

Salem Students Express Views On Topics Of Interest

Speaker Comments

March 3rd, 1961

Dear Miss Byrd:

I have only one complaint about my visit to Salem College—it was entirely too brief. Some day I want to come back and have a chance for a leisurely time — a chance for a little talk with you and the faculty and more time with your wonderful girls. What startled me about them was that not only were they a delight to the eyes but they are bright as buttons along with—and that is, indeed, a devastating combination.

With every good wish,
Harrison P. Salisbury

Honor System

Dear Editor:

After reading the editorial in last week's *Salemite*, both positive and negative reactions occurred to us:

1. We must consider that the recent number of cheating cases may be due to a new alertness on the part of the faculty and not a breakdown of the Honor Tradition.
2. It is certainly a violation of one's personal honor to purposely break any rule, no matter how unimportant or useless the rule appears to be, so long as the rule is in effect.
3. We question whether people would take the job of turning in their best friend as a **MAJOR** responsibility.
4. When honor is taken away from social regulations, there is the possibility that more frequent violations will occur. **SOME** people do uphold **ALL** rules now because

of honor.

5. Salem's Honor Tradition now is bogged down in many minute rules and exceptions to rules, and, therefore, we agree that a study group should be put into effect immediately to investigate these problems.

Sincerely,
Trisha Weathers
Sallie Paxton

Dear Editor:

I am writing this in support of your editorial of last week on the Honor Tradition. As the new chairman of the Judicial Board, I would like to see a clear distinction made between social infractions and honor offenses.

I think that the Honor Tradition is overburdened by emphasizing every infraction as an honor infraction. This greatly distracts from the seriousness and importance that should be placed on violations directly involving a person's honor—that is violations involving lying, cheating, and stealing. Too often students feel that since there is no definitely stated rule prohibiting them, it is permissible to act dishonorably. If this is the situation, then we do not have an honor tradition, but just a set of rules printed in the handbook.

Under an Honor Tradition, the individual is responsible for her own conduct, but what happens when the students abdicate this responsibility? What happens when the individual's honor and values are not meaningful to her? Then, since the individual students aban-

don their responsibilities and values, it follows that some of the freedom and responsibility given to students must be handled elsewhere.

I would like Judicial Board and Legislative Board to work together to evaluate the present Honor Tradition and to propose definite changes. Support for the honor tradition and respect for it calls for more than the attention of these two boards; it calls for a re-evaluation of each individual of her basic values.

Sincerely,
Nancy Peter

Dear Editor,

First, I would like to commend you on your proposal of a new Honor Tradition. The fact that a new system has been worked out and outlined in your editorial is certainly a large step in the right direction. I agree with the new system. But in regard to your statement that "in order for this new Honor Tradition to work, we must be required to turn in other students for honor violations" and that anyone cognizant of such a violation "should be considered as guilty as the student who did the deed", I disagree thoroughly! In fact, this is probably the best way to keep the new Honor Tradition from working.

Honor is personal and must come from within the individual. Turning someone in would not help the honor of either the violator or the informant, who might be mistaken anyway. Rather, it would permit dishonesty and cause animosity among students. Furthermore, if one admits that there are dishonorable students on campus, how can one fail to see that these would lie to protect their friends and would turn in their enemies? At least under our present system the dishonest person can hurt only herself and her own conscience.

Sincerely,
Frances Bailey

Dear Editor,

Three cheers for the editorial in last week's *Salemite*, "Let's Make Honor Tradition Work!" Paraphrasing or rather rephrasing Socrates, "an honor system unexamined is not worth having". It appears that a re-evaluation of Salem's Honor Tradition is in order.

However, I submit that we proceed with caution. Certainly our present Honor System has its merits; otherwise it would not have lasted as long as it has. Yes, it is idealistic; and it demands high standards of honor. The fault of it may be with the person involved—not in its structure. It is an ideal of which to be proud.

I was one of those "officers" who spoke of honor last fall. In my speech, I passed over the "obvious"; frankly the "obvious" had been expounded so thoroughly that it had become trite.

