

Ferlinghetti Shatters Preconceptions In Salem Reading

By Peggy Brown

One of the rowdiest Salem College Lecture Series' audiences that I have heard packed itself into Memorial Hall Monday night, November 14, to hear Dr. Lawrence Ferlinghetti read selections from his own poetry. I often wonder why so many students squeeze themselves into the balcony where they cannot hear well and where they are so crowded that they have to sit in the aisles. Are they embarrassed to have it known that they attend such an 'un-neat' thing as a lecture? Oh well, that's beside the point. Periodic shushes occurred before Dr. Ferlinghetti "made the scene".

After a brief and in itself entertaining introduction by Mr. Shewmake, Dr. Ferlinghetti told us, "Don't let that Dr. throw you," for, he said, he had gotten it sitting on Paris cafe terraces for four years. Such remarks as this were by far the best received portions of his presentation, and were, I'm afraid, all too few. The earlier selections which the speaker read were largely of the type which the ivy covered walls and well-brought-up young ladies of Salem are embarrassed to open up and enjoy without remembering always to look properly shocked for the benefit of anyone who might be watching. The later selections, of a more serious nature, were probably not appreciated but by a select few who both had studied the poems before hand and were able to hear the entire reading of the poem.

After several poems from *A Coney Island of the Mind*, such as one taken from a painting by Chagall with its pun about the artist giving the violin to the "naked nude . . . with no strings attached", and "The Penny Candy Store", Dr. Ferlinghetti rightly observed that so far his poems seemed to be predominantly about women. I doubt that he need worry about changing the program when speaking to groups of men, as he intimated after observing the suitability of selections to audience in this instance. The portraits continued with "Another one. Certainly not the same one." Our ideal of the knight and his princess fair was shattered delightfully as she came out with, "Let's lie down somewhere, baby." The group of women's portraits concluded with ones such as "White String" and the model poem, "not a model poem".

Getting down to some more serious subjects, assuming that there was a deep significance which I missed in the first group, Dr. Ferlinghetti read "Dog". It is about Dr. Ferlinghetti's own dog and gave a real feeling of the movement of a dog walking down a big city street. Whether or not this same feeling would be conveyed by an individual reading silently can only be determined by each person for himself; I personally feel that the reading by the poet himself added a lot to this poem which would otherwise have been missed. Perhaps the best poem of the group was superficially about the Chinese New Year in San Francisco, and titled "Great Chinese Dragon". "Starting from San Francisco, November 10, 1960" gave the exhilarating sensation of getting in on the ground floor, as Dr. Ferlinghetti periodically made corrections in his notebook as he read. This is a change from studying poetry by authors long dead or so far removed from us that the immediate situation or predominant feeling which lies behind their poems is completely lost on us.



Ferlinghetti gives Meggi his autograph before the reading Monday night.

After pondering, "Let's see what else I've got here," Dr. Ferlinghetti came upon a "goofy little poem" entitled "What Happened the Day A Poet Was Appointed Postmaster", followed by "Euphoria". The poem which rivalled "Great Chinese Dragon" for top place in my mind, was "Special Clearance Sale of Famous Masterpieces". As Dr. Ferlinghetti's poem said, "It was a crazy scene to hitchhike into", but it was perhaps an example of what the majority of us expected of the speaker and his poetry and "beatniks" in general; all of the masterpieces showed people "PONDERING THE INSOLUBLE PROBLEM".

It seems our preconceptions about this graduate of University of North Carolina and recipient of the doctor's degree from the Sorbonne were wrong, or I at least thought so. Dr. Lawrence Ferlinghetti

finished by reading "New York Autumn", a poem with highly romantic and sentimental flavor, which he pecked into the harpsichord, put his hands in his pockets and strolled off the stage.

Lake Talks For Thanksgiving

Students are requested to take their seats quietly in assembly on Tuesday, November 22. This assembly will be a worship program with a guest minister delivering the sermon. Chapel checkers will be seated on the back row, and students are requested to check in as quietly as possible.

The emphasis of the service will be on Thanksgiving; and the speaker will be Dr. Julian Lake, minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Winston-Salem. A special solo will be rendered before the sermon.

Thanksgiving baskets will take the place of regular church offerings. These baskets will be filled with food contributed by Salemites—a basket will be placed in each hall, and every girl is asked to contribute. The hall or dorm president will take the basket forward when the call for the offerings is given. In this way, each girl has the opportunity to participate in the basic meaning of Thanksgiving.

Want To Go
When You
Want To Go

CALL



Phone PA 2-7121

Printing Plates

FOR
SCHOOL NEWSPAPERS
YEARBOOKS
PROGRAMS

COLOR-PROCESS PLATES

Let our experience solve your problems.

PIEDMONT ENGRAVING CO.
PA 2-9722 WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.

SALEMITES

MEET AT THE

PETER PAN

STEAKS

SALADS

SEAFOOD

825 S. Marshall

Phone PA 5-3181

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

With Cards and Wrapping Paper From

ITALY	HOLLAND	MEXICO	SPAIN
GERMANY	BELGIUM	FRANCE	ENGLAND
FINLAND	SWEDEN	NORWAY	DENMARK

IN THE BASEMENT OF THE

SALEM BOOK STORE



HIP, HIP, HURRAY
for the
GREYHOUND® way
to save money!

Got the good word about Greyhound Scenicruiser Service®? It's the latest, the greatest way to go... with air-conditioning, picture windows, air-suspension ride and complete restroom! You'll have a ball headin' home on a Greyhound—it's often faster than other public transportation, and always less expensive!



COMPARE THESE LOW, LOW FARES:

CHARLOTTE	\$2.75
CHAPEL HILL	2.86
RALEIGH	3.85
DURHAM	3.26

*plus tax

BAGGAGE PROBLEMS? You can take more with you on a Greyhound. Or, send your belongings by Greyhound Package Express. They arrive in hours and cost you less!

IT'S SUCH A COMFORT
TO TAKE THE BUS...AND
LEAVE THE DRIVING TO US!



GREYHOUND 418 N. Cherry St.

Phone PA 3-3663