

# A Proper Place

by Dr. Mary Hill

"Salem College with roots so far back into the past is a good place to consider the future," said Dr. Louise Nelson on the opening day of Salem's symposium on **Future Society**. Did the Symposium Committee choose the topic because we are celebrating our 200th anniversary? Or did they choose it because for the first time in his history mankind today can seriously raise the question of whether he has a future? In either case, to be able to look back over a long past is to be able to get some purchase on the movement which we call history, and to realize that there is no future apart from some past, and that the more identifiable the past, the more foreseeable the future.

What will the religion, the economy, the family life of the future be? These were the questions to which the symposium addressed itself, because in terms of these institutions our past is identifiable. And were these to disappear, we would need to know the nature of their replacements to foresee our future or to insure that we have a future.

Dr. Sam Keen expressed his confidence that man's religion will survive, but that it will be a new open religion proclaiming "All pleasure to the people." (Did he mean to contrast it with the old religion of "All praise to God"?) Man will not survive if his planet becomes uninhabitable, and his planet will become uninhabitable unless man loves it and cares for it. To see ourselves as earth-bound is to face the truth (and tragedy) of our mortality, and our kinship to all men. Thus the new religion will be one where there is courage to articulate the myth we live. This raises the question of whether our life authenticates our faith (myth), or whether it is an authentic faith which enables us to live our lives with courage.

If the urgency of our natural, bodily drives is to be celebrated in the religion of the future, our need for security will be met in the continuance of the nuclear family. This was the confident assertion of Dr. Carlfred Broderick. Family life has been around for as long as we know, and if it is given up man—being naturally social—will devise some substitute for it. But the substitutes will not take root, we are assured. Who is currently experimenting with substitutions? The young adults who are between family situations—that of their childhood home and that of their own settled years. Is this wishful thinking on Broderick's part or does he have some evidence to support it? As a marriage and family counselor he has considerable experience to draw on. What was disappointing was that his experience remained, in large measure, a Humean "bundle of impressions" yielding little knowledge. The communes, for instance, dissolve over trivialities such as disagreements about who will do the dishes. The most successful are the ones where there is a common commitment—ideological or religious—to hold the members together. What is the nature of commitment? Is it an idiosyncrasy of certain individuals, a particular myth which some elect to live? Or is it normative for any who would be truly human? These are questions with which Broderick did not deal in my hearing, but which remain to be answered. They remain to be answered, unless we have withdrawn from history.

The withdrawal from history, or the growth of an instant culture, Dr. Louise Nelson pointed out, arises from the possibilities of annihilation by pollution or starvation. This by way of preamble to her careful exploration of the question, "Will American capitalism survive?" for no economic system will survive if the environment does not survive. It is well known that Marxism predicts the decay of capitalism, but this prediction (based on economic factors alone) does not hold for Dr. Nelson the threat that do others voiced by present-day economists in our own country. Capitalism may be destroyed as big business or government controls the economy (monopoly or planning). In 1946 Eisenhower supported the integration of civilian and military resources, but fifteen years later expressed alarm at the military-industrial complex.

As I understood her, Dr. Nelson was pointing to the inappropriate use of vast powers. The government, for example, pollutes the environment, and the same government combats the pollution. Thus our pressing tasks are to strengthen democratic processes in government, redistribute income, encourage competition in the market-place and devise appropriate social welfare measures in order to eradicate hunger; to provide adequate housing, worthy education, good health for all our people.

Our three speakers shared their predictions, fears and hopes

## England Enthralls Students

by Mary Donna Kimrey

Banbury, Oxfordshire, England, Mar. 19: I really don't know what happened, but all of a sudden I got really nostalgic about good old Salem. Although I'm having a GREAT time over here in England, I am really anxious to get home. England is really a fantastic country. There is more history in every little town and village than a person could imagine! And then there's London — with its great theatre, pubs, parks, museums, and Italian rest'raunts (HA). In Stratford-upon-Avon, they have actual manuscripts of plays and poems, and even Shakespeare's own copy of **Hollinshead's Chronicles**. Yesterday, five of us went to Canterbury (I had gone once in January but I wanted to go again). There you can see

the actual place where St. Thomas a Beckett was killed and the tomb of the famous Black Prince.

Naturally, since Mark and I became engaged on Dec. 22, I haven't done much shopping around for British men. But the ones I run into, either in class or on the train or traveling around, are some of the friendliest, most polite and understanding gentlemen I've ever seen.

Wroxton College itself is somewhat of a novelty. We have about 40 girls and 32 guys, mostly from schools around New Jersey, Connecticut and New Hampshire (although there are three of us from North Carolina, one from Illinois, one from Ohio, a couple from Florida, etc.). Our classes are on a strange

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Dr. Louise Nelson relaxes onstage with interested participants following her lecture during the Symposium.

for the future with us not only in their formal addresses and encounters, but also in informal conversations in the Fine Arts building, on the campus, in the refectory, in the May Dell, over a cup of coffee, a fried chicken leg or a beer and cheese. This pleasant, relaxed environment came about only through much careful planning by the Symposium Committee and through the cooperation of Mrs. Cummings and her staff. To them all we say, "Thank you."

When we attempt to assess the value of this year's symposium, I hope we may refrain from linking it too closely with the presentations and personalities of the speakers. It should be measured in terms of the importance of the topic for continuing thought and study. We have been provided with a good bibliography as an aid to our reflections. The urgency of the problem of Future Society was brought graphically before us in the movie, "1985". The introduction to the symposium in terms of artistic expression—painting, poetry and dance—served to underscore that man is not simply a creature of his time, but is himself creative.

In the closing panel discussion the look towards the future took the form of assessing the present. Where are we at Salem College? Where is Salem College in the world of 1972? What is the aim of education? Because education in the liberal arts has always placed the emphasis on the permanent problem of the human race: how to live wisely, agreeably and well; Salem College with its long history in the liberal arts tradition, Dr. Nelson reminded us, is not only a good but a proper place in which to consider the future.

## Ensemble Joins Concert

The Winston-Salem Symphony's "Pops Carnation Concerts" are coming up in Reynolds Auditorium April 24 and 25, Monday and Tuesday evenings at 8:15 P.M. Symphony Conductor, John Iuele, will present light classical works on the first half and frankly popular fare on the second half of the program that will both close the year and kick-off ticket sales for the coming season.

Appropriately, the orchestra's very first guest artist, Marjorie Felmet, will return to its concert stage for the close of its silver anniversary year. A student of Cecile Genhart at the Eastman School of Music, Marjorie Felmet has lived and taught in Winston-Salem since her marriage. Her teaching career began at Meredith College, and she is currently a part-time instructor in piano at Wake Forest University. She will play the slow movement of Chopin's "Piano Concerto Number 1" in E minor, Opus 11 sub-

titled **Romanze**. She played the D minor Piano Concerto of Mozart with the Winston-Salem Symphony in 1946.

Iuele will join hands with the Bicentennial Celebration of the founding of Salem College and Academy as the Symphony's own year of celebration comes to an end. He will conduct the Salem Academy Glee Club (prepared by Jean Burroughs) and the Salem College Choral Ensemble (prepared by Mr. Paul Peterson) in a medley called "Love Songs of Our Times". The medley will include the theme from "Love Story", "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing" and "Bridge Over Troubled Waters". Other works to be featured on the Pops Carnation Concerts are Leonard Bernstein's "Overture to **Candide**" selections from "Man of La Mancha" and an arrangement of Lennon and McCartney's tune "Yesterday".

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