



Timely Maturity Compliments Salem

There is a definition of maturity—"Mature" means neither "too soon" nor "too late." By such a definition, one can say that the re-statement of Salem's regulations in regard to drinking is a mature action on the part of the student body, the faculty, the administration, and the Board of Trustees. Truly it is an action that certain students have long been clamoring for, but one which could only come after studied and intense consideration. The approach which Student Government used in handling the situation seems to us to be that of intelligent consideration. By holding student discussions, open meetings, consultations with members of the Faculty Advisory Board and of the Board of Trustees, the officers of Student Government have successfully realized a necessary change.

Within this change lie certain values which, to us, greatly outweigh any hesitancy or over-concern for possible costs. One strong advantage of the re-statement of policy is the consistent interpretation of correct behavior which it encourages. No longer can a student profess to consider certain behavior acceptable away from Salem and another pattern of behavior necessary at college. At all times is she expected to conduct herself in a manner becoming to her college and to her family. Most importantly, the student must now represent herself at all times. An unwise personal interpretation of the policy change could make the individual likely to degrade and disgrace her own dignity—her most precious possession.

To maintain that this particular innovation at Salem is "mature" is to declare it a step of progress. Change, or progress, is not necessarily beneficial; it must be progress tempered with wisdom to be so. Such is the change at Salem. It reflects the prevalent attitude of all those people interested in Salem that the college's goals and policies must parallel the values of other intelligent, reasonable people.

In another sense, the statement cements even more strongly the Honor Tradition at Salem. With the accomplishment of such changes, it

becomes more and more difficult to ignore or overlook infringements of the Honor Tradition. It now becomes impossible to excuse breaking certain rules by maintaining that the action does not conflict with one's personal code of conduct. Certainly nothing could be in closer accord with one's personal code than the assertion that ladylike behavior is expected from a Salem student at all times.

Some people have expressed concern that this change weakens Salem's standards because it may encourage freshmen and members of the other classes to drink when they would not otherwise do so. We feel that such concern infers an insult to our students. To maintain that Salem students need to be guided that closely in their social activities declares them to be incapable of good judgment. We think that there is no Salem girl who does not exercise taste and wisdom in her actions. Her home training has emphasized this and her personal integrity insures it.

The only basis by which the change could be considered to be unwise is that it implies a victory over "someone." This "someone" is not identified; it is the same "they" who always know everything, control everything, and withhold everything. There is no such victory; there is nothing to celebrate. "They" are part of Salem, the people who actively work for the advancement of Salem's principles and goals; "they" are the students, the faculty, the administration, the Board. If there has been any victory, it has been only a victory over ourselves—a progressive step in educating ourselves to intelligent decisions for the benefit of Salem. We have earned the privilege of applying a statement of the Greek playwright Aeschylus to ourselves; we have been complimented by the granting of a statement which demands that we use our judgment.

"Fortune is for all; judgment is theirs who have won it for themselves."

—Aeschylus

Student Answers Alumna's Letter

Dear Editor,

I am sure I speak for the entire college when I say that we are grateful for the interest in present Salemites shown by Susan Hughes Pleasant as a former Salemite. I am certain that her letter to the editor has made us all stop and reflect on our appearance and neatness. But I wonder about the "depths to which neatness and ladylike dress have fallen" that she spoke of. I am not aware of any great regression during my three years at Salem. And I am not aware that we have reached any particular depths as far as appearance is concerned, on campus and off. She said that she has been ashamed because of comments by townspeople; I wonder if she has never heard any Winston-Salem citizens say that they could always spot a Salem girl because she looked so neat and nice? I have, several times, and I am proud of it!

What point was Mrs. Pleasant trying to make about Salem girls not wearing socks and loafers? If it was that socks should be worn, I would like to ask her if she really does not consider hose (or even no hose) to look a little more dressy than socks. And if she meant that we should wear high heels when we shop downtown, I wonder if she has forgotten—in her one year as an alumna—the hurried trips to town between classes? Is it necessary to don our Sunday outfits for these trips or even for an afternoon of shopping. Has she forgotten how far it is from the Salem Square to Fourth Street on foot? Does she really think that a pair of heels makes a girl a woman or makes a woman look neat? I am sure the townspeople do not actually expect us to wear our Sunday "finery" everywhere; after all, we are in college, not a fashion show.

Also, in reply to her comments on the recent art trip—I think she referred to the visit to the North Carolina State Art Museum in Raleigh. I am assured by reliable sources that the Salem girls were quite well dressed and were instructed not to wear heels, etc. I have even been told that the appearance of the Salemites was quite a bit better than that of other college students present!

I do hope that, if we are in as serious a state as Mrs. Pleasant seems to think, that "it is just a phase and will pass." But I am not too fearful that decay is on the way and inevitable; I do not even think that Salem girls are careless about their appearances. Although we could probably improve a bit, somehow I feel that Mrs. Pleasant is concerning herself with something not really crucial at this time.

