

The Past

The past is the officers who served during this term and the 1957-58 *Salemite* staff. This past year has been one of accomplishment. These accomplishments and the spirit that has prevailed on campus has been due to the work of the leaders of the campus organizations. All that they have done deserves both thanks and praise of the *Salemite* staff and of the entire student body.

Any degree of success that may have been seen in the past issues of the *Salemite* has been a result of the combined efforts of a hard working staff. Two people in particular are due special recognition for the contributions they have made to the *Salemite*. These two are Mary Ann Hagwood, Associate Editor, and Ellie Mitchell, Business Manager. Too often the members of a business staff are neglected when considering the final product; however, without the advertising, bookkeeping, and negotiations which Ellie has managed so well this year *Salemite*s could not have been produced.

The Present

The present is the new officers who will be installed on April 10 and the 1958-59 *Salemite* staff. This past editor goes out of office with the confidence that her successor, Jean Smitherman, will edit a campus newspaper of which all *Salemite*s can be proud.

The Future

The future will be the workings of new campus leaders. However, the opinions of the past often constitute a basis for future operation and, as a member of the past, we would join the tradition of farewell addresses in hopes that some suggestions and discussions might arise from our views.

In the conduct of campus affairs the importance of a personal honor system must be retained and cherished by each member of the student body. There may be reasons for alterations of our present system but the basic concept of personal honor must be maintained if the freedom of the individual student is to be preserved.

In accordance with the continuance of the Honor System there must be a steadily developing student government. As our campus government grows there is need for the students to become more aware of its workings and to feel more a part of its organization. This can be done by continuing and expanding the reports printed in the *Salemite*, by giving reasons for decisions, and by having open meetings. The students should also be provided with a means of being informed about the work and opinions of their elected representatives. The public constantly receives reports on their representatives to state and national governing bodies and this should be the procedure on the Salem campus. Perhaps publishing the suggestions and ideas presented by each representative would give the students an idea of their performance and would be especially valuable in considering candidates in future elections.

Along with the development of the Student Government also comes expanding of duties of the officers. For this reason, Salem should follow the pattern seen in most large organizations and elect a recording and a corresponding secretary. At present, the responsibility of managing correspondence, keeping records, distributing penalty letters, acting as committee head, and presiding at House Council are too much for a single person. By having two secretaries, one could keep records and serve as House Council Chairman and committee head, while the other could manage all correspondence and also serve as committee head. This would also give additional representation on the Council.

The increasing scope of Stee Gee activity has been evident in their work on evaluation and attendance. The report on attendance changes is encouraging, and changes should be made so that the responsibility of class attendance will rest with the individual. This should also be the policy on overnight privileges after the Freshman year.

The responsibility of the future also lies with the students themselves. This year there has been a deviation from the academic spirit which should pervade a college campus. Knowledge is the basic goal of a college career and little can be gained from four years of playing and wasting time. An enjoyment of studies not only contributes to academic knowledge but also contributes to extra activities and to cultural enjoyment of life.

One way in which the academic spirit might be expanded on campus is a revision of the Rondthaler awards. Cultural achievement is not limited to the three areas now considered. The award should include science, dance, and the speech arts (theatrical performances would be excluded as the Pierrette award covers this area).

An improvement of chapel programs might also improve stimulative expression on campus. There have been many excellent speakers this year and there should continue to be more of this quality. There should also be more worthwhile chapels composed of student participation. (This does not mean more slapstick skits.)

While an increase in academic spirit will undoubtedly increase the activity on campus and reduce apathy, we must be careful not to be too indulgent in getting everyone to participate. The adoption of a point system would lead to a weakening of campus leadership and accomplishment because the present problem is not getting everyone into an activity but finding the workers. Work is not done when the willing ones are disqualified by points and reluctant students are "hounded" to get something accomplished.

So, the past steps out and will watch the present shape the future.

Ouijism Captures Campus Mystics

Mysticism has descended on the campus in the guise of ouijism, the "science" on the immobile object using its passive intelligence to answer questions posed to it by believers and non-believers alike. Down in Babcock's terrace room sat Linda Daniels, experimenting with the ouijii board she had bought for her younger sister. Frances Gunn and Robbie Edwards witnessed the following account and vouch for its veracity.

Q. (by Linda) Ouijii, who will Bobbie marry?

A. (by Ouijii) Norman Napse.

Q. Does he have a nickname?

A. "Bobo."

Q. Where is he from?

A. South Carolina.

Q. Does he go to college?

A. Citadel, third-year man.

Q. When will they meet?

A. November 30.

Marriage follows romance; the newest on campus being that of Mary Curtis Wrike and Gigs Gramley. In a plenary session of Vienna sausage eaters at 1:00 Monday, our Stee Gee head was applauded after receiving Digs' Davidson Beta Theta Pi pin.

