

The Salemite

the uncensored voice of the salem community

co-editors AVERY KINCAID

LAURA DAY

associate editor MARILYN MYCOFF

business manager SALLY JORDAN

assistant business manager CAMERON HARRIS

Office hours: 4:30-9:00 p.m. Monday

4:00-6:00 p.m. Thursday

Telephone: 723-7961, Ext. 250—Salemite Office

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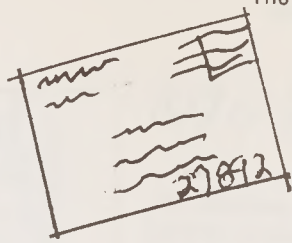
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Letters



Dear Editors,

I have read some trite articles in this paper before, but "Salem Girls Play Futile Game" takes the cake. Virgin Roulette??? Really, now!!! Sure, girls (and boys) talk about others, but why should you care? Your true friends won't stab you in the back. As for myself, I don't give a damn what people say about me unless they are genuinely concerned and wish to say something to my face about my behavior. So relax, "concerned student," and the next time you get upset about this problem, just tell the girl spreading the rumor to keep it to herself. Also, next time you write in, define "typical girls' schools." I also don't give a damn what "outsiders" say about us. I love it here.

Sincerely,
 Kathy Watkinson

Dear Editor,

A new game has been introduced at Salem and has now passed

Virgin Roulette in popularity. It is played primarily by girls who have been out of circulation for so long that they couldn't figure out what Virgin Roulette is. This new game is called Sot Roulette. It is played by anyone and the rules are so simple that they can be listed!

First—The players perfect their hyperbolic skill.

Second—Starting at 10:00 p.m. They make periodic surprise entries into the bedchambers of their fellow students.

Third—Wastebaskets, closets, and fridges can even be inspected for a grainier game.

Fourth—After the session is over, each player spreads all that has been said as sure fire-water truth.

The results of this game almost surpass the *tragedy of All My Children*. Too few are hurt and nothing said can be remembered for long. As "the concerned student" suggested, a student's personal life should be her own and no one else's.

It is a shame that when not working, Salem students should use so little of their intellectual skill. Salem has much more to offer than the cheap thrills afforded by the roulette.

For instance, a good morning game is "Endurance Roulette"—conditions for this game are an open dorm window over a drive and the player must be in bed in this room on a morning with no classes. The object is to see how long one can remain in bed (teeth-clenching allowed) before the revving and changing gears of trucks and the shouts of their drivers force a reaction from the player. People who sleep through the noise are disqualified (this is an endurance test, remember). So winners are those who can get up, shut the window, and go back to sleep. Losers are the poor devils who just get up for good.

Another game—where, however, one is rarely a victim, is Pasta Roulette. The object is to find out before 6:00 p.m. if the refectory will feature its infamous lasagna. Variations on this game afford the skilled a week of epicurean bliss. By going out for a good meal on Pasta Night, one usually returns the next for a meal with meat and cooked vegetables that are served in their recognizable forms.

You see? Any idiot can play!
 A Concerned Sot

ERA Supported By Salem Students And Faculty

The vote was close (especially among students) but results of *The Salemite* sponsored poll on ERA are as follows:

STUDENTS:	
For ERA	155
Against ERA	103
Neutral	3
FACULTY:	
For ERA	45
Against ERA	11
Neutral	1

Many of those voting for ERA, however, expressed some reservation about its implications. *The Salemite* selected a few of the most interesting comments, both pro and con, from the many we received. They are as follows:

FACULTY:
 "The defeat of ERA is one of the reasons I taped over *First in Freedom* on my license plate."

"I'm not against equality for women or any other American citizen, but I think provisions for this equality are all in the Civil Rights act passed in the 1st Johnson administration. Our Constitution is a very neat document and I don't want to see it cluttered with superfluous changes."

"Why ERA? We already have equal rights!"