Confidently,
Martha Still, '63

Pre-teen Social Customs Change In Recent Years

By Lucy Lane

An article in the April 20 issue of *Time* discusses the disturbing and almost fantastic changes in the social habits and customs of today's pre-teens (8-12). If your daughter came to you at the tender age of nine to request a "training bra" so that she might "feel glamorous" when she goes to a drive-in movie on the back of her eleven-year old boy friend's bicycle, what would you say? What would you think?

A situation such as this one thrown suddenly into our faces seems almost unbelievable and leaves little doubt in our minds as to what our reaction would be. However, out there in the big, big world of college graduates and such, there are apparently many mothers who would not be shocked, rather they would be pleased. Many have, in fact, encouraged this kiddie sophistication in their pre-teens.

The theory behind all the tea parties, dinner parties, dance parties and "make-out" parties for the 8 to 12-year olds centers on the idea that through these practices the parents are kindly aiding their children in overcoming—indeed, in overlooking altogether—that "awkward age." Fine, we may say. But at this speedy rate, where will they end up? If pre-teens are assuming the social privileges of teen-agers, what are teen-agers doing? But of course . . . they are assuming the habits and social "traditions" of "good ole' Ivy U." Granted the examples in *Time* are from large, metropolitan areas and are probably extremes and exceptions. We don't see this change in our homes and hometowns. The South holds onto traditions and customs longer than many places. However, this element of pushing social customs down the scale of age levels does exist and is becoming more obvious.

Have you heard any of the local P. T. A. problems lately? It seems they don't know exactly what to do about those all night parties and long weekends at the beach. The Junior-Senior is slowly transforming into a "good ol' Roman-type orgy," and they don't know what to do about 16-year old Jimmy's bad, bad headaches Sunday mornings. Next question: what's all this jet-propulsion type of social "maturity" doing to the "Joe College crowd"—what's being left for college? My, my how times do change!

Our grandparents used to look at us and say those very words, shaking their heads in wonderment. Now we look at younger brothers and sisters or at a magazine article about "sophisticated" pre-teens and wonder, also. Where will it stop? At this rate ten years from now the baby will start out on a formula of whiskey sours!

Possibly, this progression of social customs downward to the lower age levels is only a trend rather than a permanent situation. Periods of peace and prosperity characteristically bring a relaxation of discipline and a leniency in long-standing traditions. All discipline does not relax, nor does all tradition change; but a general spirit of this sort does pervade. Much of the leniency and change occurs in the social realm.

The upcoming generation is a generation of peace. Is this tendency towards accelerated social "maturity" a trend that comes with peacetime? Probably. If so, it may disappear eventually. However, if the present favorable economic and social conditions continue, as we hope they will, logically this tendency or trend would also continue. Of course, we do not want nor plan to sacrifice the unsteady peace of today because of one sociological tendency; but do we want to continue to deposit the social habits into the laps of children—our children?

As potential mothers this element of change in the social customs of children should be of particular importance to us. What are we going to do with our children? Will we follow this trend of making adults out of 8-year olds? Okay, we shout an emphatic NO—you can't expect children to behave as adults; and therefore you can't push them into an adult society at 8 years of age.

Yet this is happening today. The "Tom Thumb weddings" or their significance are becoming a distorted reality rather than an occasional "pretend" performance. Making American children into adults is evident not only in social functions; children's fashions show this trend as do their dolls and other "toys." Where will it stop? Who will stop it? Simple questions with complex answers—questions that can't be answered in one day, because all the aspects of this accelerated social growth—all the influences upon it—are too numerous and intricate to unwind and correct in a short period of time.

Spring Brings Weekends

By Bonnie Hauch

Amid the chaos of the celebrated Easter service, a sense of calm somehow penetrated the atmosphere for those few students who remained at Salem. They arose at 2:30 a.m. to the sound of the Moravian band, had breakfast at 4:30, attended services, and emerged tired, but with the feeling "it was worth it."

Most Salemites, however, headed for home or parts distant to enjoy a long week-end. Carroll Roberts, Virginia Anderson, Judy Coston, and Claudia Crawford celebrated at the beach. Connie Rucker flew to Annapolis. Anne Romig and Libby Hodges made their first trip to the mountains; Anne came face to face

with a cow for the first time—her next goal is to see a live pig! Barbara Gottschalk and Alice Reid stayed closer to campus, limiting their travels to a (painful) bicycle excursion to Farmer's Dairy and back.

Have you noticed that the sun has come out . . . again? There's an azalea branch just begging to be cut for a flower arrangement, but it should not be, because everyone should be able to see it where it is. There's an absence of books in the library now; one girl is reported to have had thirty out at one time! There's a new rack for Salem's newest mode of transportation, but it won't hold all the bicycles. Classes have started rac-

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