

Beyond The Square

By Sue Cooper

Salemites frequently are accused of limiting their interests to school work. I thought perhaps a quiz on current affairs would give us a chance to test ourselves to see just how much we know about events beyond our square.

1. Recently huge deposits of iron ore were discovered in a) Western U. S. b) U.S.-S.R. c) Argentina
2. Who won Britain's Grand National Steeplechase?
3. Americans are again free to visit the Holy Land for Easter. True or false.
4. The man reportedly becoming a major opponent of Ike in congress is: a) John McClellan b) Ralph Yarborough c) Sam Rayburn
5. The fight which has split the British Labor Party is over: a) H-bomb tests b) Bermuda Conference c) labor unions
6. What language is spoken by the greatest number of people? a) English b) Mandarin c) Spanish
7. Tornadoes are increasing in number. True or false.
8. What Broadway play has had the longest run in history? a) Oklahoma b) Life With Father c) South Pacific
9. Who is the U. S. permanent representative to the U. N. and representative on the Security Council? a) Charles Cook b) Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. c) Harold Stassen
10. What well known singer appeared recently before a Chicago audience in a gold suit and matching gold shoes (24 carat coating)?
11. What two countries gained their independence in 1956?
12. Who is the richest man in the U. S.?
13. What two states that Ike easily carried in November recently elected a democratic majority in their state legislatures?
14. When is general election day?
15. Who is Ike's new caddy? a) Slim Jenkins b) Willie Pertect c) Tom Faral
16. If the president of the U. S. becomes ill and is unable to function temporarily, the Constitution does not state whether the vice president can lawfully act in his place and for how long. True or false
17. What is the population of the U. S.?
18. What cabinet member reportedly has decided definitely to resign next autumn? a) Dulles b) Summerfield c) Benson
19. Which car is leading in sales in 1957? a) Ford b) Chevrolet
20. Who is Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?
21. There has been a lag in recent months of retail sales of autos, appliances, furniture, and building materials. True or false
22. Who was selected to play the movie version of Shaw's "Saint Joan"?

ANSWERS

1. b) U. S. S. R.
2. Sundew
3. True
4. c) Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House
5. a) H-bomb tests
6. b) Mandarin (China), 420 million; English next with 272 million
7. False. There are not necessarily any more, but more are being reported today. A few years ago small twisters weren't listed.
8. b) Life With Father (3,213 performances)
9. b) Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.
10. Elvis
11. Morocco and Algiers
12. Texas bachelor, Sid W. Richardson, has \$700 million (but he's 65)
13. Texas and Michigan
14. First Tuesday after the first Monday in November
15. a) Slim Jenkins
16. True
17. 168,091,000
18. c) Benson, Sec. of Agriculture
19. a) Ford
20. Earl Warren of California
21. True
22. Jean Seberg of Iowa, 18

Letters To The Editor ...

To the Editor:

In view of the fact that I may be completely wrong, I would like to suggest a possible basis for the numerous discussions, meetings and general discontent felt on campus concerning our honor code.

Perhaps the basic reason is that there is not and never has been, to my knowledge, one clear definition of the expression "personal honor," which we use so freely in connection with our Honor Code. Just what is "personal honor"? If we are to use this expression so frequently and expect others to understand us, then let's define it.

I have asked several people here on campus what their interpretations were, and each gave a different one—"Personal honor is your oath or pledge to follow the rules" and "Personal honor is what you believe, or your principles," et cetera.

Why not just throw out this "personal honor" which has seemingly become so cliché and use instead the words of the Honor Code, which we may (or may not) have signed. We, if we signed, pledged ourselves to a "personal obligation." This, to me, is much more direct, and less easy to evade.

It may even be thought of as a social obligation. After all, we are living in a society, which Webster defines as "the social order, especially as a state or system restricting the individual; community life—". A very potent definition.

Certainly, I believe that each person has the perfect right to think or to believe what he or she will, but the "restriction" comes in the carrying out of thoughts or ideas. I don't think that we realize our relationship and effect upon others in our society.

When we accepted Salem as the school of our choice, whether we signed the honor code, or not, we were accepting certain responsibilities and obligations toward this society as a whole. And any society expects its members to at least live up to the average social standards established.

The lowest standard set is the first step up from animality. Society does not expect everyone to go beyond the moral (law abiding) obligations. If some do, may it be an inspiration for others, but at least, if we expect to live with others, let's live with, and not against them.

