



Honors Program Planned

Recently Dean Hixon announced plans for a new honors program for Salem which will begin next year. Although several points must still be worked out, we feel that the overall plan is excellent.

The main complication which we foresee for seniors interested in the independent study program is a conflict with practice teaching. Although a senior may be able to take the three hours for independent study the semester she is doing her practice teaching, could she keep up with the daily concentrated work involved in doing independent study? Possibly, but most seniors seem to be busy enough with daily lesson plans without adding the work of an independent study project.

Does this mean that a practice teacher should be excluded from independent study or that a student should choose one or the other? We hope this either/or choice will not be necessary.

This seems to leave two possibilities. First, perhaps the practice teaching could be done the second semester of their junior year by students interested in doing independent study. This would involve much red tape since it would mean finding classes for the extra practice teachers and making sure that they have had the required methods courses. But, it probably could be worked out.

The other possibility would be to open the honors program to juniors who plan to practice teach their last year. This has one obvious disadvantage—most students are just beginning to specialize in their major during their junior year. They often have not had enough specialized courses to judge what area they are most interested in, and they may lack some necessary background information.

Somehow these rough spots that crop up any time a new program is begun will be worked out. The only thing that students can do now is to take advantage of the excellent opportunities given them by the new honors program. Next year the seniors will be setting the high standards for many students who will follow.

Let's Avoid Double Duel

Assemblies are getting more exciting every week this semester. Besides the good programs planned by the Assembly Committee, we have the added spice of a double duel every Tuesday and Thursday. To keep the interest aroused, these duels come both before and after assembly.

The first duel is that of the Organ against the Uproar. Thus far, the Uproar has been a consistent winner and only those sitting closest to the stage can hear the organ. Mr. Hampton is a good and a vigorous organist, but the chatter of 400 girls shouting at each other is impossible to overcome.

The processional has become background music to help dull the noise rather than an enjoyable musical interlude while students are being seated. This uproar is especially embarrassing when we have a guest speaker for assembly. The confusion is also inconsiderate when it takes away part of the speaker's time.

The second duel is among the underclassmen. They have a weekly contest, it seems, to see how many seniors they can trample as they rush out to lunch. They step on toes, shove, and completely block the aisles so that the seniors and the more considerate underclassmen can not get out of the auditorium.

The assembly procedure, since many people seem to have forgotten, is that the seniors stand as the recessional begins and that they leave two rows at a time. The underclassmen remain seated until the seniors are out and then stand and march out by classes. This is certainly the fastest and most efficient way of dismissing assembly.

If this cannot be done by the classes following the procedure by themselves, perhaps the marshals could usher the classes out of assembly. Although this would be more formal, it certainly would be more orderly and faster.

If these two difficulties could be solved, then other small problems could be worked on. Already the announcement procedure has been changed. And with a few reminders that the seniors stand when the organ begins playing and that the underclassmen stand when the singing starts (or when the seniors enter the auditorium if they enter in a processional), then perhaps we can behave in assembly like the adults we think that we are. In the meantime, the slight noise you hear is the organ with all the stops out, and the feet you are stomping on are those of seniors!

Dear Editor,

"This weather is driving me batty!"

"I really thought I couldn't make it through that lecture in class this morning. You wouldn't believe how boring it was!"

"If that roommate of mine leaves the cap off the toothpaste one more time . . ."

"Not 'mystery meat' again"

Sound familiar? If you haven't heard these or similar complaints lately, you must have been away. It seems that the pitiful, oppressed Salemites are really leading rough lives. And furthermore, they're more than willing to tell you about them!

We're urged to look "beyond the square," but how can we when all we talk about is our own little gripes? When there is just one central topic of conversation—complaints—it's difficult for us to stretch our minds into broader areas.

Of course, modern psychology tells us: "Get it off your chest. Don't keep everything bottled up inside." But, I wonder if we aren't carrying this idea a little too far.

If airing out our petty gripes could effect a cure, then we certainly would be justified in complaining. But experience has proved that life's everyday irritations and problems aren't often soothed or solved so easily. Besides the fact that griping doesn't help the situation, it's awfully depressing. Just try sitting back and listening to the conversation around you, and if it's all grouching, doesn't it make you feel blue? It seems to remind you of things that rub you the wrong way and you want to add your two cents worth of gripes.

