

LETTERS

Students should develop the capacity for critical judgment and engage in a search for truth . . .

editorial

There has been much student unrest at Salem this year and concerned students, administrative officials, and faculty members have endeavored to resolve difficulties in the community. Yet, the unrest lingers and increasingly threatens to develop into waves of irrational violence. What has caused feelings of discontent among students? Nobody can know exactly what triggers reactions and emotions that reach a point of instability, but one factor contributing mightily to the cause at Salem has been that this is a year of change in the community. We are entering our second year under a young, new administration, which inevitably will cause people to question motives and priorities, and to feel threatened by a new approach to matters previously handled in a traditional manner. Students and faculty are always profoundly affected by the threat of change, and sometimes fail to understand their own motives for unease.

Moreover, our college is fully entering into a new era, in which the student body caliber and contributions are changing. The students are evolving into a more worldly wise and less home-oriented group of girls. This affects our environment, which must adapt to our needs and our goals in order to remain an institution which presents us with a quality "education." Such a student evolution inevitably causes a readjustment of institutional priorities so that the community can remain fused in goals and satisfaction. Of course, a new administration often slows the evolutionary process temporarily because of obvious adaptations that must be made by the administrative powers to the students, etc., and because of the initial caution with which students approach new administrations.

If this process comes to a halt, however, certain trends develop. Students not only fail to trust the new administration, they become passive in their approach to campus matters that they feel are beyond their jurisdiction. This engenders further distrust and dissatisfaction with the administration, which cannot understand the increasing hostility of students. This creates a wider breach of communication. The process is terrifying because of the rapidity of its unmaking of an administration.

Something similar to this communication gap seems to be occurring at Salem. Dr. Chandler offers his presence at meetings with students to answer questions and take and give suggestions for campus reform. Students attend or they don't attend, depending on their degree of dissatisfaction with events on campus. Rumors are widespread on campus and many people -- instead of taking action to quell untruths -- have helped them to grow by their passivity.

Students blame different branches of the community -- such as the president, the Student Government Association, the Deans of Students -- for failures to establish widespread campus reforms which are not even possible through these offices. The SGA cannot change things for the students; under our present grant of student power we merely suggest many changes and the Faculty Advisory Board strongly urges the Administration to enact these suggestions. If we want more student power, why do we not propose to amend our student constitution? Dr. Chandler can only propose and urge so many changes, as in the academics of the campus, without the support of the faculty. Here again, if students want academic innovations, why do we not bombard the curriculum committee and department heads with formalized suggestions for changes?

At this time the administration is attempting to rectify the administrative breach which has arisen among students and some faculty during this academic year. Unfortunately, the breach has occurred so gradually and as a result of so many misconceptions of activity on the part of the administration, faculty, and the students, that the damage appears to be somewhat fatal. So what if Chandler visits dormitories to get suggestions from students and to dispell untruths that have arisen in the community? By this time, students attending such meetings are hesitant -- no, outright unwilling -- to be honest and open with him because they feel that he is not being open and honest with them. Are the administration's attempts at communication part of a game being played by students, faculty and the Administration? If so, let us not waste any more of our time.

Some of us prefer to believe, however, that we do not waste time in trying to overcome distrust, anger and suspicion in order to start again the process of evolution on this campus. Seemingly, at this stage, everyone and everything is against the process, but those of us who cherish ideals of what education means and what we should like Salem to become in future years will continue to work for our ideals. This includes Dr. Chandler and it includes members of the faculty, as well as members of the student body. Hopefully, an increasing number of students can rally to the cause of educational evolution and help our Administration with decisions that change Salem. Hopefully, the Administration will remember that students en masse have an amount of power which they do not like to see withheld from them by the administration. If students fail to accept their collective responsibility for future Salemites and the administration fails to concede proper power to the people, students be wary: Administration, beware! — LD

Dear Salemites:

It has been my understanding that Salem students are supposed to stand behind their seats before the blessing and remain standing until the blessing has been completed. Lately this has seemed to be more like an exception to the rule than the rule itself, and I for one am bothered by this. Even if the policy is not satisfactorily justified to individual students, it shouldn't take too much effort to simply stand and be courteous to fellow students. Not only do some of the already seated students look apathetic, but also the ones who insist on wasting little time in serving themselves and digging in are even more offensive. If it is necessary to stretch eating time, at least stand up, because more calories are burned while standing than while sitting on our already large enough bottoms!

A Still-Standing Student

Dear Editor,

Yesterday as I stood in line at registration -- where Salem ladies become wild savages -- I could not help thinking: "There's got to be a better way." A prospective student happened to pass and inquired "was this a student riot?" I must admit that it certainly looked like one.

