

Pranks, Love, Storm, Burglar Invade Salem

By Sue Froneberger

Never let it be said that there is ever a dull moment at Salem! Anyone hearing this remark would immediately reply, "What else could you expect with 450 girls—some tall, boisterous, some meek; some freshmen, some sophomores, some juniors, some seniors — all Salemites." Yes, interesting and exciting incidents seem to be common occurrences in our Salem community.

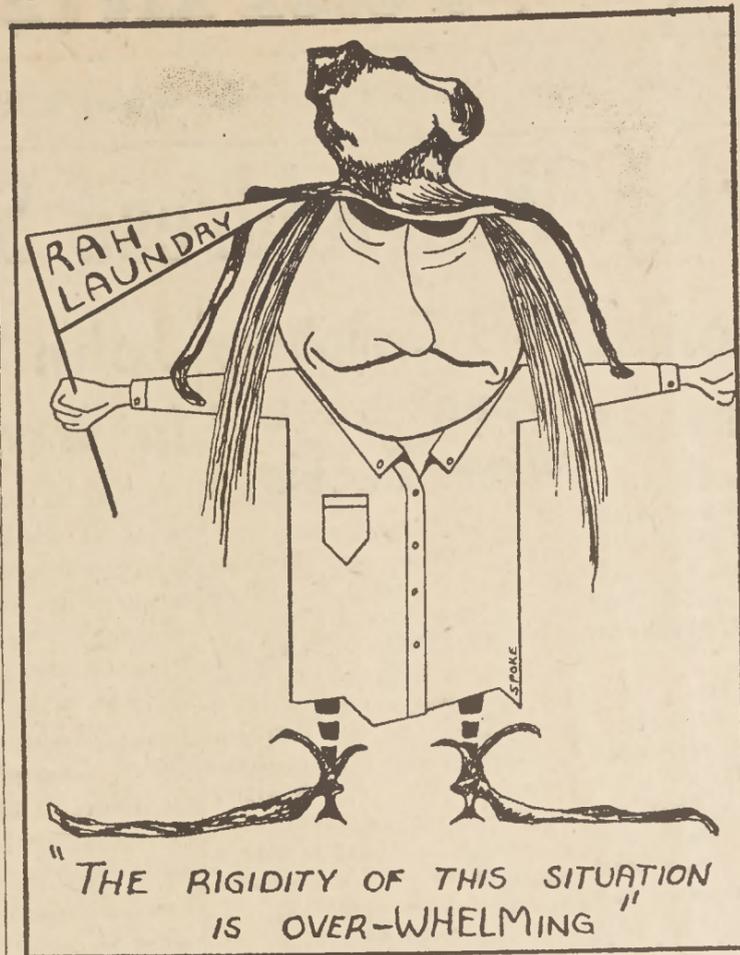
The freshmen have wasted no time in joining in on the mischief around campus. Gay Austin, Ann Davidsou, and Sally Hudson short-sheeted certain sophomores' beds in Babcock plus leaving traces of their artistic abilities on the mirrors using lipstick rather than paintbrushes.

Our newest Salemites have started their collections of fraternity pins early with the Sigma Chi pin given to Joy Wolbrook last weekend. The seniors are not to be outdone—congratulations, Rosemary Laney. The sophomores gave Ann Booker a warm send-off after her recent marriage. Rice was thrown, the car was decorated, tin cans were tied to the bumper, and she even had the traditional bouquet to throw. The girls in South dormitory don't seem to share any of these romantic feelings, at least not towards the Betas at Davidson. Cathy Gilchrist is the President of the "I hate Betas" club.

The warm, balmy weather this fall has affected life at Salem as much as any other factor. Salemites in faded blue jeans, tennis shoes that once were white, and sloppy shirts knotted at the waists, and white splotches of soap suds in their hair have probably been scrubbing flats for the play, "The Boy Friend". Miss Battle and Mr. Yarborough have had some heated arguments over whether or not the soap was killing the grass. It isn't difficult to imagine who won.

Katie Koehitzky didn't care too much for the weather the other night during the storm. She had to crawl out of bed in the middle of the night to close her window, and as she was climbing back into bed, it crashed to the floor. The weather has also had adverse effects on a junior in Mr. Woosley's religion class. It is his custom to open class with prayer, and she, not realizing what he was doing, took notes halfway through the prayer.

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Cubans Suffer Dictatorship, Torture, Revolution, In Their Search For Democracy

By Nancy Butler

(Ed.'s note: Nancy Butler has lived in Cuba since last September and was there during the revolution.)

In order to begin to understand the events which have taken place in Cuba during the past few years, some knowledge of the political background involved is necessary. First, it must be remembered that the Cuban people have never lived under a democracy. It is still an ideal which they hope to attain in the future.

Their first step toward freedom was made at the end of the last century when the Cuban people won their independency from Spain. Jose Marti, the liberator of Cuba, was the leader of this revolution. His principles of freedom and democracy formed the basis of the Revolution. Cuba began its independence under the guidance of the United States. When it was finally granted full independence, the government fell into the hands of people lacking ability and interest. These dictators were not concerned with the economics of the country nor the welfare of the people. They only wanted personal glory and therefore very little money was re-invested in the country. Since Cuba has existed under a succession of dictatorships from the time of her "independence", the people do not know what to do with freedom.