When anything becomes trite, it has grown meaningless. Here I ended; here the editor began. What's wrong?

The answer may go deeper than the surface. It is obvious that some students are dissatisfied with the Honor Tradition. Part of the answer may lie in the basic distinction made in the editorial between universal values and Salem's values. Perhaps, when we consider this difference, we can work out an honor code such as the editor suggests.

The suggestion of including "lying" as an honor offense is a relevant one. At present "lying" is not an explicit offense. I think, though, that it should be stated as "lying to the administration or faculty" rather than just "lying".

One criticism I have of the proposed honor program is the possibility of weakening social honor. Having "honor offenses and social regulations" separates our system into two levels with the possible effect of strengthening the first and diluting the second.

It is also difficult to clearly separate the two levels. "Falsifying signout information", listed as a social violation, being a "lie" could also be considered an honor violation.

These problems could be worked out. Most important is educating students about the "positive values" of the Honor System, as the editor suggests. Any system of honor is only as strong as those who support it.

The editorial should lead to self-examination—a more conscientious and serious consideration of the Honor System by each student.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Janet Yarborough

Day Sign Outs

Dear Editor:

We think that the rule concerning signing out during the day should be changed for the following reasons:

1. We are old enough to go to town without giving information.
2. It is a trivial rule and unnecessary.
3. Everyone puts "town" anyway—it is a vague rule.
4. It is a nuisance to have to sign in.
5. Students of Converse and other small girls' schools don't sign out during the day.
6. Even W. C., with 1800 students, does not.
7. It causes house presidents unnecessary trouble to write out calldowns.
8. The majority do not respect this rule, and it is definitely not enforced.
9. It does not hurt a student's conscience to break the rule.
10. It is too much trouble to walk back to the dorm after classes just to sign out for town.
11. It is just as hard to find someone on campus as off campus.

Sincerely,
Molly ScarboroughPat Howell
Johanna Johnson Winnie Bath
Kaye Pennington Ann Sellars
Caroline McClain Frances Taylor

Class Cuts

Dear Editor,

Several weeks ago, a discussion on "academic freedom" encouraged a group of us to seriously consider how much academic freedom Salem students really have. How often have you heard someone remark that in a particular class she could maintain the same average without attending class? How many of your courses do you really consider stimulating enough to be worth the time you spend in class? These were the kind of questions we asked ourselves after this lecture on "academic freedom". We wish that several basic rules could be revised, but we realize that in order to make any great degree of change in Salem's rules, we would have to have the support of the whole student body behind such a movement. The general opinion is that Salem students are not well informed on legislative matters. This letter is written for the purpose of informing each student about the tentative reform which is now being discussed.

Salem's class cuts system is the topic of discussion. Although a plan of reforming Salem's cuts system is still in the discussion stage, and will be for some months, we have worked out a rough draft for the student body to weigh and consider. We feel that under the present system, Salem students are not allowed the privileges of developing a sense of responsibility. Students are to a great degree deprived of the learning experience of having to make decisions for themselves because so often the answer can be found clearly stated in the handbook. Therefore, for purposes of discussion, we have proposed the following plan as an effort to begin a reform program on the class cuts system.

- 1) Freshmen need the guidance of the cuts system. This plan excludes freshmen.
- 2) Upperclassmen with an average of 2.0 or above should be allowed unlimited cuts.
- 3) If a student has below a "D" in any class she should not be allowed cuts in that class.
 - a) If, however, this student has an overall average of 2.0 or better, she should still be allowed unlimited cuts in her other classes.

We feel that this plan, or one

similar to it, would improve the academic life at Salem. It would allow the students the privilege of having decisions to make on their own without depending completely on an overall rule for class cuts. Secondly, it would be a challenge to the teachers to make their classes interesting and important enough to make the students want to attend their classes. Thirdly, the abolishment of our present class cuts system would encourage those students with below a 2.0 average to work a little harder for the reward of having more class cuts, and it would make those students who have a 2.0 average work equally as hard to keep the privilege of unlimited cuts.

