

Salem College

Proudly Presents

Farces

Co-starring

**LACK OF PARLIAMENTARY
PROCEDURE**

DISORDER PLAYING BRIDGE

Performances are given regularly at most class, dorm. and organization meetings.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

We are members of the Salem student body . . . we are members of our various classes . . . that is where separation and the distinction of Salem girls should stop. With the junior class, there is a disgusting situation however. There are two cliques—Strong girls and South girls.

Strong girls naturally feel "at home" with their dorm. however, with the reception some of us get when we go into the "sacred halls" of South, they seem to want us to stay at home.

Working together on the little sister party aided partially in getting the "campus cliques" together but it must go further than that. Certainly, we want to be close to a few girls but, why can't we be friendly to all? A friendly "hello, come on in" would even be appreciated by the Strong girls when they visit South. That certainly would be better than the cold stare most of us get now.

Maybe South girls feel "unwanted" when they visit Strong. We certainly hope not and try to make them as comfortable as possible. If it's South or if it's Strong being too cliquish, let's compromise and do something for more harmony in our class.

—Lucinda Oliver

When we pack our suitcases for the weekend and visit friends at other colleges, there is always something that impresses us that we don't find on Salem's campus. Until 2 years ago the impression most evident to me was the presence of a Student Center on most college campuses, and the absence of one here. In the summer of 1956 the basement of Old Chapel underwent a series of face lifting operations, and in the fall Salem opened her doors to a Student Center. Those doors have remained open for 2 years, but each day the number who pass through the portals has dwindled until now Salem might as well have built a small snack bar near the Lily Pond as that is the prime use of the Union. On Saturday and Sunday nights it is deserted—during the week, completely friendless.

As your Student Center Chairman, I welcome any ideas to promote a busy Union. Plans are underway for curtains, coatsracks, and the transformation of the old 78 rpm type juke box to the modern 45 rpm type. A subscription to fashion magazines such as *Vogue*, *Mademoiselle*, and *Harpers' Bazaar* has been planned.

The Student Union is your Union. I want your ideas and suggestions, and also I want your patronage of the Student Union.

—Lillian Holland

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Beyond The Square

Caesarism Threatens America

Is America heading toward Caesarism?

Amaury de Riencourt, a noted French scholar whose book was reviewed in the October twenty-fifth issue of *U. S. News and World Report*, says that this country is heading toward this type of government. This change will not come from revolution, but from evolution, as is seen in the light of world history, especially when compared to the rise of the Caesars in Rome.

The key to this evolution, as seen by Mr. Riencourt, is that as a society becomes more equalized along class, economic, political, and other lines, it begins concentrating greater powers in the hands of one person.

Because of the events of national history, the President of the United States is the person who is gathering this new growth of power and centralization.

During his term as President, Andrew Jackson began the trend toward more powerful presidents. While in office, he vetoed more bills than had been vetoed since the establishment of our nation.

The events leading to the Civil War and the period of Reconstruction were the errors of weak presidents who let Congress control the government. Therefore, the necessity of a strong leader was emphasized.

The growth of Big Business and the control it had on politics between the time of Reconstruction and the New Deal was also attributed with consolidating the managements of politics in the hands of a few.

The French scholar cites the election of Franklin Roosevelt in 1932, as the turning point of American politics. For the first time it was necessary for a president to be nationally, not partisan conscious. The economic crisis of the period also necessitated quick action by the president. In many cases this action would be impaired by constitutional law; therefore, the laws were overlooked. The result was a greater concentration of power in the president's hands. Riencourt compares this tactic of supplying the public's desires regardless of the method to the bread and circus idea in the time of Roman Caesars.

Another Caesarian technique, intrigue, was employed in Roosevelt's fireside chats and other mass appeals.

Along with the rise of presidential powers in the New Deal came the rise to political machines which were necessary to keep a man in office and to get him elected.

How did these changes take place during the time of the New Deal? Mr. Riencourt answers that they occurred through the elastic character of the American political system.