Batista, the last of the dictators, was probably the worst in Cuban

history. Under him, the public lived in constant fear. No secrets were held from the secret police. All long distance telephone calls, important meetings, and other such gatherings were tapped. Newspapers, magazines and letters were censored. The originator of any anti-Batista move was convicted of treason.

Originally, he was legally the President, that is by election. Several years after his term, he and his followers re-entered the government by a coup d'etat. During this last period, his personal gains were enormous. By the time he left Cuba, Batista had \$600,000,000 for his "retirement fund".

All this time Castro was working cautiously and diligently to win liberty for the Cuban people. His first attempt to overthrow the Batista regime took place in 1953, and it ended in suppression. With the help of a clever lawyer, Castro was pardoned and allowed to go into exile in Mexico. But like Samuel Adams, Castro could not stop there. He would win freedom for his land and its people. With only forty men he returned to Cuba and established his camp in the treacherous Sierra Maestra. His band of followers rapidly grew, as did his control. He cut off the supplies to the other end of the island. Through a clever underground system, he gradually cut Batista off until Havana was the

only province in the dictatorship.

January 1, 1959 was the climax. Castro's troops drove Batista and his followers from the island and took over the government. A great number of bearded rebels entered Havana before Castro was finally able to complete his journey up the island. The happiness of these rejoicing people illustrates the reception Castro was given. I could not even begin to describe the reactions of a nation of people who for the first time in history are free.

I can not exaggerate the horror of the Batista regime. I think that it is clearly explained in the following letter in a Havana paper which was written by a group of Cuban students.

January 28, 1959

We Cubans have always liked and respected Americans very much and for that reason we want them to know the truth of what is happening in our country.

For seven years a dictator called Batista and his men ruled Cuba with an iron hand. For seven years the Cuban people lived in terror and fear. We had no rights at all. Any arm of the government, be it policeman, soldier or politician had the right to search our homes with out a warrant; the right to take anyone off to prison; the right to kill with impunity.

Those they did take to jail were submitted to the most horrible torture imaginable. Can you feel the anguish of a mother who hunts desperately for her missing son only to find him in the morgue? Can you understand the suffering and sorrow of thousands of families who lost their beloved ones in this horrible fashion? If the United States had only spoken out then, it would have helped us to fight this inhuman tyrant. But unfortunately the United States was silent. If only the United States would have raised its powerful voice for justice when defenseless cities were bombed and women and children were among the victims. It would have helped to stop such unlawful massacres. But once again the great United States was silent. We Cubans fought on alone until we won freedom and justice for all the people in this beautiful land of ours.

And now we alone want justice for these criminals, these soulless beasts, who have brought irreparable sorrow to so many Cuban homes. We must exterminate them so that the reign of terror and death that we suffered for so many long years will never be repeated! Never! And these men who once

tortured and killed without mercy are receiving a fair trial with the right to call witnesses; to have a lawyer defend them if they so desire it; and only when it is proven that they are guilty—only then are they executed in the most humane manner possible: by a firing squad. Many have been allowed to go free for lack of evidence. Only the guilty ones are being punished. We know that Americans believe in justice and democracy. We know that Americans sike fair play. For that reason we are writing to you to help us explain the truth to the American people. Let them know that our democracy is not so perfect until the cancer which was devouring and destroying our country has been eliminated forever. We do not ask for vengeance. We do not ask for retaliation. We do ask for justice in the name of humanity.

This was not written by a journalist, but by a group of young boys who had worked to make the Revolution successful. Through this article, they hoped to clear some of the misunderstanding regarding the Revolution. They sincerely believe in their principles. Next week there will be a newspaper on the situation since January 1959.

Point System Defeats Restricting Motion

The question of giving points to members of the play cast was raised at the Legislative Board meeting Tuesday.

The motion was defeated, first on the practical grounds that many of the seniors who hold major offices would be unable to take part in the plays.

A more theoretical reason for defeating the motion was also pleaded. The legislators felt that once points were given for being a member of the play cast, points would also be given to each member (not just the officers, but each member) of the many clubs on campus. Just as points would be given to those active Pierrette members, points for Dansalena performers would have to be set up. In fact every active member of a club on campus would have to be given points. Since every Salemite is an automatic member of each Beta get organization, this would give everyone on campus a surplus of points.

For these two reasons, the motion was defeated and the Point System remains a practical method of apportioning offices rather than becoming a cumbersome restraint on club participation.

More Pranks

Yes, it has been an inspiring as well as an exciting week. Never let it be said that there is ever a dull moment at Salem!

In relating incidents that occurred this week of course Bitting's visitor must be mentioned. Upon seeing a man in her closet, Henrietta Jennings remarked, "You just come right out I know you're in there." She said she would have tackled him if he hadn't been so big. Mr. Wright, the night watchman, must have been disturbed at having missed when he took a shot at the intruder, for he was seen taking target practice the next day hoping to improve his aim. Dr. French checked out a book in the library on tranquilizing drugs.

Along with all this excitement, this week has also been Spiritual Guidance Week at Salem. Dr. Brokhoff and Miss DuPree had discussions, made talks, and held private conferences with Salemites during the week. Y. W. C. A. is to be commended for providing Salemites with these opportunities during the week.