

Program Prepares Students For Health Careers

CHAPEL HILL — Attending classes seven and one-half hours a day for four days a week, grabbing lunch on the run, studying four to five hours every evening, and taking a two-hour exam every Friday and Saturday morning, may not seem to be the ideal way to spend a summer vacation. For 33 dedicated students enrolled in the Summer Academic Advancement Program (SAAP) at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, it is not only the way they will spend the rest of June and most of July, but it is also a glimpse of what lies ahead in their educational futures.

SAAP is a residential science enrichment honors program sponsored by the North Carolina Health Manpower Development Program. The participants are minority juniors, seniors, and graduates who have the potential, interest, and commitment needed to pursue professional health or graduate Ph.D. programs.

The Summer program provides six major enrichment experiences: 192 contact hours of advanced academic course

work in microbiology, biochemistry, quantitative solutions to biomedical problems/statistics, and physics; 31 contact hours in a reading program to improve speed and comprehension; a minimum 48 hours of test-taking skills to develop techniques for handling professional schools' admissions tests; clinical observations in health care agencies; health sciences and medical issues seminars; and an educational field trip to Washington, D.C.

According to Ms. Alicia McCullough, administrative assistant for SAAP, the rigorous schedule of SAAP is purposely designed to simulate the intense academic and study situations the students will face in health professions schools.

"The major purpose of the Summer Academic Advancement Program is to enhance the students' science knowledge and backgrounds, and to provide enrichment in reading and test-taking skills, in order to increase their competitiveness for admission to and retention in health professional pro-

grams. The enrichment experiences afforded the scholars this summer will bring them closer to realizing their health career goals," Ms. McCullough said.

The Scholars selected for the program represent some of the most academically talented students from 24 colleges and universities in North Carolina and ten other states, Washington, D.C., and the Virgin Islands. Twenty-three plan to go into programs

in medicine, four into dentistry, two into the biomedical sciences, and one each to complete careers in veterinary medicine, podiatry, pharmacy, and public health.

SAAP, in its fourth year of operation, is funded with a grant from the Health Careers Opportunity Program, Office of Health Resources Opportunity, Health Resources Administration, Department of Health and Human Ser-

vices, since its beginning in 1978.

Dr. E. Lavonia Allison, director of the N.C. Health Manpower Development Program, says that of the 140 participants, more than 100 are presently pursuing their health career interests. Programs such as SAAP, she says, "will continue to be extremely important in successfully addressing the serious underrepresentation of minorities in all major health fields."



DR. JERRY GORDON gives SAAP Scholars tips on improving test-taking skills.

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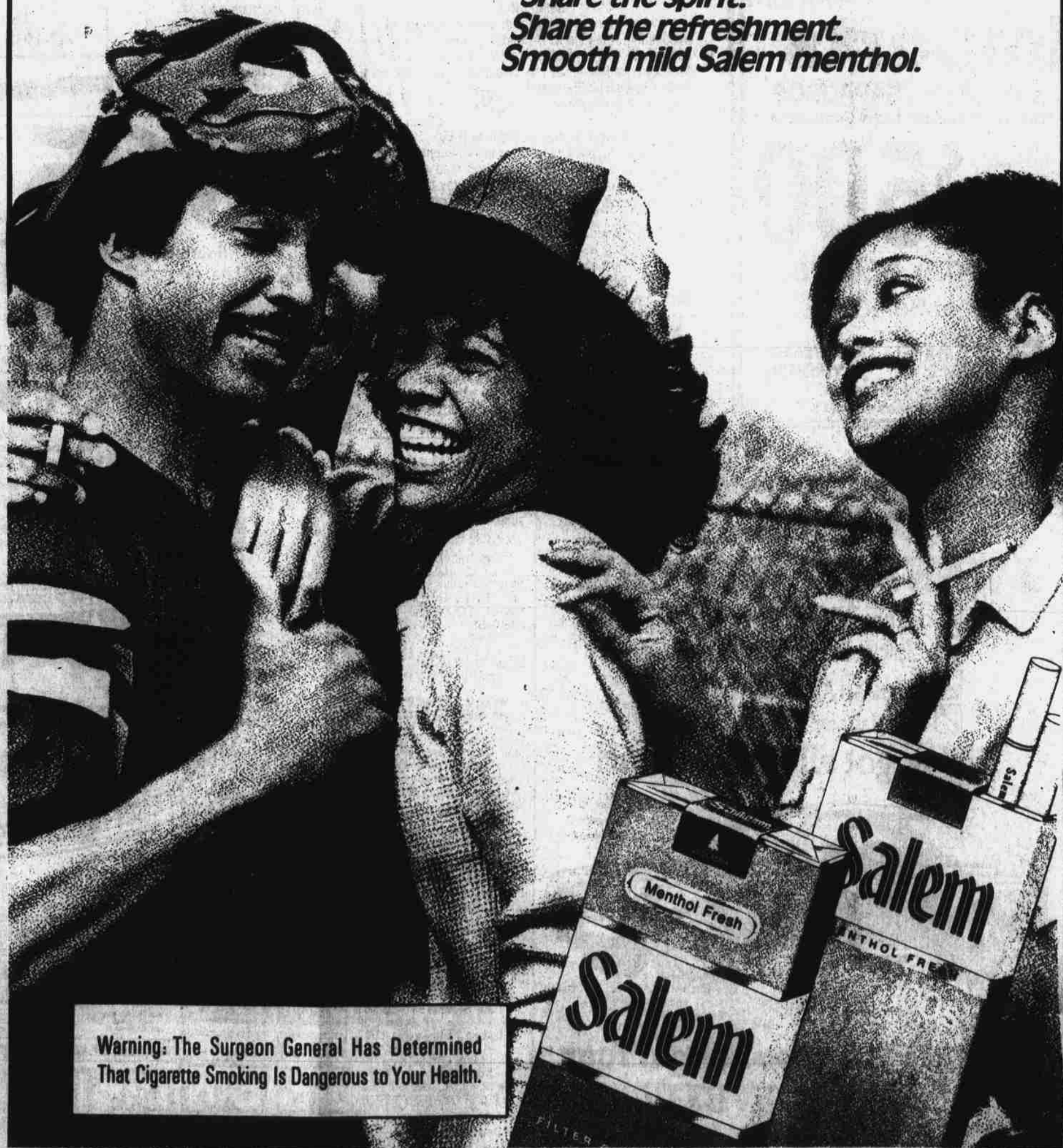
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