The Salemite

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Chat With Chandler

-by Shirley Brobst

On Monday night, November 13, eight concerned students met with Dr. Chandler in his office to discuss issues that have been bothering them. Among the issues discussed were the communication problem between the students and the administration, the privacy of student records, student-faculty relationships, and the function of petitions.

Several of the students felt that we have begun to have faulty communication with the administration. Dr. Chandler recognizes that a credibility gap has arisen, both on our campus and in other places. He notes that there seems to be a growing mistrust of anyone in authority and that people everywhere are beginning to question how responsibility should be dispersed. Dr. Chandler feels that we - including the administration - should give people as much responsibility as they are capable of handling, and that we should continue to air our concerns openly instead of resorting to rumormongoring and rec room gripes.

The privacy of students' records was another issue that the group discussed. At this time a committee is working to eradicate private social restrictions from students' permanent transcripts, and is trying to devise a workable system in which privacy of the student is regarded with respect to open records, so that no student may be handicapped by teachers and potential employers misinterpreting portions of a record which a student would be unable to de-

There also seems to be some question concerning the sign-out procedure for overnights, as to whether or not our present system of cards protects the privacy of the student. The sign-out procedure is not a means used by the administration to pry into peoples' lives, but rather it is a means of getting in touch with the student if such a need occurs. He acknowledges that there are flaws with our current system, but wants to hear of an alternative solution with which to replace it.

It has been evident to some students that the student-faculty relations have not been as close this year as in previous years. Dr. Chandler believes that the use of informal time of faculty with students is very important and he is unable to completely explain this drift being felt by students. He realizes that everyone has been working harder than usual this year, attempting to adapt to the new administration and help with curricular reform programs. He hopes that by the



time the extra-heavy work load of the faculty lightens and the administration settles into a pattern, the close student-faculty relationship will have resumed. This, he emphasized, is one thing that Salem has been able to pride herself on in the past, and is something we all want to retain.

The petition process is a good way of expressing students' wishes and the response of both students and administration has been generally good. Dr. Chandler feels that this has been a successful method of achieving reform. The only petition not to make its way from start to finish is the current petition concerning intervisitation. Dr. Chandler and the Board of Trustees have both taken strong stands against intervisitation on the basis of problems in other schools and on the lack of overwhelming merits for Salem's adapting to this drastic change in Salem's social procedure. He suggested in the meeting that students organize a student platform of pros and cons on the subject of intervisitation at Salem, after which he would attempt to arrange a meeting of these students with Board of Trustees officials in order to allow students to voice opinions directly to the Board. Since this proposal for intervisitation is considered a major policy change of life at Salem because it has never been a part of Salem and would require some large changes in security, etc., the positions taken by Dr. Chandler and by the Board of Trustees is very important in the acceptance or rejection of the petition. While he makes no promises, Dr. Chandler wants the Board to hear the students' side of the story.

The meeting between these students and Dr. Chandler does not necessarily speak for the majority of students at Salem, but Dr. Chandler was very grateful that these eight students were interested enough to talk with him about basic issues in our community that concerned them. He felt that the meeting was profitable for everyone (and students involved felt reassured in the advancement of Salem College), and hopes that he will be able to hear from more students in the future. He feels that contact must be made, not only on his part, but also by the students so that we will not have a breech in communication between his administration and the student body

Notice Pierrettes' New York Trip has been Cancelled.

Dear Salemite,

Since there seems to be a misunderstanding among Salem students concerning the new regulation of the Wake Forest Library which denies borrowing privileges to students from other schools and colleges, a few words of explanation seem to be in order. I have talked with the Director and I assure you this policy was not taken without serious consideration.

Wake Forest, like Salem, is a private college and is feeling the financial pinch of all non-tax supported institutions. The cost of library service has risen rapidly until it now takes from 6 to 8 percent of an institution's total educational budget. All libraries are re-evaluating their services with the idea of cutting cost without endangering their educational goals.

Borrowing privileges between

New Haven, Conn. - (I.P.) -A new grading system for undergraduates in Yale College has been installed this year. Actually it is a return to an old system but with one new twist, which in itself testifies to a spirit of grumbling compromise.

Professors will grade their students A-B-C-or D...but there will be no public record kept of any F for Fail. A student who "fails" a course will obviously have to make up credit by taking another, but the failure will not appear in his transcript.