While Curt was being pinned this past weekend, a few *Salemite*s had their minds on duller

Tendrils Uses Ivy And Books As Bed

Finding it hard to maintain any equilibrium while gusts of March wind were constantly scuffling with the ivy, I was determined to find a less unnerving sanctuary in which to spend the rest of the month. I scrambled up to the window-sill of a stately looking building and looked in. Inside I saw exactly what I had been looking for: countless hiding places (provided for in this case by rows and rows of neatly-stacked books) and, practically nobody to disturb me. Pulling my tummy in and making myself as small as possible, I finally managed to wriggle through an almost imperceptible crack at the base of the window. There! What a relief to be able to relax! It's rather tiring to hold on against those gales!

Now that I had taken the big step, I decided to look the situation over, find out where I was and who would be sharing this new place with me. By keeping my ears open (as usual) I quickly discovered that I was in the Salem College Library. Grand place! I also learned that although it was open most of the day and that it welcomed anyone who wanted to come, it was usually rather empty. At first I was quite pleased with this second bit of knowledge, but after I realized that so much was being wasted, I became a little bit disappointed.

I have been closely observing the girls that have come in since my arrival. Most of them have disgusted looks on their faces. They go to a box of cards, thumb through it disinterestedly, finally copy a number down, and then wander off. Eventually they come to the book that has the same number as the card, pull it off the shelf, and take it with them. They might as well have blinders on! They keep their eyes straight ahead, and never look at any of the books along the way.

Once or twice girls have come in, by-passed the cards, and taken some time to just look around. They have stopped occasionally to select a book to look through. They have spent time browsing enthusiastically and have given themselves a chance to get interested. These girls I have never heard complain. They seem content with their professors, their courses — school in general. However, they always seem eager to improve themselves and the quality of their work.

I may be small, but I have the advantage of being able to sneak up on many candid conversations. Although some of them are disillusioning, a lot could be done without too much effort. By adopting a more cooperative attitude, students would be much more likely to find mental stimulation in their studies; and by calling forth a little enthusiasm they would be willing and eager to make up for deficiencies through their own efforts.

I must run now to finish reading Plato's *Republic* so that I won't feel out-of-place in the napkin-holder the next time the Tranquillizer Coffee Club meets.

—Tendrils

vocational matters. At the F. T. A. convention of prospective teachers in Asheville, Jane Rostan, one of our delegates, decided to enter the discussion being knocked around the floor. Jane rose with gusto from her chair, and fell flat on the floor, just as the words "Madame Chairman" escaped her. Two friends propped her up while she finished the contribution. Diagnosis: Temporary paralysis involved by two sound-asleep feet.

Frances and Bobbie, who aren't as gullible as they may seem, decided to telephone the Citadel. But the Ouijii told them not to try to get in touch with the young man. He failed to give his reason, though he did have one. At least, Bobbie won't have to worry about whom she's going to marry.

Talk has been wafting over the campus about the "undesirable" quality of some of our recent chapel programs. Which is better — Bill Carle's insult to the religious maturity of college girls, or risqué, rather broad comedy? Perhaps the chapel committee could set up a censorship board? Maybe the students are conducting a subversive campaign to do away with assembly entirely.

Raintree County

Ross Lockridge, Jr.'s bestseller of a few years back—*Raintree County* has been butchered and altered into a sentimental story "in the tradition of a great Civil War Romance". For people who have read the book, laughter is in order in the meager attempt to interpret America at the crossroads of its development.

In the interest of presenting Elizabeth Taylor in a new role as a Southern belle, slightly demented, the producers allowed the character of John Shawnessy to be unjustly thrust into the background along with the most delightful "Perfessor".

Elizabeth Taylor's performance was well done; but it wasn't necessary to have Montgomery Clift underplay as much as he did. As the hustling young hero of the County, Clift was plodding and uninteresting.

To those who have not read the book, perhaps the triteness of the love story will not be so evident. But this group would probably agree that the movie was undesirably long for the small amount of material presented. Needless to say, a slushy Hollywood finale was tacked onto the end, disregarding the whole point of the novel. Montgomery Clift and his childhood sweetheart (a good characterization by Eve Marie Saint) marched out of the swamp where Elizabeth Taylor had met her violent but noble end, while a shower of blossoms floated down from the supposedly fictitious Raintree.

—Jean Smitherman

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

After evaluating the school calendar for the 1958-59 school year, we have found that a total of ten days have been deducted from our various holidays. We are aware that as a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities that we are required to attend school only 180 days. With this addition of ten days, we will now be attending school for 190 days.

We, as students, have been informed since our freshman year of Salem's extremely high academic rating. Since we are aware of this we feel that the addition is quite unnecessary.

For the past three years faculty and students alike, have been able to complete academic work in the allotted 180 days. It is our sincere conviction that adding ten days will not increase academic standards. We believe however, that the ten days will defeat its very purpose due to the added physical strain on faculty and students alike.

Another consideration is concerned with the number of students who live in distant states and also those who live out of the country. Many faculty members also spend their vacations traveling. With the ten day deduction *Salemite*s and faculty members will be restricted to limited travel during holidays.

We trust that immediate action will be taken in regard to this matter and that the calendar committee will reconsider its former decision.

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The Salemite



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

OFFICES—Lower Floor Main Hall
Downtown Office—414 Bank St., S.W.
Printed by the Sun Printing Company

Subscription Price—\$3.50 a year

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