

At Home And Abroad

Salem College journalists—established and potential—are reluctant to step into the vacancy left by the now departed author of *Around the Square*.

Some have compared this vacancy to a chasm which cannot be bridged. Many feel that when this particular columnist left she drained the campus of whatever wit and expression was here. Everyone will miss her weekly commentary.

We may be able to persuade somebody to replace her. Watch and see.

Meanwhile, she and three other ex-members of the Junior class are planning for a semester in Geneva, Switzerland.

There is naturally a great deal of romanticism and excitement attached to the sudden decision of these four girls to spend a semester abroad. But there are some bare facts which are facing the girls and which the present-Salemites-with-high-hopes should consider.

First, because the plan was spontaneous and, for the most part, snow-balled between Christmas and exam time, the faculty and administration could not see fit to sanction the trip. As a result, the four girls had to withdraw from Salem and will be considered for re-admission by the standards committee when they apply next fall.

Dr. Hixson has expressed her desire to assist any student in planning a junior year abroad—provided this is done sometime during the preceding semester and taken for an entire year of study.

A second set of bare facts, which may be overshadowed by the glory of the thing, is first the uncertainty that admission to the university in Geneva will be possible. And, if so, whether or not all courses will be taught in English. And, if so, which courses will be taught at all.

We will hear how all these things turned out. Our best wishes are with these girls.

And here, our hope is that prospective sojourners plan early, and rationally, and through the office of the academic dean.

The month since Christmas has been a hey-day for movie-goers. There is a peculiar breed of movie-watchers on campus.

These people, probably in the majority, have adopted as their password, "plot." A good movie has a plot which offers reversals and surprises and suspense. Therefore, it must be contrived.

And yet, these watchers say a good movie must be "natural." Presumably, this means that there are some unpleasant scenes and details which seem "true-to-life" but everything works out all right in the end.

Members of this breed would not walk fifty bricks to see the movie version of Oklahoma. It is unrealistic for the actors and actresses to break into song in the middle of a love scene.

But it is realistic (natural) for the wild young sister in *Written On the Wind* suddenly to realize, on the witness stand, that she must stop being revengeful and be content to wear flannel suits and manage her father's millions.

Giant was "realistic" because "that Texas dust almost choked me sitting there in the theatre."

In spite of the gruesome details therein, *Baby Doll* was banned by the breed because of lack of plot. "Nothing happened."

When you go to your next movie and come back to the dorm, keep quiet. One word about the plot, or how "everything turns out," will ruin the whole thing for the people who stand firm and declaim, "If I know what's going to happen, why go?"

Students Revolt; Salem's Aid Needed

This is a true story released through The International Commission of the United States National Student Association.

His name is not Istvan Laszlo! That was merely the name he used as a key student military commander during the Hungarian revolution.

Up until a few weeks ago he was a student of forestry at the University of Sopron near the Austrian border. Today, under his assumed name, he is traveling through the United States on a U. S. National Student Association tour of American campuses. He has come to tell the story of the students of Sopron and the events of Hungary's October days.

Revolution in Sopron began with a protest meeting. Laszlo and around 150 fellow students met October 19th and decided that the time had come to press 12 student demands which had been ignored by the Hungarian young Communist organization (DISZ).

Posters and leaflets were distributed at night and the meeting was held in the town hall of Sopron three days later. According to Laszlo almost the entire town turned out.

The students called Budapest by telephone and found that similar student action had taken place all over Hungary. Together, they agreed to hold silent demonstration marches of protest. In Sopron the march was peaceful. In Budapest they were fired upon and the Revolution was on.

Students surprised an emergency meeting at the local Communist Headquarters and took them prisoner.

Laszlo called the officers of the Army garrisons around Sopron to come to what was now his office. When they came he asked for arms. Most gave them willingly;

those who refused were put in prison. Laszlo, without realizing it, was now military governor of Sopron.

In a truck carrying medical supplies, Laszlo tried to visit his family in Budapest. From a distance he could see his neighborhood in ruins. Russian tanks prevented him from getting closer.

Back in Sopron he found himself and his troops ringed by Russian troops. The Russian commander insisted that they were only there to resist American invasion and would soon leave. That night Soviet troops attacked. The revolution was taking its new course. Laszlo led his troops into the field.

Near morning Laszlo was notified that a high official had been picked up on the road to Budapest. She was Mrs. Anna Kethly, a Social Democratic member of Imre Nagy's new government, returning to the capital from Vienna. She wanted to go to Budapest. They could not take her. If she could not go on, she said, she would go to the United Nations. The students wanted to send one of their number with her. They chose their leader.

Laszlo and Mrs. Kethly crossed into Austria on the 4th of November and arrived in the United States around two days later.

Remaining behind, the student army fought on to keep the border into Austria open for fleeing refugees.

It is to his fellow student-soldiers that Laszlo has said he wishes to return after his four week tour. But it will be to Austria and not to Hungary that he will return.

Laszlo's pre-revolution experiences give an indication of what life was like in post-war Hungary. He and his family live in Budapest and it is for their sakes that he keeps his actual name secret today. While still in the Hungarian equivalent of the high school he was,

Beyond The Square--By Carol Campbell

One of the most monumental changes which has occurred after this column last went to press was the replacement of Sir Anthony Eden by Harold MacMillan as Prime Minister of England.