The new Yale system, in fact, was a compromise voted this past year to get rid of the old system that had been in effect since 1967 and had four grades: Honors, High Pass, Pass and Fail. The 1967 vote was the result of proposals by many students and some faculty for a simple Pass-Fail grading. But apparently the H-HP-P-F plan made fewer friends over the past five years than Yale's Course of Study Committee on Grading had hoped.

Clearly an answer to the issue would be to abandon grades of any kind and substitute long written comments or a simple pass or no-pass program. But even here there are problems.

John Geesman, '73, a student editor of the Yale Daily News, distinguished in an editorial between the "grade-conscious" and the "grade-oblivious" student, but concluded that "it is blunt reality that Yale students would be placed at a disadvantage in getting into graduate schools if the grading system were abolished, and it is the ultimate in self-centered elitism to believe that the entire graduate admissions process would change if Yale were to adopt a pass-fail system."

Dean Horace Taft noted that - though there is no "F" grade as far as the public transcript is concerned, faculty members will still hand in their grades as if the F grade existed.

Dean Taft believes that even for the least grade-conscious student, the system affects behavior in class. He notes that at another Ivy League College (Princeton) where two grading systems operate together - a standard system and a Pass-Fair plan - faculty members could tell by a student's attitude under

libraries is a courtesy extended only when it does not interfere with the needs of their own students. College students tend to use similar books and the demand is concentrated in a short academic semester.

Wake Forest has been generous in the past and would like to be able to continue. However, this generous policy is working to the disadvantage of their students. It is a well stocked library with an active campus and tends to attract students from a wide area. It is not a simple matter of Salem students only, but all students.

Were a reciprocal circulation policy allowed between Salem and Wake Forest, we would be at a severe disadvantage. Our collection would be denuded of popular titles and the college and academy students would suffer. Needless to say, we would

which method he was being graded. And at a Vermont institution where most courses are under a Pass-Fail plan, the educators there told him frankly that their students did more work in the traditionally graded courses.

The A-B-C-D system is the 11th change in the grading system in Yale College in this century. From 1902 to 1918, for example, students were graded on a 0 to 400 scale in units of 5, with 200 passing. That system was replaced for nine years with the 0 to 100 point scale, with 60 as passing, but then returned from 1927 to 1932. Then, back to the 100-point system for 1933-1939.

At that point a letter grading system – A-plus, A,B,C,D,F, and X – was begun which lasted only until 1943 when the 100 point scale took over again for essentially a 24 year reign.

have no legal means of enforcing responsibility for the return of books.

Students are welcome to use the Wake Forest Library resources in the building, leaving the books available for their sty. dents. We have the same policy

The College plans to run a bus to the Wake Forest campus in the evening as often as needed Service can begin at any time. The Public Library of Winston Salem and Forsyth County has recently revised its policy to give borrowing privileges to students with an institutional address in this county. While their collection is not academically orientated, it is good. A telephone call will determine if they own the book or periodical.

Granted, the Salem Library is working under a handicap this year. However, its complete resources, with the exception of some back files of periodicals are available; and, hopefully these will be by next semester.

No library can have every book and there will always be requests for materials we do not own. Students should check with the library before going to another institution. We will as sist them in determining where the book can be obtained and how. If it is not in the area, a note from the instructor stating the book is necessary, will suffice to set interlibrary loan procedures in operation. Often photocopies can be obtained, if the material is not too long. We might even wish to purchase the book.

Come to the library and check our resources. You might be surprised.

I hope these remarks will help to clarify this problem. If they do not, come in and let's have further discussion. Sincerely,

Anna Cooper, Libraria

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is a reminder that Friday, Saturday and Sunday night meals will be served from 5:30 to 6:00 in order for the refectory workers to serve heavier meals. Also, a turkey dinner will be served on Monday, November

I.R.S. is working on arrangements for a concert this year. Performers under consideration are Grin and Jim Croce. An announcement will be made when there is more definite information.

Are you planning your week-end roomcleaning?? Do you have stuff around in your way, like, gargle and cough medicine bottle, ice caps, heating pads, acc bandages and crutches? you do take them to the Dorm desk and we will pick them up.

Thanks much, M. Castevens The Infirmary

The Salemite

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Published weekly, excluding exami nations, holidays and summer vald tion, by Students of Salem College Subscription Price \$5.00 years Mailing Address P. O. Box 1044 Salem Station, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Application to mail at second-dis postage rates is pending at Winston Salem, N. C. 27108.