

Refectory Funding Questioned

by Caroline Horlbeck

In the past few weeks, there have been many complaints about the service Salem students receive in the Refectory. For instance, you may have noticed that the ice machine never works anymore, the boxes of cereal are usually empty, and the Refectory often runs out of food less than halfway through the dining hour. While you may be thinking that the staff or the budget has been decreased, a recent interview with Wayne DeBlois and Thomas Macon revealed otherwise.

Apparently the Refectory, which is run by an independent company called Epicure, has not had its budget. Wayne DeBlois assured me that the budget was set in Salem's contract with Epicure and could not be changed in the middle of the year. Though Wayne admitted that the Refectory does have less money because of the students who dropped out, he stressed that this has not lowered the quality of the food or service. Lowering the quality would mean violating Epicure's contract with Salem.

As far as the broken ice machine is concerned, I learned that the College is responsible for the repairs, not the Refectory staff. Wayne's explanation for running out of food is that he is still getting used to having cafeteria meals instead of sit down dinners four days a week. Particularly when he is trying a new meal, it is oftentimes very hard to know how much to fix, he said. To correct these things, Wayne said that it would be helpful if students would use the suggestion box more often. "I love those things. If students don't tell me how they feel, then how am I going to fix whatever is wrong?" He also added that he missed the food committee that used to meet with him once a month. "All of a sudden, the meetings just stopped." Again, he stressed the need for input from the students. "No one else is going to tell me these things," he adds.

Yet, despite Wayne's explanations and the fact that the budget has not been decreased, are we really getting our money's worth from the Refectory? "That's a tough question," said Thomas Macon, Chief Business Officer. Apparently, the College bills our parents one lump sum instead of dividing up the cost and letting us pay for what we want. So, Thomas Macon could only estimate that \$2,300 out of each student's tuition goes towards the refectory. However, any money not used in the Refectory is put back into the education department, not the Refectory. But, if there are so many repairs that need to be made in the Refectory, it seems that the money would be more useful towards repairs instead of education; which has its own budget.

At any rate, Thomas Macon assured me that no other college has a meal plan as fairly priced as Salem's. Other institutions meal plans are "incomparable to Salem's." Now that I believe, for where else can you get a piece of pizza with broccoli spears on top.

Sleepover: Yea or Nay?

by Alison Gill

There has been a petition submitted by the students to petition for 23-1/2 hour visitation on dance weekends. Although there are pros and cons to this petition the following statements were made in favor of extended visitation by a random member chosen from each class.

Freshman Allyson Armstrong: "I think 23-1/2 hour visitation would be great for dance weekends because it would cut down on the cost immensely. Other than dance weekends I think visitation should stay the same."

Sophomores Kara Hayes and Michell Brown: "23 1/2 hour visitation on dance weekends should be passed for the following reasons: 1. Salem students shouldn't have to pay for a hotel room for their dates. This would eliminate excessive traveling between the hotel and the college, and this would relieve the pressure of drinking and driving; 2. Realizing that most colleges today have at least 23-1/2 hour visitation 7 days a week, it is practical that Salem College should have 23-1/2 hour visitation on dance weekends. Since a womens college is open to greater security concerns than co-ed colleges, we are only asking that visitation be extended to 23-1/2 hours on dance weekends."

Junior Christy Barley: "I think that 23-1/2 hour visitation should be passed because I believe we are old enough to make wise decisions and dance weekends are expensive. This would cut down on the cost of the weekend tremendously."

Senior Susan Bynum: "I feel 23-1/2 hour visitation is a good idea. It would allow more girls to have boys visit for the weekend because they would not have to pay for a hotel room. This would help alleviate the school's problem of being a 'suitcase college.'"

On April 13 the Faculty Advisory Board, Dean Johnson, and a committee selected by Mindy Worrell met to discuss how the petition would be carried though. Dean Johnson contacted other deans from about six women's colleges to find out the Constitutional procedures that are necessary to implement this petition. Unfortunately, no action will be taken until next October. The FAB, Dean Johnson, Mindy, and the student committee she has organized are working hard to complete a package that can be presented to the Board of Trustees by next October. At the end of this month Mindy will be approaching the Board of Trustees to discuss preliminary concerns that they may have about 23-1/2 hour visitation on dance weekends.

Abortion Discussed

by Julia Carpenter

Last week over 300,000 people marched through the streets of Washington, D.C. in support of abortion rights. The protest was prompted by the upcoming Supreme court review of a state law that could lead to a reversal on the 1972 *Roe vs. Wade* decision that established a woman's constitution right to a legal abortion. Earlier this year, 90,000 marchers protested against abortion rights.

The abortion issue has confronted proponents and opponents of abortion rights during the 1980s, and will continue confronting these groups in the 1990s. The question of abortion rights spans a wide spectrum of opinions: from legal, free abortion on demand with no restrictions, to no abortion. The moral and ethical debates concerning abortion can bring most conversation participants into opposing corners, waiting for the

warning bell to ring.

The abortion issue will be decided by women, who are directed by women, who are directly involved. No matter which side supported, contraceptive research and realistic sex education must be advocated. Abortion is a decision women will make whether legal or illegal. However, education and preventative tools can decrease the numbers of legal and illegal abortions around the world, and in the United States.

As an advocate of abortion rights, I see great danger in reversing abortion rights. But that is my personal choice, and women must have this choice in our modern age. Of course, this is my opinion. If you support or don't support this opinion, please contact your state and national representatives instead of this author and newspaper. Women must let their leaders know their opinion and then your political objectives will be realized.

Senior Alternatives

by Lea Daughtridge

If you are graduating and have no plans yet for graduate school or a job, there is still time for you to plan for a year off. You could teach English in Japan, tutor the mentally handicapped in Finland, or help run a shelter for the homeless in Washington D.C. Taking a year off and doing work of this type can pay off when you do apply to graduate school or look for a job. If you are not already committed to a particular field, a year off can help you target your strengths and interests. Some interviewers are likely to look favorably upon your independence and initiative.

This time off can possibly save you money. If you commit to a year-long volunteer job right after graduation, you may be able to defer your student loans for up to three years. Most volunteer programs also pay room, board, and a small stipend. Some year-long teaching positions, especially in Japan, Tiwan, or Kenya are salaried, often paying more than you would make in the states.

It is much easier than it will ever be to get a work permit. Getting one is almost impossible unless you are a recent graduate. Work abroad within one year of your graduation and you are likely to bypass the hassle in England, Ireland, France, Germany, New Zealand, or Costa Rica.

For information and advice in taking a year off, look at Lauren Tarshis' book, *Taking Off: Extraordinary Ways to Spend Your First Year Out of College*. It will give you information on programs worldwide that welcome recent graduates, with information on expenses, stipends/salaries, where and how to apply and the pros and cons of various programs.

OAK CAR WASH !

MONDAY, APRIL 24 2 - 5 P.M.

PIT PARKING LOT

\$5.00 PER CAR

INSIDE AND OUTSIDE

WHEELS, VACUUM AND WINDOWS

Grassroots

Men's & Women's
Clothing
and Accessories

10% off coupon for Salem Students
Located also in Greensboro at The Forum VI

Thruway Shopping Center
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27023
(919) 722-1253