In conclusion, we want it thoroughly understood that this proposal is only the opinion of a few and that it is nowhere near completion. Colleges with this plan are being consulted in order that we understand how their systems are created and exactly how effective they are. The main purpose in proposing this plan is to stimulate interest in an effort to eventually construct a more liberal cuts system. This plan is open for discussion and editorial replies; take advantage of it, and form opinions. Salem girls have been accused of being "bland"; let's show some interest, Salemites, and disprove this accusation.

Sincerely,
Didi Headley
Paulette Harper

Driving in Town

Dear Editor:

Good for you! For ages, students have been discussing the ineffectiveness of our Honor Tradition. It is the opinion of most Salem students that it is nothing more than a farce. We are confident that if Mr. Gallop took a poll at Salem, the majority of students would admit to breaking at least one of the major violations.

While we're complaining of the lack of honor at Salem, we would like to complain in another area: **Cars!** We would like to propose that some system be worked out whereby 1) juniors and seniors would be able to have cars on campus, and/or 2) all classes would be able to drive in Winston-Salem regardless of whether or not their parents are in town. Here are our reasons:

1. The main objection to the use of passenger cars is lack of parking space. Let only juniors and seniors be allowed to have their own cars on campus, but let everyone be allowed to drive them. Require juniors to park their cars in front of the Brothers House and the Community Store area.
2. Taxis cost too much. This situation is especially bad when one student has to take a cab by herself. Most places are too far to walk.
3. In connection with this, a car is much safer than walking to town. Salem is more or less in a slum area and there have been numerous instances of girls being propositioned. Also, with the new highway and intersection, the traffic problem is much worse on the walker.
4. A great danger is the drunk date. It would be far safer if we were permitted to drive if our date is intoxicated. Actually, we think that it ought to be a rule that a Salem student drive if her date is not in any condition to drive.
5. Not having or being allowed to drive cars is a great disadvantage to girls when they are taking weekends at Carolina, Davidson, Duke, and other schools. If we had cars, we would waste less time trying to find rides and more time studying. This may sound like a ridiculous reason, but have you ever had to spend three days trying to find a ride to Germans? It will also save more money spent in calling long-distance to tell your date that you can't find a ride and also may make Salem girls more popular with distant boys schools!
6. Every year the problem of selling ads for the **Sights and Insights** and the **Salemite** comes up. If people had access to cars, more

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Editor Leaves Many Ideas For Salem's Improvement

This is the last *Salemite* to be published under the old editor; the new editor and staff will take over for the first issue after spring vacation. The editor would like to thank everyone who has helped to publish the paper week after week.

There are still some suggestions which we would like to see carried out at Salem in the future. Before we leave office we would like to recommend that:

- the Honor Tradition be re-evaluated and the changes suggested in last week's editorial carried out.
 - the Chairman of Judicial Board serve as an ex-officio member of Legislative Board in order to promote greater coordination between the two boards.
 - the Legislative Board and Judicial Board meet together regularly once or twice a month to work on rule changes and clarifications and to work with the more intangible problems on campus.
 - the changes in the election system be continued to give freshmen a full vote for NSA coordinator and to have the editors of the publications and the Day Student president be nominated only by the individual group involved rather than the whole student body.
 - the denominational groups meet together once a month instead of competing with each other and splitting the group attending the meetings.
 - the excellent assembly programs continue.
 - the Legislative Board establish a cut system whereby students who do not attend the meetings are dismissed and a new representative is elected to serve on the board.
 - Humanities Club and IRC become even more active as forces to coordinate the specialized fields of knowledge we have studied.
 - the faculty advisors of student organizations be presented with a financial report in the spring of the year and then invited to attend the finance board meetings only if they feel that it is needed.
 - the excellent Y community service projects be continued.
- The Student Council has made progress in many fields this year. With some creative thinking by the officers for next year, even more improvements can be made.



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