

Reflections on the Future

Under the leadership of Dr. Gramley, the past twenty years at Salem College have been progressive ones. Dr. Gramley has presided over many successful projects, and he has pioneered important changes. His resignation will leave vacant not only the top administrative office in the college structure but also an important position of influence.

Important decisions will be made at Salem in the next few years. The new president will affect the direction Salem takes in the future. He (or she) may be the decisive influence in important issues such as curriculum changes.

Dr. Gramley's recommendation that the Board appoint a committee including faculty, students, alumnae, and the Academy is a wise one. Responsibility for decisions will lie on members of all parts of the Salem community, and the committee itself will have the advantage of a wide range of viewpoints.

Salem is preparing to celebrate two hundred years of past; we must also think seriously about the future.

Senator Attacks Pollution

Dear Friend:

The destruction of our environment is a matter of urgent concern to all thinking people. One of the largest stumbling blocks to meaningful environmental repair is the powerlessness of the American people to challenge, through legal channels, those responsible for the pollution that destroys our air, water, and land. This situation seriously handicaps the struggle for a clean environment.

In recognition of the urgent need to deal with this problem, I introduced, together with Senator Philip Hart, S. 3575, a bill designed to "provide every person with an adequate remedy to protect the air, water, land, and public trust of the United States from unreasonable pollution, impairment, or destruction." It would do so by opening up the Federal and State court system to anti-pollution suits by ordinary citizens against other citizens or government agencies, and by granting every citizen the right to

challenge administrative decision-making where it is lax or in the implementation of environmental policy generally.

We need all the support we can muster and all the interest we can generate to enact this important measure. I hope you will help. Enclosed is a copy of the statements made when the bill was introduced, as well as a copy of the bill itself.

With all best regards, I am

Sincerely,

George McGovern

Committee on Agriculture
and Forestry

United States Senate

Washington, D. C. 20510

(Ed. note: The above letter from Senator McGovern illustrates a tangible way in which citizens can work to solve pollution problems. Anyone interested in this legislation may contact a staff member for further information.)

Students Give Their Opinions On Petition For Self-limiting Hours

Salem has lived through countless petitions attempting to update the school socially and academically. The latest petition concerning social rules is one asking for self-limiting hours for girls twenty-one and over, and for girls with parental permission. This week the Salemite presents various opinions concerning the idea of individual responsibility for dating; we asked girls, "Do you approve the possibility of self-limiting hours under certain conditions, and why do you hold this opinion?"

Miriam Manning: It's a good idea for anyone who wants to accept this responsibility. Anyone here at Salem should be able to judge for herself whether she is responsible or not. It'll never do me any good because I won't get parental per-

mission. Of course, if you can limit your hours at home, you should at least be eligible to at school.

Kelsey Bistline: I'm definitely for it, but I can't stay out past 12:00 usually anyway, so it wouldn't effect me too much. The idea of being able to stay out for special events is great.

Lynn Jones: I think it would be good, but we'd have to carefully work out a system. Perhaps the girls with this privilege should be in separate dorms.

Donna Wadsworth: I think it's good because it would help the girls develop a sense of responsibility of limiting themselves. Parental permission is good if you're not 21 because we're still a responsibility to our parents and need some guidance.

Marilu Pittman: It's a definite necessity that students start taking some of their responsibilities if they ever hope to be responsible in life later.

Josie Peeples: I think self-limiting hours would be fine.

Melissa Turner: I feel girls should have the same privileges at school as at home, although I realize certain rules and regulations are necessary.

Marily Saacke: There's no need for us to have a set hour to come in, PERIOD! It's practical, it would save on noise on the floors, effort on the part of watchmen and house counselors, etc.

Gay Murrill: I think it's great so long as you have to put a limit on yourself, but otherwise, it's too great a burden on the house and hall presidents, the house mother and everyone else.

Sally Wilson: I don't see the need for it in Winston-Salem.

Ann Gibbs: I don't think it's necessary, but in order for Salem to compete with other schools for new students, we would have to keep abreast . . . just for the continuation of the school.

Paige French: I think it's perfectly marvelous. As soon as a satisfactory system could be arranged, we definitely should have it.

Kris Danbury: I think it's a great idea. It's about time girls learn to accept their own responsibility.

Pelham Lyles: Parental permission, yeah; over twenty-one, yeah. But it'd be just as good if you had your own apartment and went to a large university.

Letters . . .

Dear Editor:

The symposium shoved me out of a winter of introspection into a re-awareness of social injustice; the real jolt came when I suddenly realized that I am a non-active propagator of it. I speak in particular of the non-active violence done to Jim Kunen at the final panel in which we all participated. Kunen should have been on that panel. We should have felt (and perhaps did) indignant over his not being included, but indignant enough to ask from the floor for an explanation. Some, perhaps many, of us smoldered through the discussion—silently.

I heard Kunen's speech Wednesday morning, attended the question-answer session later, and sat by him at lunch. He looked me in the eye when I talked with him and seemed sincere in his convictions. He deserved to share rapport with Brown, Reiss, Bettelheim, and us in the wind-up; we deserve to have the finger pointed at us for our fear of rocking the boat.

Some students resent the fact that requests that the group in the abominably crowded Fine Arts Library be allowed to move into empty Hanes Auditorium were denied, presumably by Dr. White. Late Wednesday afternoon when I asked Kunen, who at lunch had fully expected to be on the panel, why he was not, he told me, "Dr. White didn't want me on it." We may all be victims of misinformation; if so, Dr. White has a right to know it and to clear the slate with us.

