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"Student" Organizations Require Student Support

Our lives at Salem operate under a system of "student" government with "student" organizations. We use quotes to indicate that we question the validity of this adjective. "Student", when applied in this manner, assumes that the machinery of the government is exercised by students and that organizations are led and controlled by students.

Several organizations on campus do not function as student organizations. The reasons for this are primarily two: students refuse to exercise their privileges under a system of student government and to accept their obligations as students in student organizations; secondly, our student government and many of our organizations are over-bearingly "advised" by advisors. Generally speaking, the second situation can be alleviated by the execution of the first.

We hate to be so trite as to say that an organization is as strong as its weakest member, but, nevertheless, it is true. If students would accept their responsibility, their obligations, activate their interests, and exercise their individual strength, then our organizations could be student led and controlled. If students cared about having student organizations, then Salem would have them.

There are two situations which promote the occasion of an over-abundance of non-student leadership and control. One is found, as we have said, in the absence of student initiative and concern which forces the advisor to assume student responsibility. Secondly is the situation in which an organization has interested and capable students who are willing and seeking to exercise their initiative and concern, yet the leadership of these organizations is controlled by overly-interested "advisors." Thus the organization is manipulated by non-students. Of these two situations, the second is completely unjustified.

Might we remind the Salem community of the purpose behind student government and student organizations—that they form an integral part of our educational and personal development and growth. However theoretical this may seem, it can be empirically verified.

Allow us to make an observation: any organization on this campus can function without advisors, but none can without students.

E. R., J. E. R., N. A. S.



Miss Charlotte Arrives On Jet

Mr. Don Britt, Assistant to the President of Piedmont Airlines, assists Kenny McArver, Miss Charlotte, as she deplanes in Winston-Salem on Thursday night, February 1. She has just returned from New York on the first jet flight to land in North Carolina and her first jet flight. Mr. Britt commented, "Kenny is certainly an attractive girl and was on about fifty pink clouds when she arrived back here. She couldn't believe she had been all the way to New York and back in one day." Mr. Britt is former Assistant to the President of Salem College.

Students "Prepare" For Activities

By Lucy Lane

I guess this week could be called the week of preparation! Everybody is preparing for something—preparing to go to Davidson, preparing to go to UNC, preparing to get out of the infirmary, preparing to go in to the infirmary, preparing to hide so they won't have to go to the infirmary, and some preparing to hide so nobody will know they will be on campus this weekend!

Certain slighted Salemites are preparing nasty letters for those unthinking would-be Valentines. WFC is preparing for a big and important Duke game. Lenny Chappell is preparing (I hope!) to score fifty more points.

Babcock is preparing to exterminate Beth Moore, and burn her bathroom brush. Well, how would YOU like to wake up with a prickly bathroom brush staring you in the face or gouging you in the back? Retaliation of a minor form has taken place, however—like a surprise of forty-three suitcases neatly piled on her bed one evening not so long ago. Good ole Beth!

From all reports (valid sources, of course!), third floor Babcock is preparing to impeach Ella Raymond, its new proctor—on the grounds of mistreatment of very close friends! Watch out for mob action, Ella!

Clevell is preparing to build a small boxing arena to the right of the library, so I hear . . . Strong has been preparing those "unmentionable" but adorable Valentine presents all week long. The fruits of their hard work were displayed during class meeting the other day. You always wonder—do they really ever wear them?

Lantz Contest Offers Prizes

Montaldo's ad in last week's Salemite announced that Lantz College Co-ed Fashion Contest is open to college women. Entry blanks must be postmarked no later than March 15. Winners will be notified no later than April 15.

Entry blanks may be obtained at Montaldo's. Applicants must plan a Lantz Fashion Show for their college campus, including promotional plans, stage setting, and merchandise to be featured.

The winner will receive a summer session at a European University of her choice. A Pan-American Jet Clipper flight to Europe, and tuition, room, and board at the university of her choice will be included.

(Continued on next page)

Sue Cook has been preparing Valentine presents this week also—framed liquor labels for a certain abstaining Carolina gentleman friend of hers. Sue, where DID all those labels come from, anyway!? This could be a serious situation.

Everybody is preparing to borrow everybody else's clothes this weekend. This is the beginning of the big trading season. How many times have you heard these remarks lately: "I'm so sick of all my clothes!" and "I just don't have ANYTHING to wear!" and "If I have to wear wool one more day, I'll scream!"

A note of cheer to those poor souls in the infirmary: nothing much is happening in the outside world around Salem—except that everybody is still talking about the exposure of Raoul Gondemar and trying to figure out who painted what! May you all be blessed with

notices to pack up and leave your beds for the dorm, Germans, or Midwinters this weekend!

And then there are those less fortunate members of our college community who are already preparing for spring vacation in nasty ol' Nassau—they're preparing to return with luscious tans and deflated pocketbooks. They're also preparing to relieve one of the branches of the local Wachovia Bank of some of its funds in order to make the trip possible.

Take heart — I'm preparing to stop this racket and wish all of those who are preparing (hopefully) to get pinned this weekend the best of luck. (By the way, Becky Bartak, now at East Tennessee State, got pinned on February 6.) And Frannie Mac—have a good time "on campus" at Davidson!

See you around the square!

Durrell's Novels Describe Modern Middle East

Lawrence Durrell's four recent novels *Justine*, *Balthazar*, *Mount Olive*, and *Clea* have been published under the collective title of *Alexandrian Quartet*. These stories were originally conceived as a unit with the same setting, a common list of characters, and a similar plot. However, each story presents the central theme from a different perspective, correcting, amplifying, and enlarging the picture.

Modern Alexandria, Egypt, just before World War II is the background for the series. This decadent city, teeming with many races and nationalities, was then the cross roads of the Middle East and used by several countries as a base for political intrigue and diplomatic maneuver. Durrell loved the city with its bad odors, bazaar establishments, and dirty streets. His poem-mind was sensitive to the color, warmth and sensuousness of this environment and he has the gift to take advantage of it. One critic has referred to this work as "an erotic fantasia on the theme of Alexandria in the 30's."

This alive and colorful city serves as a fertile field for the author's poetic and vivid prose. He can handle the English language as well as any living writer. Indeed, the most important and enjoyable parts of this work are the poetic asides. We are glad when he stops his story to describe a sunrise or the sights and sounds of a native nightclub.

Most of the characters appear in some capacity in all of the novels but they are presented with a different emphasis. A short, but tempestuous love affair of the narrator with Justine, is the central theme of the series, but each story analyzes this one episode from a different point of view. This device is used to obtain depth and a three dimensional view of the motives of the characters. It is a difficult technique for the author and the reader. Close reading is necessary to prevent confusion of events and characters, but it does give the author a means of probing deeply into situations and of judging action from several angles. Even though each story is a separate unit, they can be better understood and enjoyed if read in proper sequence.

With the publications of this work, Durrell has become better known in this country. He is a cosmopolitan writer, having been born in India, having been educated in England, and having lived most of his life in the Mediterranean area. Few of his books have had wide sale, and he has made no attempt to cater to popular tastes. He is better known in Europe for his poetry and critical works than his fiction.

This quartet is a work bold and original in design. The author is now at the height of his power; with his apprenticeship behind him, he is an English writer to watch.