

Nan Learns By Exchange Of Ideas At Conference For Student Body Heads

By Nan Williams

Four plane-hours and four bus-hours away from the village of New York, my home for the summer, I arrived in a very different, but equally stimulating and educational atmosphere, the University of Illinois, for the National Student Body President's Conference.

Along with about two hundred other student body presidents from every section of the U. S., I prepared to learn the answers—in four days—to all the problems of leading a successful Student Council.

The first answer I learned was that I would not receive all the answers I wanted: no specific guides for student government to follow in order to perfect its role on campus has yet been found. Every school represented had its own peculiar problems.

I did, however, receive much valuable help in defining and evaluating our needs here at Salem. In the discussion groups and in individual conversations we were able to exchange ideas and compare basic policies and conceptions about student government.

I was continually asking myself, "Is our way of handling this situation really adequate . . . do our projects and policies contribute to the educational processes of the college?"

Active Stee Gee

The chief concern of Student Government on campus was stressed over and over: Student Government must be more than a coordinator of campus activities, a lab for us to learn democratic methods, or a judiciary council. In order to earn its keep on campus, it must strive actively for the best interests of the student body. It must agitate indifferent campuses and soothe the explosive ones. It must pave the road for a true educational atmosphere, filling holes and posting warning signs along the way.

Honor System Amazes

I was surprised at the number of schools who either did not have an honor system or felt that it was inactive on their campuses. In most of these schools the big problem is academic honor. The students were surprised when I told them that at Salem a professor usually leaves the classroom during a test and never posts proctors to keep a constant watch for cheating.

They were also amazed that we are not required to turn a fellow student in for breaking a rule and were a little skeptical at my feeling that our policy in the matter is adequate. When I heard tales from schools with no honor system about faculty proctors in every dormitory wing and open enmity between students and administration, I really appreciated the fact that our Honor Tradition is well-established.

Vienna Youth Festival

Of the many effective speeches and panel discussions at the conference, one of the most interesting was a panel of students who had attended the Vienna Youth Festival, known to be backed by Communist front organizations. The panel, consisting of Izzy Marcus of Bar-

nard College, Dennis Shaul of Notre Dame, and Charlie Jones, a Negro from Charlotte, told of mass student marches through the streets, Communist banners for peace amid forceful intimidation of any anti-Communists outbursts, and trips to the Iron Curtain border.

They described their reaction to the night ten thousand shouting students from countries the world over gathered in a grand square in Vienna. In the center of the square was a high platform from which a screaming East German poet roused the crowd almost to mob-fever level. As he waved his arms wildly and shouted phrases of "Peace!", multicolored spotlights cast his shadow like a huge monster on the buildings behind.

Charlie Jones related the great show of interest and concern the pro-Communist students showed toward the unfortunate situation of the Negroes in the South. He found it almost impossible to convince them that he is better off in a democratic America torn by the integration problem than he would be in a Communistic Russia where all are socially equal.

Izzy told us of the British boy who was attacked and knocked out when he dared to shout, "Remember Tibet!"

The three agreed that one of the biggest difficulties the Russians faced in making the festival a pro-Communist success was the repeated question: "Why the Iron Curtain?" To make sure all students could be aware of the definite existence of this notorious barrier, the Austrian students offered free trips to the Russian border for an impressive view of barbed wire, trenches, mines and sentries.

Not A Failure

Though the panel felt that the festival was not the all-out success the Communists had hoped for, neither was it a flop, as we would like to believe. The students from the neutral nations of the world, who were the chief concern of both Communistic and democratic propaganda, were many times more interested in playing one side against the other to gain general sympathy for their country than in aligning themselves with either principal. At any rate, this festival is considered Communism's boldest move in its attempt to appeal to the youth of the world.

Proclaims Salem

One final item of interest: I got a chance to proclaim to the Mid-West the existence of Salem College, North Carolina. I was chosen at random to take part in an informal interview program on the University of Illinois radio. I represented the small women's college in the South, while the student body president of Northwestern represented the large coed university of the Mid-West. The interviewer asked us questions such as, "What do you consider the purpose, and the function of Student Government," "On which we had spent hours at the conference, and expected a pat little two-minute answer. It was, however, an interesting experience and perhaps, a plug for Salem College.

Around The Square With Sue

By Sue Froneberger

Yes, fall's really under way, being ushered in rather forcibly by hurricane Gracie. School is also operating in full force with Salemites clad in madras and with house presidents being duly installed in chapel Monday.

Fall brings with it not only falling leaves and chilly weather but also paths cut across the grass by the feet of many careless Salemites. It is hoped that the new brick walls being laid around campus will eliminate these paths.

