

The Salemite

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 Thursday, October 25, 1973

editorial

During the past week, Salem students have been lining up outside the refectory doors at 5:45. The girls stand outside because the doors are locked. But, they are in a habit of arriving 15 minutes early for the evening meal because of the practice carried out earlier this fall of starting supper ahead of schedule. The doors will not open until 6:00 p.m. now in an effort to keep the meals on schedule for those people who may be committed to other duties. There is one class which meets until 5:40 p.m. on Mondays. This procedure also allows the maids time to put the food out on the tables without having to weave their food carts in and out between hungry students.

Yet, even with this practice of locking the doors, Salem girls still rush into the refectory like a herd of pigs scrambling to the trough. If fried chicken is being served many girls harpoon a piece with their fork before grace is said to insure themselves a choice piece. It's like Christopher Columbus planting the Spanish flag in American soil and claiming it for the King. Each girl at the table has claimed one piece of chicken for herself, but her flag is a four pronged fork.

As for grace, it's become a mumbled jargon that sounds like a hundred disgruntled magicians mumbling hocus-pocus over a dead rabbit. The food disappears like magic too. There is no concerted effort to say the Moravian blessing in unison, much less with any reverence. No one waits for the chimes to signal the beginning as in previous years. Instead of the ringing of the chimes the signal has become a clanging of utensils on the tea glasses. All follow the whim of some loud-voiced student who's decided the food is getting cold and it is time to eat.

But I am not sure "eating" is the correct term to employ, perhaps "inhale" would be more descriptive. Everyone rushes through their meals like they are rushing to a fire in which only the skeletal structure is still left to burn.

With the immense improvements in food quality this year, I fail to understand why eating supper must resemble an Olympic time trial instead of being a social amenity. The food committee under the chairmanship of Chris Minter has been working hard to make all facets of mealtime at Salem more attractive.

Epicurean night will continue as a monthly feature. The committee also hopes to institute international nights. Italian dinners will be served as well as Spanish feasts and gourmet treats of other nationalities. Meals on weekends will continue to be as enticing as formerly. The refectory staff hopes to continue to serve either shrimp or steak on one weekend night. They do not feel students should be penalized because the majority may have left campus for the weekend. Some students find it necessary to remain on campus to study or they may remain in town on weekends to date.

"No one should have to go out for a good meal," Mr. Young believes regardless of the circumstances.

Besides general improvement of the meals, other small conveniences have been added. A hot chocolate machine has been installed and a different brand of rolls is being served at dinnertime.

The refectory staff is making all efforts to improve the atmosphere.

As Mr. Young cordially says, "I'm here to please you."

It would be nice if we could create a more pleasing attitude ourselves. Instead of a free-for-all, survival-of-the-fittest bout, how about a relaxing, digestible, social half hour?

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Headlines Editor Katherine Skinner	Member of the United States Student Press Association.
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THE SALEMITE is the Uncensored Voice of the Salem Community.

Understand Art Now

Dear Editor,

I keep hearing from the "experts" that one cannot live responsibly in the 20th century without a thorough understanding of modern science.

As an art student I heard the same thing 25 years ago about people who did not understand modern art.

It's interesting that the ardent proponents of this attitude in Winston-Salem on BOTH sides are always conspicuously absent from the openings of the excellent exhibitions this year in the Salem College Fine Arts Center.

—William Mangum

Explore Seminars

Interested in a church-related vocation? Want to be a Director of Christian Education, minister or simply do some kind of pastoral care and counselling? You know that you can. Women are stepping into these positions more and more. So you want to try? Come and meet Chuck Mendonhall from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va. He'll be in Lehman on October 30th, at 5:30 p.m. A good point to remember is that seminars are looking for women now more than ever. We too have a place in the ministry, so come on over and find out what it is all about for both you and the Church.

Fellowship Offered

The Danforth Fellowship Program was established to encourage and to provide financial aid to certain college seniors who intend to continue their education and to enter the college teaching profession. The program invites nominations from colleges all over the country. Each year Salem College is allowed to nominate two seniors.

The main purpose of this fellowship program are: (1) To identify and encourage those students who show the traits of becoming outstanding college teachers. (2) To improve undergraduate teaching by encouraging those who are not only academically excellent, but who also perceive value questions as central to education, to pursue the profession of college teaching.

