

Back Through The Halls Of Salem

by Johanna Metzgar

While I was working on the revisions of this year's Student Handbook, the thought occurred to me that it might be interesting to compare the life of the average Salem student today to the life of the average Salem student thirty years ago. I decided to start my search for information about the life of "Yesterday's Salem Student" by looking at the 1958-59 Handbook, which I found rather entertaining. However, the part of the book that struck me as the most interesting was the section entitled Social Regulations.

These days when a Salem student plans a weekend trip, she packs up her bags, puts them in the car with her dirty laundry (if she is going home) or in the trunk with suitcases belonging to six other girls (if she is going to Carolina), leaves a note for her roommate (provided they are getting along that week), and drives off into the bright blue yonder without a care in the

world. Similarly, when the average Salem student goes out for a night on the town she gets dressed in her "going out" clothes, grabs her favorite upbeat tape, climbs into her car with five or six other people (its always more fun if you have NO empty space in the car), and speeds off for fun and hopefully a little bit of adventure that will presumably last all night (and that may even extend into the morning)!

However, Susie Salem has not always had the freedom to travel and go out whenever she pleased. First of all, according to the 1958-59 Handbook, all students had to have a "general permission" concerning "times and methods of travel" from their parents on file in the Dean of Students Office. In addition to this "general permission" freshmen had to have special written permission sent to the Dean of Students Office for just about any trip off campus other than trips home! Upperclassmen had a little bit more freedom, but

even seniors who wanted to attend a fraternity party in town, for example, had to have special permission to do so! This special permission (sent by the students' parents) had to include the name of the chaperone to the party!

But things get better! Before leaving campus in the evenings (and by the way, only seniors and second semester juniors could have cars anyway), a student had to sign out indicating where she would be while she was gone. Juniors and seniors could sign out in their dorms with their "dorm registrar," but freshmen and sophomores had to sign out in the Dean of Students Office. Any trip off campus beginning after 7:30 p.m. or extending past that time constituted an "evening engagement."

Any student wishing to get away for the weekend for an "overnight" had to have all of her permissions in order addition to following other regulations. Before she could even think about packing, she had to be sure that

she remembered to get her trip approved by-you guessed it-the Dean of Students office. A student had to submit her sign out card to the Dean of Students by Friday at noon to get approval for a weekend trip. If a student planned on staying with someone in town for the weekend, her hostess had to extend the invitation to the student through the Dean of Students office. Students were not ever permitted to spend the night off campus following a social event in town involving men, however. Any time a student wished to spend the night in a hotel in town or out of town, she had to have permission sent from her parents to-I'll give you three guesses - you got it -- the Dean of Students.

The number of evening engagements and overnight trips each student was allowed per semester was dependent on her class standing as well as her grade point average. Curfews or

Furniture Face Lift

by Susan Chesnire

Moving back in this year was made not only more pleasant but more exciting for residents in South and Clewell dorms thanks to new furniture. Over the summer, South dorm's front lobby and recreation room were redone while Clewell was blessed with new room furniture and a redecorated parlor.

Last year, a few changes were made in South's lobby with money given by the Parent's Board. The job of redecoration was completed this summer with funds from Dean Johnson's annual decoration budget. The dean is also responsible for refurbishing and recarpeting the recreation room. Some of the old furniture from the lobby was moved to Clewell parlor, where several old pieces of furniture were

recovered and new carpet was put down.

The largest change around campus, however, is the new room furniture in Clewell. Replacing furnishings that had been used for well over twenty years, the desks, dressers, and loft units have been well received by the students. Galen Miller, a junior who has lived in Clewell for three years says, "It makes the biggest difference in the rooms! There's so much more space now." The furniture is made by This End Up and was provided by an act of the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees. Old furnishings were donated to Rescue Mission, except for some desks and nicer pieces which were put in Sisters Dorm and at the Academy.



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