

Dr. Robert Helm Relates His Varied Philosophy By Saying "Live, Live, Live". Robbins Plays Scarlatti, Ravel, In Senior Recital

Gray hair, sparkling blue eyes, funny crooked smile, wholesome laugh, the personification of dignity; this is Dr. Robert Helm—Salem College philosophy professor. Thursday, May 7th Salem's entire student body will be introduced to "our professor from Wake Forest," when he will speak to us in chapel.

Dr. Helm (or Bob as he is gen-



Dr. Helm

erally called) is a native of Winston-Salem. He attended Central School (down the street from Salem) and graduated from Reynolds High School. During these years his interests were journalism, public speaking, sports and other activities.

Upon entering Wake Forest College, he intended to study law but became interested in philosophy in his senior year after majoring in English. His collegiate activities found their expression in publications, oratory and debate (in which he won school, state and regional gold medals). For his football adventures he received a broken foot. These varied interests certainly

produced an intelligent and well-rounded individual. They also assisted him in his philosophic career. With an amazing command of the English language he demonstrates an over-whelming argumentative method (especially in class).

He was awarded a scholarship for graduate work in philosophy at Duke University. He completed requirements for his masters degree in one year and, in the process burned much midnight oil and drank vast quantities of black coffee in order to finish his thesis. Following this accomplishment, he returned to Wake Forest during World War II but was "selected" for the army that same year. The following summer he was packed off to Fort Bragg.

During the next three years he was stationed in eleven states and rose to the rank of captain. In January of 1945 he was transferred to the European theater of operations with the 89th Infantry. He saw action with Patton's 3rd army in the Rhineland and Central Germany campaigns. At the end of the war he has the delighted memory of three days of unrestrained, general rejoicing in England.

On his return to the United States he re-entered Duke University where he acquired his Ph. D. in philosophy. This was completed in 1950 while he was already teaching in the philosophy department at Wake Forest.

Dr. Helm's favorite summer acti-

vity is soaking up sun at his home on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, when he's not traveling or working.

He has traveled extensively in this country and abroad accompanied by his mother. He has expressed his opinion of the European women in this fashion: "The Swedish women have beautiful complexions, features and possess a general air of health. The French women dress exquisitely and have an admirable charm and zest which appeals. The Italian women are beautiful. As a matter of fact I met a lovely Italian girl on the Swiss border whom I later discovered to be Gina Lolo-brigida." Though he says he finds American women attractive and intelligent they seem to expect more service from men. He feels that this expectation is one of the causes for the general breakdown of the American family. Such deterioration the doctor deprecates to such an extent he has been called a modern (would-be) patriarch.

With all of his many and varied activities, hobbies (which include horseback riding, amateur naval architecture, singing, painting, fencing and photography), and duties Dr. Helm has just completed a book, *The Gloomy Dean*. Among his favorite things are: bright lights, music, dancing, good food and traveling.

Dr. Helm sums up his extremely varied philosophy in a statement a la Auntie Mame "Live, Live, Live."

By Harriet Herring

Erwin Robbins was taking a break. After practicing for an hour and a half, anyone needs a break. Erwin is in the last frantic week before a recital—lessons every day (each one bad), night rehearsals, memory slips and finger flubs,



Erwin Robbins

hours more of practicing and a lifetime of maturing to do in one week.

Monday night, May 4 at 8:30, the recital will begin. The years of training (with Mrs. C. R. Shuler from age six through high school, then with Hans Heidemann) will all be poured into this one short period.

Erwin is playing three little and two big works. The little ones are

Scarlatti sonatas in A minor, D minor, and C major. Dominica Scarlatti lived during the same period as Bach, but his music is in the light, rollicking Italian vein, not the heavy Baroque style of Bach. Not fully developed sonatas, the Scarlatti works were termed "Etudes" by their composer, the sonata name being added later by an editor.

About the Chopin B minor Sonata, Op. 58, Friskin says: "This Sonata requires brilliant finger technique and firm rhythm to cope successfully with the demands of the finale."

The final work will be the Ravel Concerto for the Left Hand for piano and orchestra. (Mr. Heidemann is the orchestra in this case.) It was commissioned by and dedicated to Paul Wittgenstein, an Austrian pianist who lost his right arm during the first World War. Friskin's review of this work says: "A short and powerful composition, this concerto has three main sections without breaks—Lento, Allegro, Lento. The cadenza near the end is very difficult. The one hand at times supplies melody and accompaniment, making the problem of tonal balance a very delicate one."

After her final bows, Erwin will spend the rest of the semester feeling relieved that the worst, and perhaps the most exciting, event is over. She will be far behind in every other subject. But that hour-plus triumph is worth it.

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