I'm in favor of abolishing the expression "personal honor," and putting our honor code on the basis of "personal obligation" or "social obligation". This throws a broader light on the scope of things. I think that we will have to learn to think beyond our own little bailiwicks and see what effects we can and do have upon others in our society—I think we owe them that much.

If we are dissatisfied with our Honor Code, then let's change it, but change it in the light that whatever is done is for the good of the whole. After all, society is the forfeiture of personal opinions for the establishment of general principles—and I think that, if one will ask around, he or she will find that others have been and are forfeiting opinions, too, in order to live here—and it is not that hard to do.

However, don't misunderstand me—I'm not depriving anyone of his opinion. But if we establish an overall precedent, we must expect to abide by it. There must be some criteria by which to live orderly, or we might just as well revert to caves and jungles.

—Ann Miles

To the Editor:

The honor system as it is now conceived is being flaunted daily and nightly. And campus reformers and alarmists are pushing it farther and farther into the realm of impossibility.

Personal honor (the responsibility of each student for obeying the rules regardless of her personal convictions about them) is failing to restrain, and the solution that is being set forth is that personal honor, more than ever, is the basis of the whole system.

Merely affirming that personal honor is this sole basis and requesting a re-signing of the honor pledge make it easier than ever for a student to evade the punishment set up for rule-breaking.

The ease with which rules can be broken at this school is appalling. And it is unrealistic, I feel, to expect every student to be able to bear the responsibility that goes along with such flagrant freedom.

It is equally unrealistic for a government to set up a system that does not take into consideration human infallibility and ingenuity. To say that a student who will not agree readily to obey every rule Salem holds up should withdraw from school is carrying the ideal a little too far into the heavens.

While the student council and cohorts are busy working on attitudes, a little attention should be given to instilling this attitude: if "love for Salem" and her reputation are supposed to reinforce personal honor in each student, then the reporting of a fellow student who is breaking a rule and bringing Salem into disrepute is an honorable deed.

Moral pressure is an effective co-agent. But current "personal honor" which makes it literally impossible for a student to be punished unless she really wants to give up is a haven for habitual rule-breakers and a powerful temptation to those who want to get by "just this once."

—Jo Smitherman

An Idea

Regardless of whether the honor system based on personal honor or on personal obligation, it is only workable if the student body makes it so. The attitude of the incoming students has a lot to do with this.

If the Student Government were to send a letter, such as the following one, to the girls who have been accepted, the girls would be informed of the rules, and would come to Salem with an awareness of their responsibilities. This would also give all of those who might not feel as though they could accept this form of student government a chance to select another college.

At present, the Orientation Committee and Student Government are working on such a letter. This is what we would suggest.

Dear.....

Congratulations on being accepted as a member of the class of 19.....

We feel that it's quite an honor to be a Salemite, and we know that Salem will be fortunate to have you as a member of the student body.

We have a lot of fun here. All of us feel that you will soon become attached to Salem and will soon develop the same pride in the school that we have.

One of those things of which we're particularly proud is our honor system, both academic and social.

The Salem honor system is very special because there is not a police force to enforce it. Its success rests on each student.

This individualized system can be workable because of two factors. First, we feel that a girl who is ready to enter college realizes that there are certain rules which must govern any social group and that she must be willing to cooperate with these for the benefit of the group. Second, we feel that she has enough sense of personal honor to report herself when she violates a regulation.

The Student Government places this much confidence in each girl, and it also gives the girl the responsibility of doing what's expected of her.

These are rules with which you will be expected to comply:

- Major, overall rulings (List:.....page 43 of the handbook)
- Social rulings and privileges (Listpages 68-69 of the handbook)
- Miscellaneous rulings (Listpages 37-42 of the handbook)

Some of these rules may seem more important than others. However, we believe that a student is as honor bound to report herself for "failing to sign in" as she is for taking an illegal overnight. This is necessary because any violation of the rules weakens the student government.

At the first of the year you will be asked to sign our honor pledge, if you care to do it. (Give the pledge).

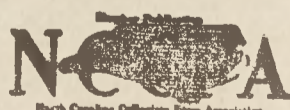
However, you must not get the idea that Salem is stagnant and unchangeable. We always welcome suggestions from the students when they feel that a change is needed.

That is one of the reasons that we will be forward to having you, because you will bring us new ideas.

We will see you next Fall, or earlier if you can visit Salem before school starts.

Your truly,
Student Government President

The Salemite



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

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

Subscription Price—\$3.50 a year

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