morris for her unprecedented work in arousing local interest in international relations: for writing the weekly news column, for bringing in excellent I. R. C. speakers, for organizing a World Federalist chapter, and for starting campus movies.

to the Education Department for improving teacher training.

Finally, we hail all those who did not make actual innovations this year and so could not be named in this list, but who also worked to bring about a shift from the trivial to the important in Salem's thinking.