

The Beat Generation **The Salemite**

The beat generation has found a minute expression in Salem College. If Salemites can no longer dress appropriately, they certainly must be beat. It is regrettable that the IRS had to make such an announcement as it did last Tuesday, urging Salemites to be more careful of their appearance.

The presence of a social standards organization on campus makes it evident that there are standards to be upheld. Students knew about these standards before they came to Salem. Perhaps they are now viewing the IRS as a social organization to provide entertainment for the students, and keep watch over their dining hall manners.

However, one of the IRS's objectives is to put the Salemite beyond the square as a fit representative of the college, with the support of the administration. If neatness in socks and blazers is impossible, then a request from the IRS for students to wear dresses and nylons would not be unreasonable.

Man's Picture; Woman's Review

"The Bridge on the River Kwai" was recommended for the best picture of the year, and as a result received seven academy awards.

The story was centered around a group of soldiers who were sent to a Japanese prison camp during the Second World War.

Alec Guinness gave an excellent portrayal of Captain Nicolson, the "jolly show-jolly good show" captain of the ragged bunch of Englishmen. William Holden played the role of a prisoner whose one intent was escape. He seemed quite unconcerned over the welfare of the captain and his men, and after the movie audience plodded with him through the hot, bush-infested jungle to freedom, they had to plod back with him and another group of glory-seeking officials to the scene of the prison camp.

The job of the captives (so I assumed) was to build a bridge across the river so Japanese guns and supplies could be easily transported by train. The Japanese commander never stated the purpose of the construction, but the job of William and his party was to blow it up.

Captain Nicolson suddenly became consumed with the idea of building the Japs a bridge equal in construction to some of the finest bridges in London. The audience was led to believe that he had some very significant purpose in proposing this plan. There was none except the realization that the men needed something to occupy their time. Therefore, he justified aiding the Japanese cause by giving his men "busy work."

The Englishmen took over complete control of the camp during the construction—and the Japanese commander was very complacent and quite obliging. This created a situation which was illogical; it seemed to be more a fantasy dreamed up in the warped mind of a prisoner of war.

After the bridge was completed, the English captain stated that his men would be sent to another concentration camp — and the first train would transport all the wounded to their new quarters.

William Holden and his group tediously laid the steel wire from the explosives under the bridge to the detonator. The low whistle of the train could be heard in the distance. William screamed, "Wait for the train. Don't blow up the bridge until the train comes."

The observant English captain noticed the steel line in the water—since the river conveniently receded—and followed it in a desperate attempt to save the doomed bridge. The Japanese officials fired, and each of the actors, according to importance in the feature, "dropped out of the picture."

After tense moments of indecision and waiting, the explosives were not set off. As an ironical ending, the dying English captain fell on the plunger, and the train—and bridge were blow to bits.

People in the audience strained to see if the wounded prisoners were in the cars. There was no way to find out—all the actors were dead.

The dramatic award winning movie ended, and the people in the audience slowly filed out of the theater with puzzled expressions on their faces.

—Erwin Robbins



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Beyond the Square: The French-Algerian Situation

Algeria, situated in North Central Africa, has been in a state of armed conflict for two years. In this conflict, the Algerian rebels are fighting to gain their independence from France.

The most controversial aspect of the situation is the fact that France considers Algeria as a part of France, rather than a possession. In other words, Algeria is French soil and therefore, this war is an internal one. The Algerians do not consider themselves as French and are striving for independence and self determination. This is another faction in the wave of Arab nationalism which is talked about so often.

France is not unwilling to discuss the problem with the Algerians, but the Algerians refuse to meet at the conference table until the French give them their independence. Only then will they be willing to sit down and work out the details to bring it about in an orderly way. Two years ago France granted French Morocco and Tunisia their independence and worked out a system whereby there would be economic and defense cooperation between the Arabs and French. From this precedent, Algeria arrives at her own demands for independence.

Presently, the situation is being discussed at the NATO Conference in Copenhagen. This is a big step as France has violently opposed any suggestion for discussion of the French-Algerian problem in the UN or by any other group. Such a concession indicates that France may have finally decided that it is too large for her to handle as an internal affair any longer.

If this is true, it will be a feather in the Algerians' cap for Arab Nationalism. This attitude is essentially an emotional one which has been responsible both directly and indirectly for much of the turmoil in the middle East. It became a determining factor in Middle East policy ten years ago after the formation of Israel, and has throughout the mid East and North Africa.

The heart of Arab Nationalism probably lies in the United Arab Republic, and especially in Egypt.

Egyptian Nationalism, however, has just recently been turned into Arab Nationalism, although the emotional feelings there have been greater than in any other area since it first appeared.

Egyptian nationalism was manifested in the overthrow of King Farouk who was considered a puppet of Great Britain and in the nationalization of the Suez Canal. As a result, Egypt today is the leader of the Middle Eastern coun-

tries in their demands to be released from any control or coercion of that area by either the Western or Communist nations.

