



The Salemite

Published every Friday of the College year by the Student Body of Salem College

OFFICES: Basement of Lehman Hall
414 Bank St., S.W.

Printed by the Sun Printing Company

Subscription Price \$3.50 a year

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World Anxiously Watches New Vietnamese Regime

By Louisa Wilson

The "coup d'etat" of the South Vietnamese government which ended early Saturday morning, November 2, is one of the biggest news events of this week.

What effect will it have on the United States as leader of the free world and in her policy toward South Viet Nam? A great deal of this effect depends on the reaction of the rest of the world which is impatiently waiting to see what steps the new leaders of South Viet Nam will take in establishing the new government.

First reactions from Asia were, in general, favorable to a new government. The regime of former president Ngo Dinh Diem has not been a popular one with the Asians since last spring when Diem began having trouble with the Buddhists. The reaction of the Communists was to be expected. They claim that the new leaders of South Viet Nam are "puppets of the United States."

The chain of events which led up to the fall of president Diem's government began last May, two days before the beginning of the three-day celebration of the Buddha's birthday, which falls on May 4 this year. At that time the South Vietnamese government led by Diem, a Catholic, reminded the Buddhists of an ordinance passed by the government two years before, stating that "all denominations should reserve the first place for the national flag when flags are flown during religious ceremonies."

During the celebration Buddhists refused to follow the ordinance and flew that sect's emblem. Riots broke out and seven people were killed in the ensuing violence. Buddhists blamed the government for these deaths.

Immediately after this, Buddhist priests presented five requests to the government. Foremost among these requests were that the government cease arresting and persecuting the Buddhists and that the Buddhists be given the advantages of the special treatment that Catholic missions received.

Negotiations between the central government and the General Buddhist Association of South Viet Nam began immediately, but reached an impasse.

Meantime, the Buddhists had adopted a policy of peaceful resistance — demonstrations on public streets, fasting, and human sacrifices.

August 21, the tension was intensified when Special Forces raided Buddhist pagodas and dragged many Buddhist priests and students off to prison. Diem, however, waited until too late to crush the protest and the situation got steadily worse after that.

There are two other key factors, however, that served to finally trigger the revolt. The first is that Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu's tightening of police controls for their own safety despaired the high military leaders and forced them to revolt. The second factor was that Ngo Dinh Nhu's talks with Hanoi seemed to point to a possible tendency toward neutralism which they wanted no part of.

The United States' criticisms of Diem's government and the cut in aid also added to the tension. Thus the well-organized revolution began to end in only seventeen hours.

Fortunately for the United States and other countries of the free world, the military revolution committee has already pledged itself to fight Communism. Also, the new premier for the provisional government, Nguyen Ngoc Tho, is a pro-American. He is a Buddhist and was the former vice-president of Diem's government, South Viet Nam's first ambassador to Japan, and head of the government's committee to deal with Buddhist grievances. However, he held no real power in Diem's government. A key member of the revolution committee, Brigadier General Tran Tu Dai, chief of the military psychological warfare detachment of Diem's government, said that civilians in the new government will be "technicians, not politicians." Source: Time Magazine.

Cooper Answers Critical Students

Dear Editor:

Thank you for pointing out some of the areas of the library that need improvement. We are constantly searching for these and will be glad to take your suggestions under advisement.

However, may I comment on them and offer some explanations. Noise is a problem in every building where people are coming, going, and doing business. We regret this inconvenience to others but modern phones seem to be the order of the day. However, this noise should be limited to the area near the Main Desk. Students who find this part of the library too noisy for concentrated study should use other areas.

Typewriters and telephones are limited to the Main Floor of the library, except in the Typewriter Room on the third floor. The door to this room is kept closed at all times. The other typewriter, mentioned in your article, is the property of the Alumnae Association and is used by them only one hour a week. If it is being used at other times, students are doing so without permission.