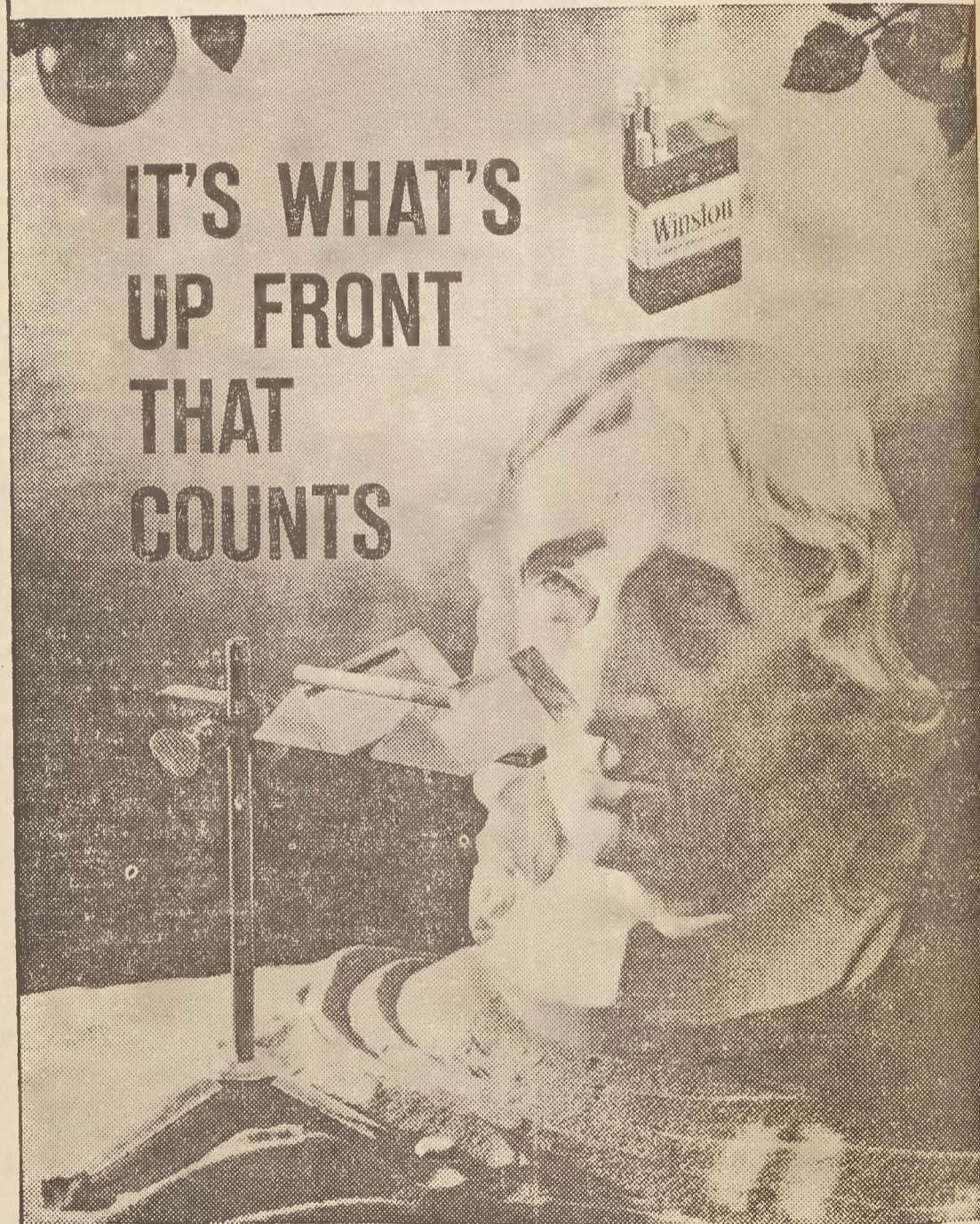
If a Salemite was seen walking, whether on the grass or the walks,

in somewhat of a daze this week, she was probably selling tickets for or participating in Senior Follies given Wednesday night. If this were not the case, it may have been Lena Lundgren still thinking about the orange carnations she received from her Denmark beau for her birthday, or even still, it may have been Carolyn Ray day-dreaming about her recent engagement. Incidentally, speaking of rings and weddings, Camille Suttle and her newly acquired husband were on the Kappa Sigma bus last Saturday attending the game at Wake Forest.

It is doubtful that Miss Battle or Mr. Campbell were free to attend the game last Saturday, as Miss Battle is and has been fighting a war with cockroaches who insist on playing cops and robbers in the silver drawer in her apartment; Mr. Campbell has a similar problem with rats that play hide and seek in the Science Building on Saturdays.

Yes, installations, paths through the grass, the Senior Follies, flowers, diamonds, weddings, cockroaches, rats, and madras—the Salemites seem each one an important part of a new fall at Salem.

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by another great idea!*



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