



# The Salemite



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Salem vs. Wake - In their second hockey game of this season, the Salem team tied with Wake co-eds 1-1. Ann Appich, freshman, scored for Salem. See next issue for more hockey team scores. Photo by Karen Smith.

## Experience in Zen Buddhism

By Martha L. Walker

**Zen Buddhism:**  
**INCUNABULA:** Mount Shasta;  
**ZAZEN:** Dr. Clark Thompson;  
Kennett, Roshi

Amidst these strange words are two that are quite familiar to Salem - Incunabula and Dr. Clark Thompson. Believe it or not, they are directly related to the other words of this sequence. On Tuesday, Oct. 4, Incunabula sponsored the first lecture in its newly established lecture series for 1977-78. Dr. Clark Thompson, religion professor and chaplain here at Salem, presented a lecture on Zen Buddhism entitled, "Chop Down the Flagpole." He was chosen to present this topic not only because he is a knowledgeable religion professor and has read books about Zen Buddhism, but also because he spent two weeks this summer at the Zen Buddhist monastery in Mount Shasta, California.

Earlier this year, Dr. Thompson received a grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Faculty Development Fund to go to the Shasta Abbey to study and practice Zen Buddhism. Because he teaches courses in non-Western religion, Dr. Thompson felt that experience in Western Buddhism would be interesting and beneficial. His stay at Mount Shasta consisted of a weekend training period in which he received instruction in Zazen (meditation), the basis of Zen and a two week period actually practicing Zen Buddhism. He was one of five lay scholars there at the time and was expected to live as the monks lived and to participate in all activities, rituals, and meditation periods.

The day began at five o'clock in the morning and was woven with periods of work such as gardening or goat herding, services, and meditation - all ending at nine o'clock in the evening.

Although Dr. Thompson had read a great deal about Zen before going, one of the things that surprised him was "the real feeling of a religion that is not intellectual but very experiential." Because of this total lack of an intellectual concept, there was a necessity for total obedience in order to learn. Dr. Thompson, like the other monks, had no time to himself. Also, there was to be no conversation unless directed or proctored by someone in authority.

A very important concept in the foundation of Zen is that of total detachment. One detaches himself from everything so that he may seek the Buddha within himself; therefore, it is not a non-caring, aloof detachment, but rather a compassionate detachment. Dr. Thompson explains it thus: "The concept of detachment is linked with a deep sense of compassion and reverence for all living things. In Zazen, one learns to acknowledge and respond to concerns, but at the same time to release them and achieve a sense of inner tranquility.

The gates of Compassion have been opened wide by the Buddhas and Patriarchs out of their boundless love for all living beings. Enlightenment depends on the will of the person involved and has nothing whatsoever to do with being either a layman or priest, for nothing whatsoever in

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## European Novel Course Proposed For Spring

By Donna Macdonald

Recently proposed as a new course in the language department, "The European Novel" has been discussed by the Curriculum Committee. Dean Helmick, Dr. Villarino, and Herr Stienen offered both facts and opinions about the new course.

Dr. Villarino, chairman of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages, initially was hesitant to discuss the proposed course. Villarino and Stienen, a member of the Curriculum Committee, seemed concerned that a Salemite article would jeopardize the approval of the proposed course. Despite their concern about the effect of publicity on the proposed course, both professors were certain that course would be approved. Dean Helmick mentioned some possible causes for the rejection of the course. For example, conflicting subject matter might be a reasonable cause. She stated that a course like "The European Novel" might restrict enrollment in a course like "Modern World Literature."

Villarino stated that the purpose of the European Novel

course is "to correct the narrow approach to literature," and to promote the idea of the universality of literature. He denied that the purpose of the course, which will be taught in English, is an attempt to inflate the popularity of the modern language department at Salem. Villarino maintains that the universal ideas presented in literature no longer have nationality. This course will trace the thematic as well as the historical development of the European novel.

Stienen sees the main benefit derived from such a course to be that students would be exposed to the subject matter taught by specialists in the modern foreign language department. He stated that the masterpieces in translation idea has been around for a long time but that it has never been offered as a course because of the limited foreign language faculty.

Although the English department offers Modern World Literature, Villarino emphasized that literature is also the domain of the foreign language department and that literature has an equal place with language.

Stienen and Villarino emphasized that team teaching of the proposed course would enable faculty members to teach their specialty. This means that Dr. Cardwell, Ms. Melvin, and Mr. Bourquin would teach the French section; Stienen, the German; and Villarino and Ms. Garcia the Spanish novels. Villarino explained that the course was formulated on the number of people who could teach it. Therefore, four French novels were chosen and one German novel was selected. He added that it will be voluntary, not compulsory for the professor to teach the proposed course. Villarino stated that team teaching needs coordination so that the course does not disintegrate into a series of "accumulated lectures." He stressed his belief that the language department could effectively team teach and provide continuity in the proposed course. Dean Helmick also expressed confidence in the team teaching method.

Villarino said that the language department tried to select novels for which films were also

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## Who's Who Seniors Named

Fourteen seniors have been selected as nominees for Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Each year, seniors nominate members of their class for this honor on the basis of academic achievement, extracurricular activities and service to the college community. Faculty members chosen by the class select names from this list to submit to the Who's Who National headquarters for confirmation.

This year the nominees are: Carol Coggin, Jane Dittmann, Rebecca Dunbar, Suzanne Eggleston, Jennifer Eury, Beth Fenters, Lisa Greenburg, Jan Guiton, Lyn Hill, Beth Jones, Kathy Kirkpatrick, Susan Leonard, Sarah Parsons and Margaretta Yarborough. Congratulations to these seniors!