

4-1-4:

The faculty of Salem College yielded to the forces of change and voted by an overwhelming majority to adopt the 4-1-4 curriculum proposal. After hearing the proposal presented at Tuesday night's dinner meeting, approximately 80% of the faculty cast ballots on Wednesday. Of these, 94.5% favored the plan.

YES!

After years of study, months of meetings, and thousands of words, 4-1-4 will go into effect in September, 1971.

The faculty met Tuesday night, May 12, to hear a report of the findings of the Curriculum Committee on the 4-1-4 proposal. Basically, the program is planned as follows: 32 courses, four Physical Education courses, and four January programs are required for graduation. A minimum of six courses are required to complete a major. A minimum of six courses are required in electives.

Basic Distribution requirements are a maximum of 15 courses. The Basic Distribution requirements have been re-grouped in English, History, Foreign Language, Social Sciences, Mathematics, and Fine Arts - Religion - Philosophy categories. Proficiency standards exams will be given to incoming

freshmen. Any student who can pass the exam satisfactorily will not be required to take the maximum number of basic courses.

Faculty members will teach three courses in each semester. A January Director will be chosen who will be in charge of all the January programs. He will teach two courses per semester.

Students in Elementary Education will be given the opportunity to take Children's Literature and Fine and Practical Arts, two required courses, in the January program. This will give them the opportunity to take elective courses in the regular sessions. However, no one can be required to take any specific course in the January session.

The Salemite

RIDES AGAIN

FOR THE LAST TIME THIS SEMESTER.

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NS-610 On Campus

Will Weed Warfare Bring Silent Spring?

By Catharine Cooper

Approximately two weeks ago on Tuesday, April 22, the Salem campus lay under what smelled to be a form of gas warfare. However, this was not the case. It happened to be the day when weedkiller is put out along the walks to keep weeds from growing up between the bricks. Practically all discomfort caused by the withering smell lasted only one or two days, but can we be sure that this was the full extent of the chemical's side effects?

Penny Mitchell, a senior day student, was upset to find a dead songbird, a male Towhee, lying on the edge of the sidewalk the day after the spraying. Her conclusion was that the bird could have possibly eaten an insect on which the spray had fallen. A dead squirrel was also reported. Mr. Holder,

whose job it is to put out the chemical, said that always within half an hour of the time he starts spraying, he has a headache.

The compound that was used belongs to a family of chlorinated hydrocarbons recently made notorious by one of its other members—the insecticide DDT. The potential danger of this group of compounds lies in the fact that chlorinated hydrocarbons are difficult to degrade. They do not readily break down to be harmlessly dispersed in tissues, but are retained and built up in their original toxic form. The specific compound used here, NS-610, consists of a substance called 2, 4-D and an even larger percentage of another substance very similar to DDT.

While the NS-610 container lists warnings against contamination of irrigation and domestic water supplies and drift onto croplands, it gives practically no instructions as to safe mixing. "Dilute one to two gallons of NS-610 with sufficient water to give good coverage." The ratio of mixture to water used at Salem was one to twelve, according to Mr. Holder.

Whether the dilution was sufficient and whether the compound is harmful to animal life are questions largely up to speculation and varying opinions have been ex-

pressed. An employee at Stratford Garden Center stated that to his knowledge, the compound 2, 4-D is not in any way harmful to animal life and that its generic relationship to the harmful chlorinated hydrocarbon family does not necessarily mean that it too is dangerous. Mr. Jack White, Administrative Assistant to the President, indicated essentially the same thing and added that the same chemical has been used for years with no bad effects.

On the other hand, Dr. James Buchanan of the Chemistry Department feels that the known difficulties in degrading these particular compounds, added to the unusually strong odor, justify at least investigation and possibly a change in chemicals altogether.

Supporting this stand is Dr. Samuel S. Epstein in the April issue of *Chemical Engineering and News*. Although he says that incriminating data on 2, 4-D is "far less conclusive" than that for some other related chemicals, Dr. Epstein suggested suspending such herbicides "under any circumstances in the environment."

It seems that such expressed doubts would substantiate a change in tactics in the weed war, especially here on our beautiful campus where there is so much to lose.

Board Approves Plan For Pres. Committee

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees approved on May 6 the forming of a committee to nominate a new president for Salem College.

The Presidential Nominating Committee will be composed of nine members: one Salem College student, two members of the Salem College faculty elected by the faculty, one Salem College Alumna Trustee, one Salem Academy Alumna Trustee, and three other

trustees. Mrs. Laura Nicholson and Mr. James Bray will represent the faculty, and Legislative Board appointed Fran Hicks as student representative.

As soon as the other members are selected, the Nominating Committee will meet. First they will determine the qualities they will seek in a new president for Salem. Later they will submit their nomination.



This songbird, an adult male Towhee, was found dead on the Salem campus the day following a heavy application of weed-killer NS-610.

If You Want It, Here It Is, Come And Get It!

The assembly set-up for next year has been reconstructed. An attempt has been made to form a coherent program rather than a program made up of a variety of speakers with nothing in common and no follow up. The year has been divided into four parts with a special area of interest for each section. Each area should be of contemporary interest to students, and should prove to be a new way of looking at something so that every student will be interested.

The first division covers September and October. Its theme is contemporary mediums of expression. Assemblies during this time will include classical, electronic, and popular music; art; and dance. These assemblies will explain how these art forms are expressed in contemporary mediums.

The second division goes from November until just before exams. This assembly section will deal with fantasy. They will cover the new psychology, ESP, dreams, drug trips, and perhaps, science fiction. There will be discussions on What is fantasy? What is reality?; on the differences of each to different people and different societies; and on the idea of fantasy as reality and reality as fantasy.

The third division covers from the beginning of second semester to spring break. During this time the theme of the assembly will be comedy. The contrast between comedy and drama will be treated along with the relationship of the two. A theatre group will perform and it is hoped that Pierrettes will do a reading theater. The Dietz' have been asked to return. Old

comedy films such as Charlie Chaplin will probably be shown.

An application has been made to the S & H Green Stamp Company for a grant of \$2,000. If the grant is given, the fourth section of assemblies will deal with the Women's Liberation Movement. Topics will include such things as abortion, the role of women in education, the role of women in a business society, the legal implications of women's liberation, and the formation of new groups of women's liberation on college campuses. It is hoped that Roxanne Dunbar will come speak.

In addition to this new set-up, the idea of fewer required assemblies will be on a trial basis next fall. It is hoped that if the assemblies are interesting enough and if there is enough publicity, students will want to come whether or not the assemblies are required.