

Renaissance made Florence a great city of art

By JERRY THOMAS

Florence is a city of art.

In her numerous museums one finds a continuing progression of the great Renaissance painters and sculptors.

In her streets one finds their modern day successors; craftsmen renowned for their skill in leather, silks, glass, wood and stone.

Situated at the crossroads of North-South European traffic, the city is one of the great centers of the world. No wonder it is a mecca for travellers young and old; more than twenty thousand beds are available for travellers at any time of year.

A visit to Florence must take at least three weeks to appreciate its unique flavour. It seems a prolonged stay, but most visitors find it barely enough. Many keep putting off their departure from one day to the next.

Michelangelo's art must always dominate the visitor's stay. The first stop on everyone's list is the Academia, off the Piazza San Marco where the Statue of David is located. It stands in solitary splendour under a translucent dome built especially for it in the last century. The statue is at the end of a long corridor lined with the artist's "unfinished Giants." No matter how ignorant of art one might be, one cannot but feel the great power of the David.

Amazingly this is just the start of Florence's treasures. Everywhere there is not just art, but a succession of masterpiece. Across the square from the Academia is the Convent of San Marco. Here one may wander through a fifteenth century monastery. see

the simple frescoes adorning each cell's walls, or examine the suite of rooms occupied by the Mad Monk Savonarola.

Its walls are filled with pictures of his final martyrdom by fire in the Piazza del Signoria, the heart of the city.

The Piazza is the center of tourist interest. Beside it is the Uffizi Gallery, one of the world's greatest collections of art. Fronting on it is the Piazza Vecchio, center of the city's administration and another great museum of art.

Running off the Piazza are the main shopping streets, (as well as expensive speciality shops, there are open air markets where one must barter with the dealer), and around the corner is the shop-lined Ponte Vecchio, famed bridge of romance.

Like all Catholic cities, churches play a major role in Florentine activity.

The city is divided into districts, each centered on a church. Above all is the Cathedral, or Duomo, topped by the first dome to be built after the Romans. It was designed by Brunelleschi in the fifteenth century.

In front of the main Cathedral is the Baltistry. It features the great bronze doors worked by Ghiberti. Not far away is the church of San Lorenzo with the Medici tombs and Laurentian Library, two other great works of Michelangelo. He is buried, like all great artists of the city, in the Church of Santa Croce situated just a little behind the Piazza del Signoria.

Florence is not just a city of great monuments to man's art. One of the most pleasurable things one may do is to sit on the steps of

the Palazzo Vecchio watching the crowds swarm by and joining them in wandering through the busy street.

Florentines consider their streets and piazzas much more as social places than do North Americans.

For instance the standard method of informing ones self as to social events is to stop and peruse the posters which are usually quite colorful and imaginative and placed at street corners.

There is always something going on, either for free or at a minimal fee. There are three beautiful public theatres, as well as performances held in one or other of the museums.

If parties are your thing, Florence is full of small restaurants and trattories where

one goes to spend an evening eating, drinking wine and listening to all kinds of music.

If you get a little tired of the city then you might travel on the incredibly cheap trains down to the sea shore which is less than two hours away or take a bus to Fiesole, the ancient Roman town

on a hill just above Florence. The view has to be seen to be believed. There are old ruins to look over or a 12th century monastery with a museum of Chinese artifacts for a change of pace.

Florence is a place to be enjoyed for culture, shops and people.

Saga uses wrong salt

Student Union Building coffee shop patrons have sampled the latest thing in food substitutes.

The Sifto salt substitute, labeled "should not be used without advice of a physician", found its way into the coffee shop through a miss-shipment from wholesalers,

according to Saga Foods manager Mark Steepe.

"We checked it with the Food and Drug Administration and it is not harmful," said Steepe.

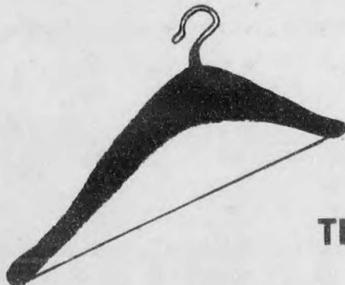
As of Thursday morning the salt substitute was no longer in the coffee shop.

Panatela Slacks:
they don't look like Levis,
but-thank heaven-
they're made like Levis!

You probably already know about the famous Levis fit. Now try the same fit in a great new range of casuals.



P.S. We also have the rest of the Levis family
Cords, Shirts & Jackets



THE RED HANGER

75 York St.



THE U.N.B. YEARBOOK IS

DEAD.

WELL, MANY OF YOU HAVE BEEN SAYING THAT FOR A LONG TIME. UNTIL NOW, IT'S BEEN JUST TALK. TRANSFUSIONS HAVE KEPT IT GOING SO FAR. BUT IT NEEDS NEW DONORS --BADLY.

EIGHT DOLLARS ISN'T SUCH A LOT FOR A LIFE.

IF IT DIES, IT WILL BE MURDER, NOT MERCY-KILLING.