



# The Salemite

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY OF THE COLLEGE YEAR BY THE STUDENT BODY OF SALEM COLLEGE

OFFICES—Basement of Lehman Hall — Downtown Office—414 Bank St., S.W.

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Printed by the Sun Printing Company

Subscription Price \$3.50 a year

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## Is Reasoning Valid?

The president of Salem and the Faculty Advisory Board have issued their denial of two petitions and their reasons for doing so. As an organ of student opinion we are attempting to reflect and interpret the reaction to the petitions.

We do not question the refusal of the petitions. That the Advisory Board has the right and judgment to consider and grant or refuse any petition submitted to them is accepted. That the considerations and judgments are based on careful discussion and analysis of any inherent problem in the petitions is understood. Certainly it is this understanding which makes the student body respectful of the opinions and decisions of the Board. The statement issued concerning the petition of the freshmen illustrates firmly the ability of the Board.

However, the reasons which the Board considers adequate to explain their denial of the petition requesting 12 midnight permission for students on Friday night failed to satisfy many students. The reasons would appear the kind to be subordinate to more important reasons; however, they are the only ones offered to the students. The reasons raise many questions.

The statement, "If dormitory doors are left open or unlocked for an additional half hour on Friday nights, the hazards to safety and welfare of students are increased rather than diminished and distractions are generally greater to those who want to retire or study", puzzles us. We do not understand why hazards increase so much in this particular thirty minute time span and yet the same period of time on Saturday nights is acceptable for students. In fact, the dorm remains open until 12:15 then.

The third reason handed to the students is only a series of questions apparently designed to put students on the defensive. The Salem girl may still be brought "home" first if this is the concern of the Board. However, it does not seem reasonable that on any double date with a Wake Forest girl they must leave the party 45 minutes early in order to get the Salem girl "home"—be it first or last.

The question of selectivity concerning dating and particular parties is certainly evident. The petition would not demand that all students stay out until a certain time. It would simply leave the decision to the discretion of the students. If they were unprepared for Saturday classes, they should be able to decide whether to prepare before going out or otherwise budget their time. We question that any 30 minutes is such valuable study time that the following 30 could not be substituted.

Again we do not ask for reconsideration of this petition. We only urge—and do so most strongly—that the Board give any future petitions more detailed consideration and present more feasible reasons for their approval or denial to the students.

B. B.

## Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

As president of the YWCA I would like to acknowledge Miss "I. C. A. Cross" and I. M. A. Christian's most sacrilegious display of their ignorance of Christian Symbols when they posted this notice last week.

We, as student members of the Salem College YWCA

do hereby protest the use of

PAGAN slogans and symbols (the Y's old owl)

by a reputedly Christian Organization

I.C.A. Cross and I.M.A. Christian

Your interest in the Y and your recognition of your active member-

ship in the Y is to be commended. However, your rash judgment and shortsightedness as to the connotation of the Y's Owl was shocking. In view of this I therefore would like to recommend for your reading page 21 of *Symbols of Christian Art* found in the reading room of the Library.

The YWCA, by the nature of its being and in its name and purpose proudly professes to be a Christian Organization, and it furthermore displays the owl as its symbol of Christian Wisdom. You can be assured the owl will never publicize any statement or program which it is not wise or expedient for you to heed in order to learn more about yourself in relation to the Christian way of life.

Trisha Weathers

## Mina Speaks Of Native Cuba

By Jane Raynor

On October 17 at a meeting of the International Relations Club, Mina Martinez spoke on the Cuban situation. She gave a brief history of Cuba, and then went into recent developments.

"The Island of Cuba was the last Spanish Colony to gain its independence. The Cuban people have always loved freedom and fought for it many years until they achieved it in 1902. During the Republican Period, Cuba advanced extraordinarily. Cuba was on the road to progress when in 1952 a politician, Batista, instigated a coup d'etat and established a dictatorship. The Cuban people fought in order to regain their civil and political rights. Among those who fought Batista was Fidel Castro, a young impetuous lawyer of great personal magnetism who said he was a defender of the democratic ideals of the Cuban people and who promised reform to improve the social and economic status of the country. With these promises he gained the sympathy and support of the people.

"In 1959 Castro took the government of the island into his hands. Everyone had supported the revolutionary government, and even the rich were willing to limit their income in order to improve the political situation of the country and to achieve its economic development. But this was not Castro's objective. He was a Communist, and a traitor to his country. The first thing he did was to divide society, stimulating a hatred among the classes and races which had never existed in Cuba. This was only the first step toward the establishment of a Communist dictatorship in Cuba, directed and controlled by the Soviet Bloc.

"Gradually Castro suppressed all freedoms. In Cuba there is no freedom of religion. Castro frequently uses the phrase that religion is the opium of the people. Churches have been closed and church representatives forced into exile. In Cuba there is no freedom of speech or press. People are simply shot if they don't agree with the government's policies. It is significant that the only papers that circulate are those published by the Communist Party, and television and radio are controlled by the government. In Cuba schools and universities are closed and young people are forced either to join the militia or to go to the rural sections to take classes on Marxism. Every society and organization is controlled by the government, and private property has been abolished. The government has proven itself insufficient in handling the economy, and people now living in Cuba are suffering from actual physical need. Meat, eggs, chicken, and other things are so scarce that the government has had to ration the food."

