

EDITORIALS

Editor's Note: Jeanne Patterson and Laurie Daltruff collaborated in composing this week's Salemite.

This is a year of great possibilities in U. S. political affairs: the presidential, local and state elections are beckoning all citizens to become aware of the "state of affairs" in their own backyards. The '72 presidential election will be the first in which the new Constitutional amendment allowing 18-20 year olds to vote is effective. As a result many astute people are eyeing the primaries to see how or if voting trends change because of the new young voters. Already many statisticians gloat over the confirmation of their early predictions that the addition of young people to the voting ranks changes nothing.

Unfortunately these statisticians and their more optimistic peers are discovering that one of the principle reasons behind the unwavering continuation of hereditary candidates' political solidity is the lack of young peoples' responsiveness to their new citizen responsibilities. What does this mean? It means that many young adults in the 18-21 category either have (1.) failed to register to vote or (2.) failed to evince strong enough interest in constructive political channels to influence significantly the platforms of political hopefuls.

One cannot stress strongly enough that every eligible individual in the country should register and vote for the candidate of his or her choice. It is especially important for young voters to participate in elections—at least to save face and preserve power in intellectual circles, if not to activate new ideas and approach new goals.

Apparently, however, election officials have not elicited enough response from the 18-21 year olds on these or any other grounds. It is truly tragic when the voting registration officials have to go TO the 18 year olds in their schools to get them to register. This action in Winston-Salem city schools is pretty desperate—particularly when one considers its dubious legality according to North Carolina state laws, which more or less prohibit removal of the registration books from the Office of the Board of Elections. Last week, on the other hand, a Wake Forest University professor polled his economics class composed mostly of 20-21 year olds and discovered that he was one of 5 of the 42 people in the class who had neglected to register.

These diverse, thought-provoking reminders of negligence should spark us to more political awareness and active concern for our surroundings. The New Hampshire and Florida primaries' results show that a very accurate voting field is needed now as never before. All students who are N. C. residents still have an opportunity to register before the primary in May. Registration for eligibility in this primary is possible until the middle of April. All students have the opportunity to register for national election before November. We need proof of birth and residence for this, such as a birth certificate and driver's license.

Why don't we, the "educated, qualified" students demonstrate our concern for our future? We can begin by working through legal channels, and it would help if we dispelled political scientists' growing belief that we talk much but fail to act. Or are we to be heirs to our ominously anonymous predecessor, The Silent Majority? —LD

This year a very strange thing has happened around our campus (gasp.) Actually this strange thing is a build-up of a feeling that has been growing for several years.

This year the campus has fallen apart. Now don't go around looking to see which buildings have been destroyed—it has been a gap in our communication system. We aren't the close-knit community that we used to be.

Besides (or perhaps because of) the communication gap there has been a spread of (oh hated word) apathy. This is a nationwide feeling but that's no excuse for us.

Perhaps the one thing that has made this problem so bad for us this year is the new assembly system. Upperclassmen remember that when assemblies were required it was easier to know what was going on around here.

Also it is ridiculous for the Assembly-Lecture Committee to pay a high price for a speaker or entertainer when only a few people are going to attend. After all, we are paying for the assemblies. The Assembly-Lecture Committee has done an excellent job of selecting programs. Why aren't we taking advantage of them?

What should happen to assemblies? Perhaps we should do away with them. But assemblies are a valid part of a liberal arts education. Or we could have them required again. Now that the Assembly-Lecture Committee has gotten away from the "we have to fill every assembly period" feeling it would not be so bad to have to attend about five to ten assemblies a semester. Is it worth this to you to have required assemblies again in order to pull this campus back together? —JP

The Salemite

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Dear Editor;

A few month ago we accepted the Library Committee's report on the plans for the "new" Library and they sounded great. But as I look at the work which is being wrought I have come to think that we were over-hasty in this. The Library does need more space but does this have to be the way we get it? It's too late for those gorgeous old trees which have been chopped down and hauled away from the lot (I had thought at least a few of the trees bordering the lot would have been saved); but what about our college community atmosphere? The Library on the corner forms part of a unit with Clewell, Sisters and the Square. Remember, the Square is our front campus. A family living in a private home on the corner where the Library now stands will not want girls hanging out of Clewell or Sisters' windows calling to people below and playing loud music. One of the reasons that Gramley is such a quiet (deadly quiet) place to live is because it is closer to private homes than to other campus buildings. The neighbors around Gramley do complain of the noise as well as the cars. Admittedly we do not make as much "college noise" as we used to when everyone parked up and down Church St. waiting for the dorms to close—there was always lots of yelling and singing and honking horns—and did the neighbors complain then!!!

So, what I'm asking is this; is the money we are getting from Old Salem for following the present plan for the Library's expansion worth risking the possible loss of some special essence of Salem's atmosphere? We are part of Old Salem and, while both of us are gaining something tangible which we want, perhaps we will both lose out on something intangible in the long run. I appeal to you, Salemites—think on this and reply!!! It is still possible to reassess the situation.

Sincerely,
Carol Hewitt

Dear Editor:

With the end of four years at Salem drawing near, I find myself reflecting on the experience—and on Salem as an institution. It is hard to express the feelings that friendships and studies bring to the surface—they are indeed still too much an integral part of this highly emotional senior (sorry to betray the definition of emotion as presented by one well-heard professor).

I would, instead address myself to two more practical aspects of Salem life. First, Salem needs a more diverse student body—culturally, racially, etc. Will it be different next year? If not, how can an educational institution ignore this important aspect of education—and I do not mean tokenism.

