

National Education Freak . . .

There is a lot of repetitious talk today that threat to liberal education is specialization. But below the surface hovers a deeper and more frightening threat.

The very name "liberal education" involves the word for "freedom." We are given freedom to elect courses, after a certain basic requirement is fulfilled, and we are free to choose the other areas, academic or otherwise, into which we want to delve.

There is a real danger that we are incapable of coping with this freedom. That we are lacking something which the theory of liberal education assumes we possess.

Intellectual apathy, unconcern, complacency, call it what you will—it is all too present right here on campus and few of us are exempt.

It is not merely the lack of attendance at concerts and lectures that points so sharply to our trouble—though this is painful enough. There exists the almost belligerent attitude toward anything with an academic ring.

To hear college students begging for free cuts, like fourth graders who want to get out for recess early, must be something for an outsider or for a serious professor to hear.

The round of applause that accompanies the postponement of a quiz has the same devastating ring as the honest-to-goodness statement, "I'm not going to the lecture; he's talking on politics and that's not one of the things I'm interested in."

The implication of each is the same. Perhaps there's nothing we can do. Some people blame it on this anxious age we live in. Nothing's certain, they say. Our generation is destined to be the mixed-up product of a mixed-up, unsure century.

And things do look pretty bad. Everything has so many sides and we feel the need of finding a right one as soon as we can and holding on to it.

The present is so hard to understand and so complicated and the future so helpless looking. But, when you get right to the bottom of things, we really don't have any choice but to stay with it. Whether we decide to shoulder the responsibility or not, it's ours. And we'll be living with it for quite a few years yet.

These may well be "the best years of our lives." But they are only part of our lives.

If we give up when we've got it so good what can we do when the chips are really down?

When we have everything right here for the taking and don't take it, what kind of people can we possibly be when, a few years from now, we have to give our children some reason for wanting to grow up at all?

It's sort of a bother but it's something to think about when you wake up too early some morning.

—J. S.

German Students Have Their Problems, Too

By Christa Menzel

Over the portal to the University in Hamburg you can read the words:

"for research, for teaching, for forming man."

Since the first two terms concern the professors, I want to put emphasis on the third one, that explains what the University shall be to the students.

The great aim of this institution is to form men who are able to think correctly and clearly, who are open for the truth, and who know themselves responsible for the nation, for Europe, for the entire world.

It is obvious that no professor, even the best one, can form the student into such an individual. That is a task the student himself has to solve. This grown has to take place in himself and the professor can only help by showing some ways.

Therefore, the presupposition for all successful study at a university is that the student loves to study. It is not enough that other people want him to study; he has to long for study. It must be joy for him.

The very structure of German universities expects this attitude of the students.

Because of this basic requirement there is no need for any kind of compulsion. Out of 1400 lectures and courses the student can choose which and how many subjects he wants to take. He chooses freely the books out of which he wants to study. It is the student's decision to go to listen to the lectures or to sit at home and study there.

When after at least five semesters the student feels ready for the only and final exam, he asks the professor to test him. But if he wants, he can study for twenty years and never take any examination.

The student is even allowed to leave any lecture whenever he wants and by knocking on his table or by hissing he expresses spontaneous approval or disagreement about the lecture.

Everyone can go to the university at least as a guest student. Gray-headed people are sitting at the sides of teen-agers. In some lectures the professor has an audience of 500 students but sometimes only five come to hear him.

The professor lectures and will never know whether you are listening. You can put down notes or read the newspaper, though the latter one is not too polite. There are no assignments and there are no questions, neither from the professor's side or from your side.

But that means that it is entirely your responsibility whether you ever learn anything.

As a student at a German university you have about five and a half months of holidays. Officially this time is not called "holiday" but "time without lectures" in order to indicate that you are supposed to study in this time.

And you really need five more months to learn all the material you have heard during the semesters. You cannot just memorize your notes to get ready for your examination, but you have to study the subject and not only the discourse of the professor. Often the student will be tested about things which the professor never even mentioned.

That makes study so difficult

But on the other side so extremely exciting. The student himself becomes an explorer.

But there are some weaknesses in the system itself.

Our students don't live together in dormitories but each one rents a room in the town, where he can study during the semester. Because of the size of the universities (now often 9000 students) they cannot have close contacts with the professors and unfortunately even not with the other students.

These factors have two consequences: 1) the student is often confronted alone with problems he can't solve without help; therefore, a lot of students become indifferent against any academic question while others are lost in the pleasure districts of our cities and only a few penetrate to the solution by creating new ideas. 2) when the students leave the university, they are frequently extraordinary in knowledge but they have not learned how to get along with people and how to live a good life.

But the greatest danger for the German university system is the attitude of the students themselves.

Many study not for studying but for earning money afterwards. Economic difficulties force some of the students into this attitude. They specialize, therefore, from the very beginning at the university. They are only interested in their faculty, their subjects, their lecture instead of integrating and filling their special knowledge with wider and deeper thoughts about the subjects taught in other faculties.

And this attitude is against the highest aim of the university: "to form not machines, but men."

Beyond The Square--By Carol Campbell

A Reminder

Russia's Embassy in Washington is across the street from the Philip Murray Building, headquarters of the International Union of Electrical Workers. Guests leaving an Embassy party last week faced this grim reminder—a six-story cross of lighted windows with a sign reading, "In Reverent Memory of Hungarian Workers Who Died for Freedom."

