

# Will All Communications Break Down At Salem?

Communications Salem are lacking faculty and do know other are .

If this sentence seems funny to you, then you can understand just what is the communication problem at Salem. There is often a lack of communication between faculty and students. Also students do not always know what is happening with other students, and faculty members with other faculty members.

This situation is not entirely anyone's fault. Of course there are some committee meetings at which things are kept secret, perhaps unnecessarily.

Yet there are a lot of things that students can and should know that they never find out. There are many things that occur in student-faculty committees that both the students and the faculty should but never do hear. People often do not realize that so many things are going on.

Communication has often been a problem at Salem, but now without required assemblies it could become even worse. For the first time **The Salemite** has the opportunity to maintain a real function—to be the instrument of communication on campus, instead of simply reporting "old" news about past assemblies and such.

The staff hopes to keep its readers informed of meetings, assemblies, the arts in Salem and the community and the proceedings of committees.

We'll try to do our part—to keep giving you the news. But you have to do the important part. You'll have to read it.

# S. G. A. At Southern Pines

By Catherine Cooper

The huge interesting house that sat there among the pine trees just waiting for the twenty of us saw and heard many unusual things the weekend of September 10-12. We'd set aside these three days at the beginning of school for a student council retreat at Southern Pines. Almost everyone invited made it—executive board, honor council, inter-dorm officers, and the house presidents. Also present were six ministers from the Wake Forest and UNC-G campuses and Raleigh to supervise the activity.

It being the first (actually THE FIRST) time the Salem Student Council had ever assembled as a group, everybody had some getting-acquainted to do. This was accomplished magnificently at our first planned session . . . one of those sensitivity, bare-your-soul type things. Practically each one of us came out of that mentally and emotionally exhausted, but certain that nineteen other real people were now our friends.

The next session's activity consisted of each one drawing a picture representation of student government. We then discussed each picture to get a conception of how Salem's student government stands right now. Most of the pictures were optimistic and most emphasized the idea that all students at Salem can and should participate in the decision-making processes. Change was a dominant feature in many drawings.

After we had some impressions of where we now stand, we split into groups to come up with lists of what we thought were the three most important areas of concern at Salem right now.

The next day we began with fun and games. "Star Power" was the game we played for several hours. The game involved person-to-person bargaining for different valued poker chips. We were then divided into three groups according to who got the highest valued chips. One group continually won (got the most points) and so was given all power to make whatever rules for the game it wanted to. By this time, you've probably discovered that the game is a simulation of life, or any situation involving the dominance of a power group over any other groups. The main lesson learned was that those who don't have power always resent those who do. The power group must be careful

to listen to and consult with representatives from the weaker groups, so that the interest of the weaker groups will be represented in any decision.

After that, we had a lesson in decision-making. Each one of us tried to correctly rank a list of fifteen things that would be needed on a moon landing mission, by order of their importance. Then we did the same exercise in two groups of about ten people each. Comparing the individual scores with the group scores, it was clear that the process of exchanging ideas in group decision-making gets better results.

None of us, I think, knew what we were in for when we set out to apply a lesson in consensus decision-making. A group can make a decision two ways under the democratic process—by vote or by consensus. In a vote, there is always the problem of a dissatisfied minority. But a consensus decision is one that has been discussed until practically everyone in the group agrees. Obviously, consensus can only be effective in small groups.

Our task was to rank-order one big list of our concerns at Salem from the four separate lists we had already drawn up. Problems immediately arose with everyone talking at once, not listening (or not being able to listen), and getting bogged down completely in picky details. The going was pretty rough. Finally, our "supervisors" broke into the mess, pointed out where we were going astray, and advised us to cool off for about thirty minutes, which was a relief. (An ample supply of beer greatly facilitated things). Soon afterwards the

task was successfully accomplished. First in importance was the Bicentennial, with its publicity potential for attracting students and improving Salem's image. Admissions itself was an area we felt needed work so that the Salem student body could be more diversified in regard to geographic, economic, and racial background.