A week ago, in Chapel, you heard two young college students representing Europe and the Arabs speak on these situations, giving critical views of their own policies as well as those of the Western nations. For two such persons to be able to present their own views to a group of American college students and to be received in such a commendable way indicates a realization of the importance of working together with an objective ear in the common struggle for peace.

I hope that this meeting and others similar to it are indicative of the way in which our generation will try to solve the problems of the world into which we are entering.

—Sandi Shaver

Editor's note: Student reactions to the presentation of the Algerian and Egyptian questions by Hussein Nasser and Jean Pierre, appear in another article in this issue.

Letter To Editor

Dear Editor,

We feel that this year's annual is an accomplishment of which the entire student body ought to be proud. Shirley Redlack and her staff should be commended for publishing an annual that was chosen to be displayed in colleges and universities all over the United States.

The change in the make-up of this year book from those in the past was one of the main factors which contributed to the general appeal. Each page stimulated the reader's interest. We feel that the placement of the senior pictures at the end signifies a place of honor as they progressed through four years from freshmen to seniors.

The cover is one of the most original parts of this year **Sights and Insights**. It's quaint — very reminiscent of Early American wallpaper. It is so typical of Old Salem.

The dedication was simple but it expressed the whole student body's deep appreciation to all Miss Essie and Mr. Yarborough have done for Salem College. Their work goes unnoticed and we seldom have the chance to express our thanks.

The **Sights and Insight-1958** will be long remembered as one of Salem's best.

—Erwin Robbins

—Martha Goddard

Around The Square

It was a memorable day in the life of Clarice Long—when last week she proceeded in her notably diligent pursuits academically and trudged her way to the library. This would appear to be a fairly common practice with most Salemites—but it was a rather caustic visit for Clarice who had to check on the details concerning library hours, which door was the one to enter, and whether there were seating accommodations for students.

Mother's Day is here again. With the coming of this day of recognition for those responsible for our being here, we felt a vesper service in honor of this day would be in order. And, as a speaker, who would be better qualified than Mrs. Gramley, the mother of four sons and ex-officio mother of some 400 Salemites?

New organizational heads are taking over and their respective cabinets are aiding them in plans for next year. At this time I feel it's in order to make a plea to all students to give suggestions to your new regime. This is the ideal time to air all gripes and arrange all changes in policy. Speak now or forever hold your peace.

The famed Bardot thriller is in town. The sign-out sheets denote a mass migration to the flick "God Created Woman." Although I haven't seen it, I will take the liberty of quoting a Salemite who despondently exclaimed: "After that movie I decided "God Created Woman"—Brigitte—and "with the left overs he assembled me!"

After having seen "Bridge On the River Kwai" I can see why the Academy Awards were given so profusely. Alec Guinness was at his best—with his dry and exacting wit adding a freshness to the "very British" cinema. There was some discussion among a certain twosome (Camille Suttle and Betsy Gilmour) as to the real object in the sudden character switch of Alec Guinness as the movie concluded. Talk it over . . .

This past week marked the close of many campus activities. May Day is over and poor "Potts" has no more hourly phone calls to make to the weather bureau. Bet that weather man is going to be a mighty lonesome fellow—but not nearly so lonesome as Shirley Redlack's little photographer buddy (the "me and my shadow" twosome) who constantly "dogged her tracks" for months on end—camera in hand. But to both of these girls goes the satisfaction of knowing their years' labor was not in vain. Without getting maudlin I'm sure I speak for the entire student body in saying these products of their labors will be difficult to equal.

Let's not leave the W. R. A. or the I. R. S. without mention. The I. R. S. successfully transformed the normally bare unassuming floor of the gym into an illusive lavender, pink, and aqua merry-go-round.

And, of course, last but NEVER least goes recognition to the W. R. A. for their banquet. Dr. Helms, the guest speaker, presented what I would label a well organized, well planned step by step analysis of values and one's choice in maintaining such values. The prize statement for the evening went as follows: "It's nice to be called a good egg—but no one can remain one all their life. Eventually he must either spoil or hatch. What's your choice?"

Ever heard of a swimming show getting washed out? Such is the case with the proposed "aquatic capers" planned for the May 15th chapel program. With the most recent "monsoon" in full swing it is questionable that we'll ever get to use our "big drink" for anything.

Jr.-Sr. time is here again. Little caravans of upperclassmen will "putt-putt" their way to the Sedgfield Inn to have what we hope will be an eventful and meaningful evening as the juniors pay tribute to their much thought of seniors.

A few inhabitants of South Dormitory are engaged in the very distracting practice of "day counting". It seems a considerable number of our group is leaving to enter the ranks of the "matrimonially blissful". I dare say Biting is literally crawling with girls engaging in the same activity. And to those who have no such events to plan for—be comforted by these words: "Rome wasn't built in a day", "variety is the spice of life", or "time changes all things." Feel any better? I didn't think so.