One last look at the election results. **Popular vote:** Eisenhower—36 million, Stevenson—26 million. **Electoral vote:** Eisenhower—457 in 41 states, Stevenson—74 in 7 states. **U. S. Senate results—**49 Democrats, 47 Republicans. **House results—**234 Democrats, 200 Republicans (net Demo. gain of 3) **Governors elected—**29 Democrats, 19 Republicans (net Demo. gain of 2). Finally we see a shift away from the Republicans in the farm states but a gain in the industrial East. This is probably due to the drought and low prices in agriculture which the farmer has blamed on the last administration.

An excellent summary of what to look for in the next four years is found in the latest issue of **U. S. and World Report**. Their predictions run like this: **Cold War—**No end in sight. **Hot War—**No World War III, little wars to keep on flaring, more revolutions. **Business—**Confidence to stay high. **Wages—**Uptrend to go on, Big new increases, however, to meet more resistance. **Living Costs—**Creeping rise ahead. **Spending—**To go on rising in federal, state and local governments. **Taxes—**No general cut of income taxes in sight—Total tax bills to creep up. **Stock Prices—**Peak may have been seen for time being. Next trend may be moderately downward. **Interest Rates—**To hold high well into 1957. **Building—**Trend likely to be downward. **Farming—**Outlook not improved, Prices weak.

Ever wonder what the defeated

candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency do after the election? The losers who headed the Democratic ticket seem to have already made their plans. **Stevenson** says he will return to his law practice. Rumor has it that he is also being mentioned as a possible college president.

Kefauver, already being mentioned as a contender for the presidential nomination in 1960 is returning to the Senate where he is on the Armed Services and Judiciary Committees. Another little job is to pay off the debts acquired during his nomination campaign which add up to a tidy sum.

Under the threat of Soviet intrusion in Egypt, **Britain** and **France** have joined **Israel** in yielding to the intervention of a U. N. Police Force. Before withdrawing their troops from the area, however, they are insisting on a definition of the 'mission' of the Force.

Forced to back down by the combination of Russian threats, and U. S. and U. N. criticism, none of the three nations have really achieved the objectives that sent them into battle. In addition, the Arab world is convinced that Russia's tough stand forced the invaders to accept a cease fire. Russia is seen as a champion and now has an opening to extend her influence in the confused nations of Asia and Africa.

With the Soviets again in control. Budapest is a **City of Blood**. Her streets and squares are littered with thousands of her bullet ridden people and her buildings are torn by the Soviet blasts. The latest news is that the youths that led the revolution are being deported to the Soviet Union — not even being given the time to inform their parents of their fate.

In retaliation, the U. N. has proposed sending investigators to Hungary and asked for the withdrawal of Russian troops. Both proposals

have been rejected. Latest developments are that Secretary General **Hammarckjold** has even offered to go to Hungary himself to arrange for the distribution of aid. Is a trend back towards Stalinism seen in the Soviet dictatorship?

The Nobel Peace Prize Committee announced last week for the second consecutive year that it could find no one worthy of its annual award.

Bad News—The Census Bureau estimated Monday that **females** outnumbered **males** in the U. S. by about 1,881,000, but at least the greatest disparity is in the age groups of 25 or over. (That gives us a few years). Two possible reasons: the mortality rate is higher for men and immigration has declined and only two-fifths of the people coming in are male.

Visiting as a house guest in the home of **Elvis Presley** and parents last week was doe-eyed starlet **Natalie Wood** of **Rebel Without a Cause** and **Burning Hills** (recently reviewed in the *Salemite*). Posing in front of his white Lincoln for the press, Nat and El looked quite chummy, but don't worry fans, Elvis says he'd be crazy to get married right now.

Last week at the annual Royal Command film performance, **Marilyn Monroe** was presented to the **Queen of England**. Remembering that Marilyn's country manor is near Windsor Castle, Queen Elizabeth beamed at the 30-year-old star rippling in gold lame and remarked "We're neighbors!"

Three cheers for the college fraternities. Soon after young **Sherman Wu**, son of Nationalist China's onetime Formosan Governor K. C. Wu, was pledged to Northwestern University's **Psi Upsilon** he received a little note. Thus he was informed that the eight other pledges had requested his absence from the fraternity because he was an 'Oriental'. Bowing to the wishes of his 'brothers',
(Continued on Page Three)



The Salemite

Published every Friday of the College year by the Student Body of Salem College



Subscription Price—\$3.50 a year

OFFICES—Lower Floor Main Hall
Downtown Office—304-306 South Main St.
Printed by the Sun Printing Company

Editor-in-Chief _____ Jo Smitherman
Assistant Editor _____ Martha Ann Kennedy
Managing Editor _____ Carol Campbell
News Editor _____ Miriam Quarles
Feature Editor _____ Marcia Stanley
Pictorial Editors _____ Dottie Ervin,
Nancy Warren
Make-Up Editor _____ Jeane Smitherman
Assistant News Editor,
Mary Ann Hagwood
Faculty Advisor _____ Miss Jess Byrd
Business Manager _____ Ann Knight
Advertising Manager _____ Martha Jarvis
Circulation Manager _____ Peggy Ingram
Assistant Business Manager,
Suejette Davidson