

# The Salemite

Library

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## Learn Creatively

- by Cindy Greever  
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What is the ideal learning environment? Who has the responsibility for what is learned in the classroom -- the student or the professor? How can enthusiasm for intellectual endeavor be promoted at Salem? These questions are a sample of the topics discussed on the last two Thursdays in Lehman Hall by faculty and students.

The impetus for this discussion came from Dianne High of the Lifespan Center. By her invitation four faculty members from both the sciences and humanities and eight students representing all four classes met together to discuss "the definition of an 'ideal' learning environment, how Salem meets or does not meet the criteria, and suggestions for improving any problem areas discovered."

Two of the more controversial issues concerned responsibility and structure in the classroom and the general intellectual atmosphere on campus outside of the classroom. Although some courses seem to lend themselves to unstructured experimentation in discussion groups, etc., others, for example some sciences, require the use of the traditional lecture method. The professor is assumed to be qualified in his or her field but learning is a function of both his or her ability to guide the student and the student's receptivity and desire to work toward knowledge. Enthusiasm on both sides is a prime ingredient. The apparently greater concern with social regulations than academic concern on the part of the students was brought up by a faculty member. One student in the group responded that the social environment can have a major, distracting effect on studies if the student is uncomfortable within it. A problem certainly exists for some students in this area. Although the student in the group had a valid point, the argument that not enough energy is devoted to promoting things intellectual at Salem also has validity.

This workshop was designed as a pilot study to measure student and faculty interest in the subject. Hopefully a more extensive series of workshops will be arranged in the fall. Involving students, faculty and administrators, these discussions will endeavor to solve Salem's problems and expand her capabilities to meet her potential as an academic institution of excellence. These two meetings have served primarily to explore ideas and stimulate interest and dialogue in creating the learning environment at Salem.



Students gather at the Lily Pond to discuss the Visitation proposal.

## Students Protest Decision

We, the students standing before you are here to express our displeasure and disappointment with the proposal you read concerning the procedure to be followed for visitation. The proposal, as it now stands, makes male visitors in the dorms a special occasion, an open house, rather than the natural environment for which we were all striving in the original proposal made by the student body.

The original student petition was sent to Faculty Advisory Board where certain modifications were made and this new proposal was passed by this board. From here the proposal was studied by a special committee of students, faculty, administration, and trustee members, and received a favorable recommendation from this com-

mittee. The proposal read to us yesterday was entirely different from any previous proposal studied concerning this issue.

We emphasize that our presence here is indicative of our concern that your proposal to be made to the joint committee of faculty, students, and administration be revised so that visitation does not become a privilege granted for eight designated pre-planned weekends, but a policy which adheres to the wishes of a majority of the student body.

After the long hours of discussion, questionnaires and expression of student views, we feel that our time has been wasted and it is now time for real action in order to reflect the student feeling concerning visitation.

## Petition Presented

-by Lynne Mappus

Tuesday night, April 17, a group of students bewildered by Dr. Chandler's proposal on visitation to be presented to the committee, gathered to discuss what action could be taken to voice their discontent. A few students feeling that all alternatives for action had been exhausted suggested a student organized "Visitation Day" on Thursday, April 15. This idea was rejected in favor of what was considered a more effective alternative.

In the discussion of the proposal, the primary concern of these students was a matter of principle: students in requesting visitation were seeking a more natural environment, not an open house party atmosphere. A statement expressing the major concerns of the students was composed to be read before Dr. Chandler on the following day.

Shortly after noon on Wednesday, April 18, approximately 150 students gathered. The statement was then presented to the concerned group.

Several other students who had informed Dr. Chandler of student plans then reported the results of their discussion to the crowd. If accepted, his proposal would be reviewed in January 1974 for possible extensions of weekends, hours, etc. A rejection would necessitate a repititioning by students and its retrial before the Board of Trustees -- in effect, annulling the policy change just adopted. The question was asked as to how the new visitation policy gave the students any more than what they already had -- for example, visitation via petitioning as on IRS weekends. The response was that some board members were not aware that male visitors had been permitted in the dorm prior to the policy change and were shocked.

After discussion was concluded, the group proceeded to Dr. Chandler's office where the written statement of grievances was read. In response Dr. Chandler said that he appreciated our concern and would consider the statement.

## Chandler Explains Visitation Proposal

The following is an announcement from the office of Dr. Chandler concerning the recent change in policy approved by the Board of Trustees. It was initiated by Dr. Chandler to help show the evolution of the original petition into the change of policy approved by the Board of Trustees.

In an effort to answer questions concerning the recent visitation announcement, I want you to know the steps which were followed:

1. Petition came from students for week-end visitation privileges.
2. Legislative Board passed it and sent it to Faculty Advisory Board.
3. Faculty Advisory Board met during the fall -- altered the original petition to include:

"Salem College might provide options in living accommodations for students as follows:

- a. Students may elect to live in dorms where gentlemen are not permitted to visit in student rooms.
- b. Students may elect with parental permission to live in visitation dorms wherein student rooms may be used for informal social activities and study dates in which gentlemen may be entertained by residents on week-ends (members in the dorm will decide the specific hours within the limits of 12:00 noon to closing on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.) House Councils are responsible for carrying out procedures which are decided upon.

The College guarantees the right of students to live in dorms without visitation and makes every attempt to provide space in visitation dorms for those electing this option; however, it is not possible to guarantee space in visitation dorms because of the limited number of dorms on campus."

Faculty Advisory Board sent it to the President with the recommendation that a Student-Faculty-Trustee Committee be set up to study it.

4. The joint committee met during January and February. This committee had the original student petition and the altered petition from Faculty Advisory Board. After careful consideration the ad hoc committee recommended to the Board that limited visitation be permitted on the campus.
5. The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees was informed of the process by which the recommendation reached their committee. Mrs. E. Sue Shore, chairman of the ad hoc committee, presented the recommendation. One student, Sarah Dorrier, met with the Executive Committee. It was at this point that the recommendation was altered severely and then sent to the full Board of Trustees. The Board passed what is now in effect for next year after a discussion of how the policy would be implemented. The privilege granted reads as follows:

"Male visitors are permitted in dormitory rooms only on certain specified occasions in accordance with standing rules and procedures as determined by the college administration." (Standing rules and procedures are already in effect for Open Houses held this year.)

The procedures which they also passed are:

That not more than six campus-wide open house week-ends be scheduled each year in connection with all-campus social events and in addition that each dormitory be allowed to have its own open house once a term without its having to be tied to a campus-wide social event.

A joint meeting of Faculty Advisory Board, Interdorm Council, Chairman of Honor Council, President of Student Government and students she will name will meet this week if possible to discuss the implementation of the new policy. Please give your ideas to the members of the committee.

In January a student, faculty, trustee committee will be set up to evaluate the fall activities.

## Register For January

NOTICE

Don't forget the optional Pre-Registration for 1974 January Programs on Tuesday, May 1 in Main Hall from 9:00-4:30. All students planning to participate

in Salem's off-campus programs are particularly urged to pre-register.

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## Faculty Approves Interdisciplinary Course

The Faculty has recently accepted a proposal made by the Curriculum Committee to consider the possibility of offering one Freshman Interdisciplinary Course for Salem College freshman, rather than having the present system of four courses per

semester. A committee is presently being formed to study the various possibilities of setting up the Freshman Interdisciplinary Course. When asked about this proposal, Miss Sommerville responded enthusiastically. She pointed out that things are still

very much up in the air, but that the fact that the faculty are willing to consider and study this proposal is very significant, since this would be such a change from Salem's traditional Freshman Curriculum.