Granted, we'd go crazier yet if we all became a bunch of Pollyannas, but what about a happy medium? It seems that there are two things worth a try toward reaching this happy medium. If we set our problems against those posed by Lumumba's death or the Cuban situation, we might be able to view them in a better perspective. And another good method to break the vicious circle of chronic complaining might be to try introducing a few happy comments into the conversation.

Maybe these ideas wouldn't accomplish much at first, but who knows—perhaps soon we would all realize that cheerful conversation is a wonderful boost to morale, and the glum faces would brighten up again before spring. Think it's worth a try?

Sincerely,
Mary Eastland

Dear Editor:

For some time it has been quite disinterest and unconcern about Morning Chapel. Therefore it has become necessary to say that there will be no more Morning Chapel until students indicate that they again wish to have it.

During first semester the attendance was very good, but since Christmas vacation the attendance has truly been pathetic. Is it because we feel we have no need whatsoever for this short worship service? Or do we care so little about anything that is of a religious nature or feel ashamed to participate in religious activities for fear of being an outcast from the "group"? The Y cabinet also feels that it is most unfair to those people who spend time in preparation to lead the worship service and

then find no audience with whom to share in worship.

Perhaps then it would be better evident, especially to the Y cabinet, that there has been a genuine for us to think about and participate in our own private devotional periods. Little Chapel is always open to anybody at any time.

It seems almost too bad that Morning Chapel has had to be discontinued. Is it really because all of us are afraid that Morning Chapel attendance is too isolated from the world of conformity, or is it because all of us are too apathetic about the situation?

Ann Butler

Can The United Nations Solve Its Problems?

By Martha Cole Glenn

Rising out of the new Congo crisis, in connection with the death of Patrice Lumumba, has come an even deeper crisis in the United Nations. Is Russia attempting to wreck the U. N.? What hope does the free world have of saving the U. N.?

As a result of Lumumba's death, the Soviet Union has condemned Dag Hammarskjold as "an accomplice and organizer" of murder in the Congo. Russia's aim is not to safeguard the Congo, but to gain control of the U. N. By the excessive use of the veto, Russia has virtually destroyed the effectiveness of the Security Council and is now demanding the destruction of the U. N.'s administrative power—the office of Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General represents a great concentration of power beyond the reach of the Soviet Union. The United States has made a stand in direct support of Hammarskjold. But the question arises—Why not advocate Hammarskjold's resignation and elect a man who would be backed by the whole U. N.?

In view of Russia's present stand, an attempt to elect a new Secretary-General would not be successful. A new Secretary-General must be nominated in the Security Council. Russia would probably veto any nomination made here. Russia does not want a Secretary-General in any capacity. She wants a triple secretariat. Most representatives agree with Hammarskjold in saying that this would weaken the U. N. power to act in an emergency. This may be the reason for Russia's actions.

The United States and her allies must be firm against Russian attempts for U. N. control. Many people believe that Russia wants to destroy the U. N.; it is not so simple as that. Russia does not want to destroy or withdraw from the United Nations because, if Russia walked out, Khrushchev fears the U. N. might become a world-wide alliance against Communism. Also, the U. N. gives the Russians a sounding board for Communist propaganda. Therefore, Russia's aim will be to undermine and gain control of U. N. operations.

The hope of the United States and her allies for the success of the U. N. ultimately lies in the smaller nations. They have become so numerous that together they actually exercise a veto in the General Assembly today. Because the smaller nations realize that the U. N. can be a great protection to them, they will probably favor retaining Hammarskjold rather than abolishing the office of Secretary-General. They realize that some day they might need U. N. protection against Communist aggression as the Congo does today. So this crisis may be postponed until Hammarskjold's term ends in 1963.

Meanwhile, if the Russians decide to boycott him, as they did former Secretary-General Trygve Lie for supporting the U. N. operation in Korea, the functioning power of the U. N. will be complicated tremendously. Knowing that Russia has no intention of leaving the U. N., the United States must remain firm in her backing of U. N. operations in the Congo and in backing Hammarskjold, hoping that the smaller nations will support us in our attempt and thus thwart the Soviet Union's efforts for control.



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