We will try to keep the doors to the office area closed and be as quiet as possible in the conduct of library business. Last year we added 2,717 new books to the library and this involved ordering, cataloging, and preparation for the

Reid Feels Poll Tells Prejudice

Dear Editor:

I was interested to note that several students, who said they would not mind having a Communist speaker on campus, said they would not mind if they KNEW he was a Communist. This seems to defeat the purpose of hearing speakers who do not profess ideas of capitalism and democracy. There are few of us who could listen objectively to a speaker who had the label "communist" attached to him before he ever reached the rostrum.

As college students, we are supposedly thoughtful enough to discern that which is worthwhile in a speech from that which is not. Whether a man is a right-wing Republican or a Russian Communist, he may have something important to say. His political views should not obscure, in our eyes, his worth as a speaker, a thinker, or a man.

Sincerely,
Alice Reid

Despite Climate Students Travel, Enjoy Football

By Marty Plummer

Last weekend the temperature dropped way down and most people took shelter. This was not the story for many courageous Salemites who ventured to various campuses.

Among the wind-blown spectators at the Carolina-Georgia game were Barbara Gottschalk, Irene Rose, Jenny Fields, Judy Davis, Susanne Boone, Pat Thompson, Gretchen Wampler, Margie Winstead, Mary Dameron, and Sharyn Dettwiller.

Marietta Hardison and Jane Cottle journeyed to N. C. State for IFC.

Those who preferred to go home were Craig Hunter, Ann McNeill, Carol Gerrard, Jean Ann Werner, Susan Hines, and Suzanne Forbes.

Some Salemites did not want to travel so far. Brett Barrs, Anne McAlister, Shirley Laws, Lucy McCallum, and Diane Morton were among many who dated at Wake Forest.

Wookie Workman got the "longest" long distance telephone call this week from Scotland!

The typewriter is essential to these procedures.

Students should not talk or study together in the library. If the latter is necessary, they should use one of the small study rooms on the third floor and keep the door closed. We cannot, even if we wished, patrol the library.

The candlepower of the lights in the library is adequate but, admittedly, not equally good in every place. We have made improvements in the last few years and will continue to do so. High ceilings and dark furniture, two of our most attractive features, are the natural enemies of light.

When the library announced it

would close on Saturday afternoon it suggested that students would be interested in having open during the winter months contact the library. So far have. Saturday has always been slow day and it was thought the added evening hours would be more useful to the students.

The door to the librarian's office is open all the time to students who wish to make suggestions concerning the improvement of conditions or library procedure. Any student has a serious complaint please come in and report it.

Sincerely,
Anna Cooper

Is Salem's One Dance To Be Another Sock Hop

The new proposal for replacing the two annual Salem dances with a glorified combo party has evoked general approval among the student body. It seems that several things ought to be considered by each student before voting for or against such a measure.

As IRS has pointed out, it would be financially impossible to continue the present program with the increasing lack of support. Therefore a change is needed. The student body advocates holding one function in place of two. This serves two purposes — it consolidates attendance and it allows for a bigger budget with which to put on a dance. We have no quarrel with this proposal, nor do we disagree with holding the function off campus. These seem to be valid proposals.

However, we wonder how much thought, on the part of the students in general has gone into the decision to have the dance informal and to have

a "hot-name" band? Approximately 30 weeks a year, on two nights a week Salem students have the opportunity to wear skirts, sweaters and loafers and "bird" to the music of the Zodiacs or the Catalinas. Then, would they compromise for a sake the opportunity to have one distinctive function a year in order to spend \$7 for the same type of entertainment they find for the Polo?

Granted, we are living in a casual age. Granted we no longer have the stiff manners of our grandparents or our parents. But we owe ourselves, if to no one else, to salvage some of the tradition and formality lacking in our time.

We commend the IRS for trying to please the student body, but we question the student's foresight in removing the last of the formal entertainment available to us at Salem College.