Similar occurrences will no doubt arise again; a "hotbed of student rest" does not become a hive of concerned action overnight. But I

hope that the next time I, for one, will feel enough immediate concern to take the risk of being constructively irate.

Carol Watson

To the Editor:

The Symposium has come and gone. It brought with it the promise of a new intellectual excitement at Salem. Ironically it left behind a strong current of misunderstanding and anger. Speaker Kunen's absence from the final panel discussion precluded the direct exchange of ideas between the speakers present.

This I criticize as do many others. We are all quick to acknowledge and express our anger; we must be just as quick to make every effort to understand why Kunen did not speak.

Various members of the Symposium Committee stress that the planning of the schedule of events was near completion before Kunen accepted the invitation to speak. Therefore, his role in the Symposium could not be a major one, as were Reiss', Brown's, and Bettelheim's. Kunen's invitation included participation in the Five Voices panel and in a seminar. It was decided that he would speak separately from the Five Voices, but when it became apparent that he belonged on the final panel no action was taken by the Symposium Committee to change the plans to include him. Neither did any one of us in the audience intercede on his behalf.

The members of the Symposium Committee with whom I talked expressed their regret that action was not taken to include Kunen. They stressed that the fault lay in inadequate adjustment of the plans to include him rather than any decision to prevent him from speaking on the panel or to remove him from it. The committee has subsequently taken action to make future Symposium planning more flexible and to "establish machinery" for changing the planned schedule if necessary.

I still do not understand why such a simple, vital adjustment could not have been made to place Kunen on the final panel. But I also feel that as an audience, we too are guilty of failing to take action to remedy the situation. We wasted the question and answer period. Furthermore, we might all

follow the Symposium Committee's example in preparing to be more responsive and responsible in the future.

Salem College owes Jim Kunen an apology for failing to accept his challenge, and Salem College owes herself the conscious fulfillment of this Symposium's promise of new intellectual excitement.

Sincerely,

Ginger Zemp

Dear Editor of **The Salemite**:

I have been greatly distressed all year by the absolutely disgusting way in which we conduct what is popularly known as the "blessing" before our meals in the Refectory. Students rarely pronounce it in unison, and often talk or laugh while it is being repeated. One student even counted from ten down to zero during one repetition of the blessing at the evening meal.

But the root of this problem lies much deeper than just irreverence at meals when the blessing is being said. The real problem is the *a priori* assumption made by the Salem College administration that all her students are Christians, or that if they aren't, they will perhaps be converted after four years of chanting the same blessing in unison.

I fully realize that no one is being forced to say this blessing, and many of my peers who are agnostics or atheists simply remain silent. However, let us be realistic. There are many more people who seem, for reasons unknown to myself, to delight in muttering through it as fast as possible or in disrupting it entirely by such tactics as the "countdown" I described. As a Christian, I find this blessing very beautiful and meaningful, and I deplore the fact that it is disrupted and made to seem almost sacrilegious. And, as a student of Salem College, I feel that my religious freedom and that of other students is being seriously infringed upon.

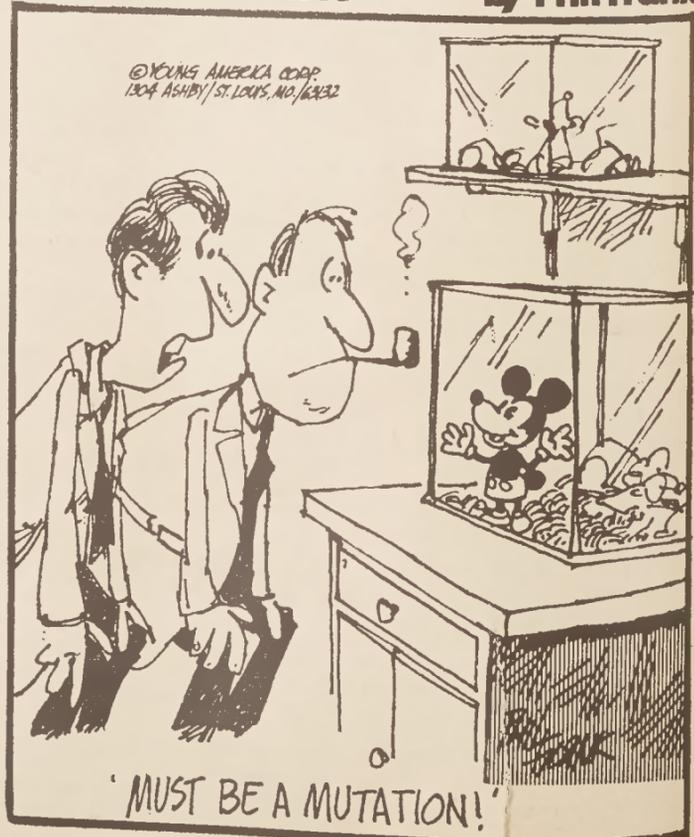
We would do well to follow the example of the Moravian settlers who founded this college, and who were among the first practitioners of religious toleration. I think it would be best if there were no public blessing, but that saying a blessing at meals be left to the discretion of the individual student.

Sincerely,

Barbara Horney

FRANKLY SPEAKING

by Phil Frank



The Salemite



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