Of course time of war always raises the national leader to a place of more prestige. Congress is hidden behind the leadership of the president. Add to this increase of power the president's leadership at war conferences and it is seen that the president is in an almost alarmingly powerful position.

In addition to these historical events, the limitations of Congress, the natural desire for masculine leadership, and, most important, the American tradition of hero worship complete the picture of our movement toward a dictatorship.

Consider Mr. Riencourt's opinion in the light of the Little Rock situation, or the Yalta Conference, and of the Congressional timidity on the question of tidelands oil.

However, how would the government manage in time of national disaster if it had to wait for Congress to determine all procedures? There is also the provision for re-election and impeachment in our Constitution, plus the two party system which guards against the possibility of one man's gaining complete control.

Meanwhile Salemites are doing a little thinking of their own on the course of world events.

Considering the opinions of two hundred and twenty-five who participated in a poll, Salem girls do not believe that Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus was motivated by purely political reasons in his recent actions to prevent integration in the public schools of Little Rock. However, there was little margin between those who believe that he was motivated by what he believed to be the best interests of the people. But, most believed that the federal intervention was justified. This is an

interesting thought when considered in the light of Riencourt's views.

The campus was overwhelmingly in favor of the United Nations and believed that it has been beneficial in managing world problems. However, there were a few dissenters who believed that the United Nations has had no effect on the world situation. Other interesting views were: It has been helpful in improving world economic conditions and that it has been ineffectual in the area of disarmament.

As for the new "bag" look from Paris, don't expect to see too much of it on campus.

The views on the significance of the satellite varied considerably. It was generally felt that Russia was ahead of us in scientific advancement and in the race for control of outer space. Of course, this carried the connotation that Americans should "wake up" and put more emphasis on scientific research.

As for the purpose of the satellite, it was felt that it was the beginning of space travel but that it could also be developed into a military weapon, especially if used to photograph military movements.

Regardless of whether it means the end of the world or that we'll eat lunch on the moon, Salemites were thinking of national and international events even though few are regular readers of "Beyond the Square."

—Martha Jarvis

Behind The Ivy

Once upon a time in the ancient old town called Old Salem Restoration, Inc., there lived a group of girls — several hundred in fact. Their names were either Susie or Sally, or Mary Salem, and they were called college students, because they lived at Salem College—a group of buildings covered by Virginia Creeper and dormer windows and authentic tile roofing.

There were other people in the college—there was the administration. On the whole these were kindly people who took tuition money, made a few rules, and saw that the leaves were swept off the streets.

And there was a faculty made up of professors who taught classes, or, rather, lectured. The women on the faculty were hard working and accident prone. They very often fell and broke arms and legs on stairs and benches, and basketball courts. The men on the faculty had only minor accidents, for they didn't go in for anything really strenuous—except walking to Harry's for coffee three times a day. One or two of them did scald themselves with hot coffee, though. But they philosophized and said that all coffee drinkers led lives of quiet desperation.

The faculty and students got along just fine except in the classrooms. The relationship was strained just a bit in the creaky-floored hall of learning because the professors insisted on taking roll every day and expecting papers and other assignments to be in on time. But relations really got strained when one Susie cut her Saturday class to go to Davidson, and her professor gave an unannounced test. She received an "F" on the test. (The committee on class attendance giveth, and the committee taketh away.)

There were other things to do at Salem except go to classes. There were lectures and concerts, but most girls thought these inconsequential. But what the girls really enjoyed was going away from Salem for a weekend, so they could come back and report a fabulous time with a fabulous boy, at a fabulous dance at fabulous Carolina—all this meaning her date drank too much, forgot her at the dance, and she had a splitting headache the whole weekend.

The most fabulous, fabulous thing that could happen to Sally or Susie Salem is for them to "get pinned," for then the other Sally's and Susie's sing to them in the dining hall; and, of course, getting pinned gives them something substantial to daydream about during class.

Sally, Susie, and Mary Salem were all romantic and sentimental at heart. They all wanted to grow up and get married and have babies. Salem was their purgatory, that is until Sputnik fell on it.

—Tendrils