Eden's fall came as a surprise to no-one. It was not only that he had had highly miscalculated a matter of vital national policy in the invasion of Suez, he had also strained the U. S. alliance as it had never been strained before, divided his country and succeeded in blocking the Canal he had thought to seize. His main failure had been that he simply could not rectify the damage he had done. Eden's career was clearly the shortest and most melancholy Prime Minister

The elegant, sad-eyed, half-American grandson of a Scots tenant farmer who follows Sir Anthony is now faced with the task of restoring self respect to the Tory Party and reestablishing confidence between his country and the United States. Mr. MacMillan believes in closer economic and political ties between Europe and England which would make her a better ally to America and, although an acknowledged Socialist, he believes that right now is the time for individual economic opportunity for the people of England.

A wartime friend of President Eisenhower's, the new Prime Minister is extremely pro-American and the majority of his countrymen seem confident that he can lead England forward to greater stability and prosperity.

The World

The situation in the Middle East may be described as concerning two main controversies. One is between the Arab and Israeli nations who are haggling over the question of Israeli troops withdrawing back to their borders. The Israelis say they won't move until the U. N. protects the borders and Egypt is shouting for them to get out of her territory.

The other conflict is between the United States and the U. S. S. R. Our challenge to Russia is seen in the recently launched Eisenhower Doctrine which is an attempt to throw the weight of the U. S. against Soviet military and political penetration of the Mid-East. Russia's response so far has been a vigorous propaganda attack against our country, especially in Egypt.

Obviously, a knowledge of the Eisenhower Doctrine is essential to any kind of understanding of the foreign situation. This program, which is now before Congress for approval, would 1) authorize the President to use U. S. armed force if necessary against Communist aggression in the Mid-East, and 2) authorize the President to spend \$200 million a year for economic and military aid projects to win over the Arab states.

The reception to the plan in the Mid-East is mixed. Iraq, Iran, Turkey are pleased, but Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria have been cool. Eisenhower is banking on the visit of King Saud of Saudi Arabia this week to convert him to his program and help dissolve Middle East resistance.

The reason why Ike's plan has not been 100% received is that the Middle-Eastern countries still associate the U. S. with Britain and France, they resent our support in helping to establish the Israeli nation a few years back and they know we're really interested in blocking Communism, not in spreading nationalism.

Criticism of the proposal in Congress is that it does not deal with actual problems like the Arab-Israel relations and hinges too much on Arab support. Congressmen also want to know more about the \$200 million aid projects—saying they don't want to "buy a pig in a poke". A committee headed by South Carolina's James Richards will study the situation in the Middle East in connection with aid, but only, says the Administration, after it is passed by Congress. It is generally believed that the plan will go through because Congress is afraid of what may happen in the Middle-East.

The Nation

A more recent proposal by the President concerns the ever increasing problem of our need for more schools. Ike wants Congress to pass a bill which would enable a grant-in program for school building amounting to \$1,300,000,000

and \$750,000,000 for the purchase of local bonds. The main source of disagreement here is the integration issue which interfered with a similar bill proposed last year.

When Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson accused the National Guard of harboring draft dodgers during the Korean conflict, repercussions were heard in forty-eight states. In answer to Wilson's charge which was given before the Armed Services Committee in the House of Representatives, Major General Ellard A. Walsh, President of the National Guard, screamed that it was a "d— lie" and that National Guards are making themselves available for service, not dodging it. Conclusion: trouble for the Pentagon's proposed program that would require National Guard enlistees to serve six months of actual duty unless they had had previous military training.

Well, New York's Mad Bomber has been caught at last. And the culprit is a smiling little man by the name of George P. Metesky from Waterbury, Conn. Metesky's career began in 1940 when 15 bombs which he planted in Consolidated Edison Co. were never reported, he decided to turn to such places as theatres, hotels and subways for recognition. At the same time he wrote numerous letters to the press and the victimized public places airing his grudges and revenges. When the *Journal American* finally ran a front page plea to state his grievance he complied with a letter that said he had been injured while working at Consolidated Edison and the company had blocked his attempt to get compensation.

He should never have written that letter, for a search into the company's files revealed his identity and George is now awaiting a rather serious trial.

One of the most serious threats to our nation's security is the ever prevalent spy activities of the Communist Party in America. Their highly organized crusade to overthrow democracy was dealt a blow last week when the F. B. I. took three New Yorkers into custody on charges of conspiring to obtain for Moscow 'documents connected with the national defense of the United States.' Authorities believe that these three were once connected with a very successful spy ring in Washington, D. C., headed by V. M. Zhibilen, the man who was once described by J. Edgar Hoover as "Russia's masterspy in North America."

People

The strain is over at last and Princess Grace is now a mother. It's a girl, — eight pounds, two ounces, — and the country of Monaco is safe at last.

For the first time in seven years film star Ingrid Bergman "set foot on American soil." Stepping off a plane from Paris where she is starring in a French version of *Tea and Sympathy*, the star appeared more beautiful than ever and was greeted by a flock of cheering fans. She stayed for only 36 hours — to see the matinee of *My Fair Lady* and pick up the New York Film Critic's "best actress" award for her work in *Anastasia*. Then like the wind, which she says "blows this way and that", Miss Bergman was gone.

Music lovers all over the world were shocked and saddened by the death of brilliant Arturo Toscanini. With his death came the end of an era — for this man was our greatest link with the immortal Italian romantics. The man who learned Verdi from Verdi himself, who was an inspiration at all times to the musicians he directed and demanded performances never short of perfection can never be replaced, just as he will never be forgotten.

Entertainment

Two plays opening on Broadway this week—*Eugenia*, starring Talulah Bankhead, adapted from the Henry James' novel, "The Europeans" and an experimental version of *Hamlet* with Siobhan McKenna of Joan of Arc fame. *Eugenia* played in Baltimore last week at Ford's Theatre and I heard it was pretty good.

(Continued on Page Three)

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