Mina tried to convey how very difficult it has been to see what has happened in Cuba. "Try to imagine how you, who study in a religious school and who live in a country where the rights of every citizen are respected, would feel if all of a sudden your friends, your school, your traditions, everything was taken away from your life."

## Beyond The Square

By Bonnie Hauch

The Berlin situation still seems to be the focal point of world attention. Conferences held over the week-end of October 6 and 7 between Russia's Gromyko and U. S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk have done little more than point up the fact that there will be no sudden break-through in this crisis. The easing of the Berlin situation, when and if it comes, will be a slow and gradual step-by-step process. President Kennedy feels that the Rusk-Gromyko talks may be the initial step in a sounding-out operation to determine exactly where each nation stands and to decide what issues are negotiable.

In a separate statement Rusk said that the Berlin situation will probably be placed in the hands of the U. N. if conditions grow worse. However, Rusk also feels that the U. S. and Russia should first be given an opportunity to negotiate without U. N. interference. How much longer they should continue to attempt a peaceful settlement without U. N. assistance is a matter of conjecture.

Along this same line, Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield said there is little the U. S. can or should do in case of a Russian-East German treaty. He believes that a settlement of some type will come soon, but has set up three points which he feels are not negotiable:

1. Maintenance of the freedom of the people of West Berlin.
2. Right of American, French, and British troops to remain in Berlin.
3. Right of egress between West and East Berlin.

Laotian problems, though perhaps over-shadowed by the Berlin crisis, should by no means be overlooked. The fact must be faced that cease-fire or no cease-fire, Laos is not at peace. The Communists have gained a very strong foothold in the little country and seem to be ever expanding their treacherous grasp in that area. Cambodia's neutralist Prince Sihanouk has warned the U. S. that to send American troops to Laos would mean another Korea; with Communist strength so great in Laos, the West would meet with almost certain defeat. He said, however, that there was less danger in sending U. S. troops to South Viet Nam in an effort to halt increasingly dangerous operations by Communist guerrillas there.

At any rate, it would seem that Laos is definitely being overtaken by Communists with hopes dimming rapidly for a neutral nation. Unless some action is taken soon, South Viet Nam is in grave danger of following the same path, giving the Communists another feather to place in a rapidly filling cap.

The United States and the World were shocked and saddened to hear that Samuel Rayburn is incurably ill with cancer. Doctors have given little hope that he can last more than a few days, or a few weeks at the most. Plans are already underway for finding a successor for his post as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

## Around The Square

By Betsy Hicks

Upon learning that the mother wrote verses,

And that the father wrote verses, And that the youngest son was in a publishing office,

And that the friend of the second daughter was undergoing a novel,

The young American pilgrim Exclaimed:

"This is a darn'd clever bunch!"

(from "Moeurs Contemporaines III." Ezra Pound.)

A "young American" star of Salem's production of *The Taming of the Shrew* is reported to have said one evening over clicking knitting needles, "I don't see why they picked that play. Who wants to hear a bunch of Shakespeare language?", and a freshman, looking at Eloise Upchurch's painting in Main Hall, was overheard to say, "What's it supposed to be anyway?" A future social worker wrote in a sociological evaluation of a field trip, "The work of the agency was great." Mr. Wendt asked with some justification, "Is this a very scholarly remark?" Ezra Pound would probably have agreed with Mr. Wendt that it wasn't.

It is probably a good thing, all in all, that Mr. Pound doesn't make a habit of sitting under the oaks in Salem Square. He might have overheard Mr. Carver ask Lis Jen-

sen (our exchange student from Copenhagen) if she were going home this weekend. He might also have heard Ann Sellars' reason for getting pinned for the weekend, "We are both seniors, got to talking, and discovered that neither of us had ever been pinned." Had Mr. Pound heard Page Day and Grey Wiltshire planning to burn their "Misfit" beanies in a formal ceremony and to scatter the ashes on hallowed ground along with an ode written especially for the occasion, he may have been a little cheered that Salem creativity hasn't vanished completely.

Mr. Pound, or local and more practical-minded social critics, could, in fact, find many intelligent and moral activities to praise in the square vicinity if present at the right times. Johanna Johnson shuffled over the bricks in a worn path from the Pfohl House T. V. set to the barn, where she and Mert (the barn's new Yankee proprietress who has instigated such carpet-baggage reforms as the written order and the air-conditioner) engaged in a game of T. V. word-guessing over coffee.

The square no longer echoes with Beth Moore's record of "Shout", perhaps, because she has taken up classical music, and perhaps because she has closed her window. Even Marie has life—in a new light. She finally consented to learn the twist, with expert help, in front of Babcock.

Marty Richmond and Frances Bailey, among the few on campus last weekend, sacrificed their Friday to hear Dr. Lewis' lecture on emotions and Mr. Bray's annual lecture on sex. As to political awareness, students have shown an increased interest in legislative board meetings this week.

Cultural interest among "young American pilgrims" is not limited to Salem Square, however. Frances Holton and Ella Raymond were im-

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### gort

Old friend, comrade, compatriot, boon companion and erstwhile associate, GORT!!

Brebe! You old knave! What on earth have you been up to? ...other than drinking.



disgusting!

Well, first and foremost, I have imbibed a few! Other than that, I've published a book of poems, written three plays, and discovered that E=mc<sup>2</sup>.



HAR-RUMPH!

What ails that chap? A productive drunk is the bane of all moralists.