The refectory—would it not be more economical to have a cafeteria situation, or at least the present set-up could use students on work-scholarship for waiting. Fewer employees are required for dormitory cleaning because students took more responsibility—can't it happen again—possibly gradually, as with the dormitory situation?

Janet Ward

Students attending Salem-sponsored summer schools will have grades averaged into their quality point ratio.

Letters....

Dear Editor,

For so long all of us "Salemites" sat around campus griping about the food: everyone just griped, but no one did anything till finally someone sat up a food committee as part of IRS, which acted as a delegation to Mrs. Cummings. I just want to say three cheers for this delegation and Mrs. Cummings' cooperation. I think the food at Salem C. has been improved lately—the new salad bar helps a lot for all you dieters and the entrees have been more balanced meals (with green vegetables as well as our meat and potatoes).

Thank you Mrs. Cummings and IRS food committee.

Respectfully yours,
Margaret Everhart

Dear Editor,

Attention English Department?

You lucky guys and gals: It was so neat, to see such good grammar and great punctuation in the candidates' speeches: last week. I was real impressed with the rockout expressions—they were so earthy. It was so easy to follow things because things were not indented, you know! You must have a real neat time with us and the stuff we write. How come you let all the girls who have written those words get by you without honorable mention.

When you had them for classes in reading and writing, it was a course here, I think. Why didn't they go to Smith? I realize that we can understand alliteration, and that irony means irony and that to interdigitate is to hold hands. Those girls were so impressive—some of them. Such words, such dangling modifiers, those colloquialisms—would you mind if I taught them a thing or two! I think you are real lucky to have such intelligent sounding people in your classes—it must be alot of fun to read term papers.

Good luck and very fondly;
Sandy

Dear Editor:

I regret that a misprint in my letter of last week's Salemite may have caused people to mistake my intent. I proposed a student-faculty committee of "representative representation", not "representative presentation" as was printed).

I understand that some of the members of our community, students and administration, have come to Jeannine Hurford actually alarmed over the apparent "fued" between her and Dr. Lewis. A case of mutual admiration between these two could not be more obvious! Their exchange of letters through the Salemite has been one of the most amusing features of the newspaper in recent weeks; if this is what good student-faculty relations bring let us have more.

If I must explain myself further, let it not be thought that I favor the addition of more committees to our present array. Committees undoubtedly serve necessary functions but when they purpose is fulfilled let us prune them so they do not over-run us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Carol Hewitt

P.S. The Skinner theory of behavior is not at all pleasant; beware of those calculated sales pitches, girls.

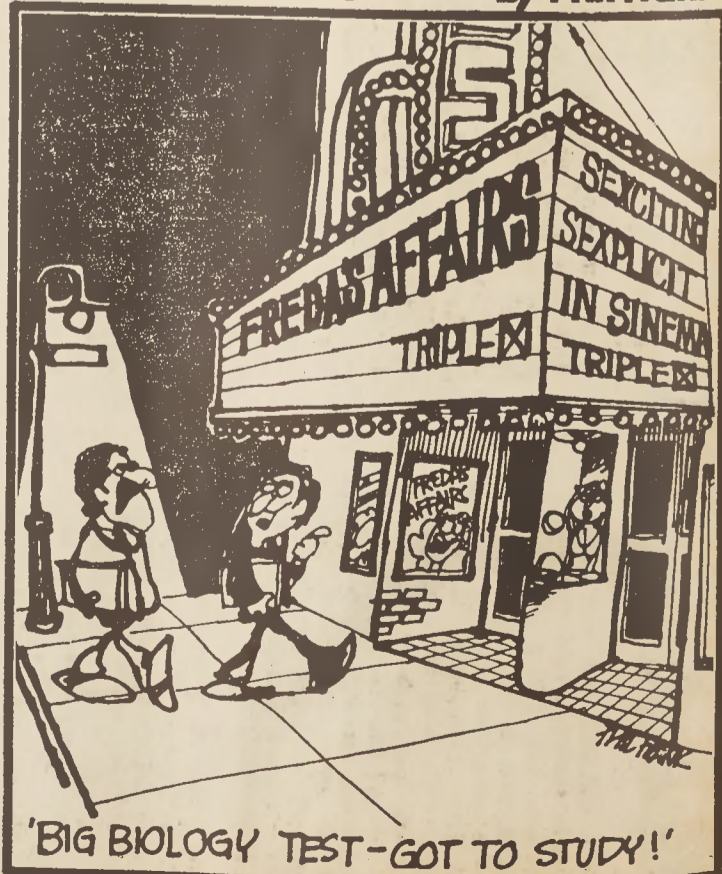
To the Editor of the SALEMITE:

- 1—Jeannine writes article satirizing linen shower.
- 2—Dr. Lewis writes Letter to Editor saying "Jeannine, thank goodness you are not a Skinner rat in that you do not follow the crowd and fall for linen salesmen."
- 3—Jeannine writes Letter to Editor saying "Thank goodness you are not a trained rat either, Dr. Lewis. You spoke up for what you believed in at last year's assembly, and you did not just follow the crowd."
- 4—Dr. Lewis writes Letter to Editor saying he is very surprised Salem College students have had trouble in recognizing the irony in our articles.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. and Mrs. Lewis for the delicious dinner they treated me to the other night.

Jeannine Hurford
THE END.

FRANKLY SPEAKING by Phil Frank



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