Curriculum changes were on the list. We would like to see more courses, interdisciplinary majors and concrete programs of exchange with male colleges. As far as academic standards go, we would like to see grade-credit given for summer school work at other institutions. Another innovation could be the practice of not recording "F"'s on a student's record. If a course was failed, no credit would be given, but neither would the failing grade. We would like to see academic requirements for remaining at Salem strengthened and upheld. Getting a Phi Beta Kappa chapter and improving the library facilities are other projects to work on at Salem. We felt that the sense of community at Salem should be preserved and strengthened by improving the facilities and activities of the student center.

These were the major points we considered as important concerns for us today at Salem. Ideas, criticisms, and cooperation of all students are needed and welcome at all times. The weekend was finished up on Sunday morning with a symbolic sharing of bread and wine (in reality, a hamburger bun and Taylor sherry). Hopes were high, the feeling was warm, and now all systems are "GO"!

## Letters . . . .

I should like to bring to the attention of the readers of **The Salemite** that Salem College is now offering its very own January program in Typing for the Beginner. This is the latest January program approved by the members of the January Program Committee. This course offers a rare opportunity for any student to continue his quest for a liberal education. It is assumed that many will sign up for this course. There is even a rumor circulating around that if enrollment is high enough Salem College would change its name to Salem Secretarial School.

Michel Bourquin

\* \* \*

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my enthusiasm and gratification for the establishment of the typing course, offered in the January program of Salem's

4-1-4 plan. I can think of no better way to broaden my horizons than with this independent and highly individualistic study of the marvels of the typewriter.

I hope to attain a high level of achievement—at least 50 words a minute with no errors. I feel I will then be prepared for anything the world after graduation has to offer me! And what fortune to have this opportunity to develop skill and agility of the keyboard right here on campus, and not in one of the local junior high schools!

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Sincerely,

A fulfilled Salem student,  
Kathy Manning

Editor's Note:

The opinions expressed in **The Salemite** in signed articles and letters are not necessarily those of the editorial staff.

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Write A  
Letter To  
The Editor

## Coming Attractions For 200th

If you get the "blahs" thinking about the long cold semester after Christmas, perhaps a little news about plans for Salem's 200th Anniversary will warm the heart. A tentative list of events for next year has been released, and it looks as though Salem will be host to quite a bit of activity beginning in January.

To start the year off, Salem will release the documentary film shot last spring on campus. A brochure on the 200th Anniversary will also be published. Sometime in January a regional photography contest will be held, along with an exhibit by one of the senior staff photographers of **LIFE** magazine.

February will feature a Czech Festival (Feb. 15-20), which will give Salemites and the public a taste of Czech music and dance. Visiting Czech composers and dignitaries will speak, the Piedmont Chamber Orchestra will perform Czech works, and possibly we may hear Czech music composed especially for the Festival.

March begins with a Conference on Education, which will bring educators with broad experience to Salem to discuss problems and possibilities for today's higher education. This conference will be a three day meeting, and the speakers and groups will try to draw conclusions from the conference on the final day. Among the visiting speakers will be Dr. Harris Wofford, President of Bryn Mawr College; Dr. John Sibley, President of Boston University; and Edith Green, U. S. Representative from Oregon.

March will also see Dr. Chandler, Salem's 14th President, inaugurated. The inauguration ceremony will be held Saturday, March 4.

A symposium is scheduled for April 11-12 on **Future Society: Family, Church, Economy**. The April Arts Festival to be held in late April, will this year feature a nationally known entertainer or group because of the Bi-Centennial.

Other plans, including student activities, are being worked on, and

hopefully there will be a report about them at the next SGA meeting.

One student project connected with the Bicentennial but not dependent on it is a radio program to be broadcast weekly on WSJS and other interested stations. This project is in its first stages of being organized and offers a good opportunity to those who would like to get involved in Bicentennial plans. The weekly program will consist of a five-minute tape about what is going on at Salem, possibly presented as interviews with students, faculty, administration, or guest speakers. The tapes will require two or three hours of preparation each week including making musical arrangements, preparing an interesting program, and actually taping the program. Mr. Bray has expressed an interest in helping with this project and will help with ideas for programs and the taping of the programs. Anyone interested in helping with any aspect of this project, please get in touch with Pat Pickard, 209 Strong, or Mrs. Mock in the News Bureau.