Salemmites arise!! We have got to change registration! For those of you who were lucky enough not to be there, let me recap yesterday's "riot". Salem registration for underclassmen was from 1:00 to 5:00. The first person arrived at 9:00 to be assured of getting her classes. By 12:00 the line was up the stairs of Main Hall. This would be understandable if we had over 2000 students, but at last count we had some 600 students.

I am not here to condemn the present system but to offer a suggestion: registration by classes (juniors, sophomores, freshmen). I asked why we didn't register by classes. I was informed that the freshmen and sophomores would feel discriminated against. Well, how about the junior who has tried for two and a half years to get a certain course and has ended up with Basketweaving 101 or worse.

For the most part freshmen are fulfilling their basic requirements and should feel no threat from upper classmen. Let them fight it out among themselves as to who has Ms. Edwards at 9:00 and who has Dr. Gossett at 10:00.

The Sophomores have two more years to get their desired courses whereas, the Juniors only have one more year.

With the exception of Senior

of People . .

SSC is having a ticket and ride clearing house in hopes that it will help those students interested in various cultural events in Winston-Salem. If you wish to purchase a ticket, sell a ticket that you can't use, or find a ride, please contact Pam Langston. Pam is in charge of this project sponsored by SSC. Her room number is 203 Biting and her phone number is 727-1417.

Please make use of the ticket and ride clearing house because this is for your benefit.

parking places and the few restrictions placed on first semester freshmen there are no class privileges. Aren't we entitled to some seniority rights in selecting our classes?

I strongly urge students to offer suggestions to Ms. Simpson and/or the Salemite. It is up to us to change registration. After all we are the ones who suffer.

Sincerely,
Pat Terry



of cabbages and kings

by Sarah Dorrier

Having an early deadline can really do strange things to one's system. For instance, my brain is concentrating on a Christmas column while my stomach is still busily digesting a lump of left-over Thanksgiving turkey!

My first inkling that Christmas was almost upon us came when I heard a Christmas carol on the radio as I was driving home for Thanksgiving vacation! Here it is, barely December, and I feel absolutely guilty because I'm not overwhelmed by the Christmas spirit. Do you suppose being overwhelmed by books to read and exams to take has anything to do with my lack of yuletide cheer? But that's another whole story, isn't it, gang?

At any rate, exams notwithstanding, the jolly, holly season is fast approaching. Even my hometown is managing a moderate (very moderate) flurry of Christmas preparation. Back in the old days (last year?), we only had strands of multi-colored lights across Main Street. But now, with the advent of modernism (and an energetic city manager), Winnsboro boasts not only oodles of lights but also a community Christmas tree right in the middle of town AND red, white and green striped parking meters decorated with holly and big red bows. Madison Avenue would probably deem all this progress, but I think "tacky" is a more precise term.

I suppose I'm just hopelessly old-fashioned to even ask, but what ever happened to things like candles and strings of popcorn and real live greenery? Which reminds me . . . there is something horribly unromantic about picking a Christmas tree from the A & P parking lot. I'm not complaining, however . . . even the scraggiest little A & P spruce is better than a tin-foil Belk's special!

But, even with all the distracting external things like tinsel and shopping and swapping and wining and dining and hustle and bustle I still get a really special feeling inside at Christmas time. It's a glow that's impossible to analyse; I think it has a lot to do with warmth and family tradition and peacefulness. Unfortunately it's not the kind of peace I can bottle and take to a summit conference, rather it's a fleeting glimmer of hope that perhaps . . . just maybe . . . we can get it all together . . . someday . . .

And so, May the roads rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the hollow of his hand.

GOOD LUCK ON EXAMS,
DRIVE SAFELY,
MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Salemite

Editor-in-Chief Laurie Daltroff

EDITORIAL STAFF	BUSINESS STAFF
Associate Editor Chris Moran	Business Manager . . Margaret Evers
News Editor Laura Turnage	Circulation Manager . . . Lane Crawford
Feature Editor Dee Wilson	
Layout Editor Cori Pasquiere	
Copy Editor Kathy Bacon	Mailing Manager Evie York
Fine Arts Editors Barbie Pflieger	Nancy Anderson
	Muse of Inspiration
Photographer Anne Tillet	Mr. Bernhard von Nicolai

Contributing This Week
Cyndy Parker, Karen McCotter,
Julie Barton, Mary Ann Campbell,
Chris Minter, Sally Gilliam, Sarah
Dorrier, Allison Towne, Jeanie
Dorsey, Lee Booth, Carol Perrin,
Shirley Brobst.

Advisor Mrs. J. W. Edwards

THE SALEMITE is the Uncensored
Voice of the Salem Community.

Member U. S. Student Press Association
Intercollegiate Press
Alternative Features Service

Published weekly, excluding examinations, holidays and summer vacation, by Students of Salem College.
Subscription Price \$5.00 yearly
Mailing Address P. O. Box 10447
Salem Station, Winston-Salem, N. C. 27108.

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