In the selection of Danforth Fellows, the basic criteria for election is as follows: (1) Academic Achievement, which serves as an indication of intellectual ability which is flexible and of wide range (2) Promise of scholarly contributions in one of the fields of the liberal arts (arts and sciences) (3) Evidence of concern for the relativity of ethical or religious values to the educational process (4) Personal character qualities which would seem to be likely to contribute to effective teaching and constructive relationships with students.

In order to be eligible for the Danforth Fellowship Program, one needs to be seriously interested in college teaching (and/or administration). One must have the intention of attaining a Ph.D. in his or her field of study, and one must not have begun any post-graduate studies.

Dr. Mary Hill is Salem College's "Liaison Officer" to the Danforth Graduate Fellowship Program. Faculty members and department heads aid her in identifying those seniors who are qualified for the program. Through cooperation and consultation among Dr. Hill, Salem faculty members, department heads and those interested students, Salem's two nominees to the program will be selected.



of brats and brains

By Laura Turnage

Double, double toil and trouble;
 Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.
 Fillet of a fenny snake,
 In the cauldron boil and bake.

Recognize this familiar quote? Three witches brewing spell — Macbeth! While the scene is certainly appropriate to the approach of the witching season, I always envision this chant being used for a quite different purpose. Imagine the scene: a smoke-filled room. The hour: darkest midnight. The main characters: fearful students. The purpose: passing a test.

A friend of mine once told me that it was a challenge to wait until the last minute to study for a test. I agree. It is a challenge. There is, however, something wrong with this challenge; that is, waiting until the last minute to study for a test implies that a grade is more important than any lasting knowledge you may learn. Obviously you really wanted to learn, you would study all along and not end up chanting magical formulas the night before the test.

I asked four senior high school students at East Forsyth what they thought about grades. Here are their comments. Dave Gardner: The problem with grades is that they can create a great deal of hostility and inferior feelings not only between student and teacher but between fellow students.

Susan Wilson: I feel that it [grades] can only judge a person at that given time.

Paula Davenport: I don't think we should have grades because you are not always feeling the same way on a test. One day you may feel great — no test! The next day you are sick as a dog, and the teacher pops up with a test. It really depends on the person, but I personally don't believe in grades. I wish they didn't have them.

Tim Hope: I think grades can't measure the total knowledge a person can receive in class, but until we think of a better standard to use, we are stuck with trying to keep and make good grades.

In just a few days, Salem's student teachers will be turned loose in the public schools. Each girl is going to face the problem of evaluating her students. How often will tests be given, if at all? What method of evaluation will be used?

I asked Chris Moran and Beth Perry, both student teachers in English, to comment on grades. Chris believes that "grades are not an end in themselves. They are, should be, a means of evaluating the student's progress to the benefit of the student himself." Beth adds, "Grades can anyone really decide what is best? Ideally I would prefer an ungraded system, but I realize that this method would not work in all instances, and it is not typical of our society. However, competitive grading to perpetuate a competitive world can hardly be justified either. Grades should not be an all-determining criterion for progress but should be a stepping stone from which a student may discover what he needs to know."

There we have it. Teachers and students alike are not happy with present grading systems, but both recognize the need for some kind of evaluation. The question that remains is how to evaluate without using grades.

Happy birthday to John Keats October 31st! (Wonder how he felt about grades?)

Leg Board Reviews Petition Extension of Hours Passes

- I. The petition concerning parking spaces for the house councilors was approved. It is now sent to Mr. Platter and will be put into effect by him.
- II. The petition from Babcock freshmen dealing with the extension of hours was passed. Interdorm Council will set up a list of rules and guidelines to be followed by the freshmen on duty.
- III. Upperclassmen are reminded that the extension of hours on weekends is only for freshmen. Upperclassmen who use this extra hour will be counted one hour late.
- VI. The petition pertaining to freshmen having cars on campus between the Thanksgiving and Christmas vacations was denied. The reasoning behind this decision was: any freshman who has a legitimate reason for having a car on campus can receive special permission from Dean Johnson.
- V. A petition concerning the extension of the drop period for courses was approved. It is now sent to the Academic Council for further action.
- VI. The petition concerning the scholarship hours of the holding absolute offices was amended. It now says that only those holding the top four absolute offices (SGA President, SGA Vice-President, Chairman of House Council, and Chairman of Interdorm) can be exempt from scholarship work. It was also proposed that any other absolute office holder who desires to exempt scholarship work can petition to the Scholarship Committee for special permission. The petition was approved as amended.

Respectfully submitted
 Cindy Lovin
 SGA Secretary