

CAB Abolishes Reductions

The Salemite

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by Laurie Daltroff
Editor

The Civil Aeronautics Board has decided that Youth Fare rates on commercial airlines are illegal. On December 7 the board ruled that "youth standby, youth reservation and family fares are unjustly discriminatory and that family and youth reservations fares are also unreasonable."

The CAB is scheduled to meet in March to decide when to enact the new rule preventing reduced rates for passengers.

The airlines' youth rates were originally challenged by the National Trailways Bus System, a trade association of bus companies, and by TCO Industries, Inc., formerly called Transcontinental Bus System. These associations brought suit against the airlines as long ago as 1968. They charged that youth fare was discriminatory and undercut their business.

Thomas Taylor, lobbyist for Trans World Airlines, said that persons between 12 and 21 spend about \$300 million annually on youth fare tickets. About 1 million youth fare cards, entitling the holder to reduced rates until age 22, are bought each year, he said.

Senator Frank Moss (D-Utah) proposed a motion in January that would offer youth and senior citizens reduced fares, despite CAB ruling. The Moss bill would permit reduced standby rates for persons 21 or younger and 65 or older. This is similar to a bill passed in the Senate last year and defeated in the House of Representatives.

Moss noted that in 1968 the airlines earned \$21 million profit from youth fares. Youth fare

travelers saved \$112 million that year, he said.

Moss said that existing law prevents unjust discrimination and that Congress can "authorize preferential treatment for a category of persons if it is provided on a rational basis."

He admitted that reduced fares for any age group appear discriminatory against non-favored age groups. "But," he said, "any claim of discrimination is weakened when young travelers are forced to undergo the uncertainty and discomfort of standing by to see if there are unused seats."

Robert Simmons, Washington, D.C. representative for the coalition to Retain Air Discount Fares, said that the CAB passed its Dec. 7 ruling by a 3-2 decision. Simmons said that the airlines represented were extremely split in their opinions about reduced fares. He said that 14 of the carriers offering reduced fares and 10 opposed them or failed to take a position.

Simmons mentioned that Eastern Airlines, Western, United and TWA were among the airlines favoring reduced fares on a standby basis.

Simmons said that the CAB has had to delay activating the new ruling because most airlines will have to raise standard air fares in order to break even without youth fares. He said that youth fare contributes to fixed rates and actually helps maintain present regulation passenger fares.

Moss said that most airlines fly with an average of less than half their passenger loads on each flight. The major exception is during holidays and peak summer months. Youth fares have helped to offset passenger losses, he said.

Moss said that two airlines, Aloha and Hawaiian, have defied CAB warnings about discontinuance of reduced fares. These airlines added special senior citizens rates in 1968. Since then, Hawaiian has had an overall passenger increase of 38%, but a 400% increase in senior citizen fares.

Airline officials in Winston-Salem and Greensboro have denied knowledge of the controversial CAB ruling. According to one travel agency in Winston-Salem, the CAB wants no publicity of its decision until it goes into effect.

Salem Has Busy Year

Well, another semester is beginning and some students have failed to realize that important things are occurring at Salem this year. Last semester saw the advent of a changing curriculum and a student body which deviated from past Salem stereotypes.

This semester students, faculty and administration will see more changes. Dean Hixson, who has been at Salem for 30 years, is serving her last term. We are receiving a new academic dean who is involved in curriculum relevance and continuity. Salem, entering her third century, is accumulating millions of dollars for Dr. Chandler's new building fund. A radical left-winger will speak on campus in March. The experiment in Southern Living, an interdisciplinary schedule involving more than 40 students and 4 professors, is exciting students who have not enjoyed a single course at Salem.

The atmosphere at Salem is changing, hopefully for an exciting future. Every academic department at the college has spent months studying ways to be more effective and convey the excitement of learning to students. The administration is ready and willing to listen to student complaints and suggestions. Students are becoming more aware of themselves as individuals and as members of an interdisciplinary world system.

The Vietnam cease-fire has signaled students and people everywhere to recognize that peace and understanding are invaluable in living. At the time the peace talks were concluding, Salem's on-campus life seemed to stop, but did not. During January students, faculty and administration were able to confirm good changes at the college.

We who spent January on-campus are glad that everyone else had fascinating adventures in foreign lands, on other campuses and alone. We want you all to know that without you we could not continue indefinitely. But we had a fascinating, enriching month also. So, as we convene to start another term, one that is rich with hope and new ideas and excitement, why don't we celebrate a new existence as Americans and as intellectually-oriented people.

Visitation Committee

A special committee, composed of four students, the Faculty-Advisory Board and the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees met in January to discuss the controversial visitation petition submitted to the Faculty-Advisory Committee last spring and again this past fall. The committee members discussed pros and cons concerning room visitation on the Salem campus.

As a result of the meetings

in January, the committee members have become more aware of both student feelings and desires and of attitudes of the Board of Trustees. Dr. John H. Chandler said that as a result of the meeting with the student representatives and the Executive Committee members his own attitude toward dormitory visitation is "considerably softened."

This week a letter will be sent to all students concerning visita-

tion. In the letter Mrs. Sue Shore, Chairman of the Visitation Committee and a member of the Board of Trustees Executive Committee, has listed what the special committee has done to get the petition closer to the Board of Trustees for evaluation. She asks in the letter that students list their views in favor of maintaining the present policy concerning male visitors and opening Salem's doors to limited visitation in individual rooms.

Students are asked not to answer yes or no but to give specific reasons for their opinions. The answers must be placed in one of the boxes placed in dormitories for this purpose by Friday.

The student ideas will be combined with those of the special visitation committee to form a report to the Trustees. This will give them a basis on which to make the recommendation to Dr. Chandler concerning this subject. Although the petition may not be passed, the Trustees will be able to interpret the College policy which they set and implement procedure for change in the policy when needed. The Visitation Committee has been a means through which the Trustees, administration and students have been able to enlarge the understanding and communication on campus.

Think About Student Elections

by Beth Pollard
Elections Chairman

Well, it is election time again. From now until the 15th of March students will be asked to put names on the eligibility lists, attend banquets and vote at least three times.

But one of the most important things about Salem's election procedure is the privilege of students to run for any office they desire. All one must do for this simple procedure is notify the election committee that she is interested in running as a candidate for an office and the committee will enter a petition in her name. The candidate must be the first person to sign the petition.

Then the petition will be posted in Lehman where at least 10% of the student body must sign it for the candidate to

be placed on the secondary ballot.

An ideal situation occurs when enough students petition for there to be a preliminary election to determine the three names that will appear on the secondary ballot.

Students will receive a copy of a calendar covering the elections. Please keep it. It is for students to know what election procedures are going on at all times. The election committee wants all students to participate in this year's elections because this is a year of change and Salem needs strong leaders who are also diplomats.

These are vitally important elections. You decide who are to be the leaders of student government for the next year. Please make your decisions carefully and become involved.

The Salemite

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"Frankly Speaking"

by Phil Frank