"Yes. I agree that women under the law should have the same rights. I don't agree ERA is needed! Women are part of the citizenry of the USA. I actually agree with Sam Ervin. Women have those rights guaranteed by the law and should challenge any which are not in accord. Why should women make the same mistake men have made and believe that everything can be brought about by a constitutional amendment?"

"I support the ERA—most definitely!"

"I do not oppose ERA, but I haven't actively supported it—given speeches, marched, written letters, tried to win converts. I am certainly in favor of equal rights—and responsibilities—for women. I am not sure, however, that a constitutional amendment is the best method of securing and insuring those rights. The whole matter has been terribly obscured by the hot rhetoric from both sides. Unfortunately, most of those who speak on the matter seem to regard ERA as a means by which they may avenge them-

selves on the male or as a threat to Manhood, Motherhood, and the American Way—True Believers all."

"I support the ERA . . . up to a point!"

"Historically, American society has been racist and sexist, despite the rhetoric about the equality of all people, thus, race and sex must be specifically referred to in civil rights legislation and a constitutional amendment. See: *Dred Scott v. Sanford* (1857) — Blacks cannot be citizens of the U.S.

Minor v. Happersett (1875) — The 14th Amendment did not confer the right to vote upon females.

The 14th, 15th and 19th amendments were consequently necessary to overcome these adverse Supreme Court decisions.

"You should include the trustees in your poll."

"I'm opposed because the most knowledgeable constitutional lawyer in the country (ex-Sen. Ervin) says it's a lousy bill."

STUDENTS:

"I like being treated inferior. I like having my doors opened. I like being taken out. I like being a girl *under* my man."

"I am opposed to the ERA—I don't think people are aware of all the clauses in the amendment."

"I see the ERA as a means to help relieve women of sex roles instilled in them and for men as well. I don't see the ERA as a threat to those who are happiest in the traditional sex roles."

"I support equal pay for equal work, of course, but there are certain things in the ERA that I feel would be detrimental more than good to society, and do not feel that I could support them under any circumstances."

"... a careful reading of ERA reveals that the proposals would *take away* many of the privileges which women now enjoy . . . women will not come into their own until attitudes change—and no clause of ERA guarantees that."

"Women have more rights without the ERA."

"I think ERA is ridiculous for various reasons too numerous to mention here, and I will never support it! I like being a woman—apart from a man!"

"I don't support equality for women in everything—I don't

think, for instance, that a war is a woman's place."

"Passage of the ERA will insure equal rights for *everyone*."

"I think it's more than we've asked for! or bargained for."

"It is time for women to be independent—women should be on the same level as a man!"

"I don't want to be drafted! !"

"The ERA is unnecessary as the changes that it proposes are already taken care of in the civil rights act of 1965—why clutter the constitution with unnecessary amendments. We need to get the ones we already have to be recognized and obeyed."

"I think it would be good if we had a program concerning just the basic statements of ERA—in Freshman Studies we are going to take it up."

"I am opposed to the ERA—increases bureaucracy, by tying up more court cases in high Federal courts."

"I think it most important that we insure the rights that were established in the history of the U. S. Supporting ERA would be this insurance."

"If someone does not support it, it is because they don't understand it."

"I enjoy being treated as more than just one of the guys, sometimes, not all the time. Legislation is not the answer to equality—changes of opinion will have to be the deciding force."

"The time has long since passed when men and women should have had equal opportunities in the job market. ERA will replace the piecemeal, spotty legislation existing today with a blanket guarantee. Unfortunately, much of the ERA debate has become a shouting match in which neither side has the maturity to listen to the other."

"I'm very disappointed N. C. voted down the ERA and hope that its decision will not defeat passage of the ERA for good."

"I am in support of the ERA all the way. Any career woman (or prospective) is crazy not to be! I am a member of the Virginia chapter of NOW. I think more women and men need to know exactly what the provisions of ERA state."

"Women are so used to being weaklings that they have become comfortable in their inferior posi-

tions in society. Many will accept this position rather than be counted as a person rather than just a woman."

"Milton would hate me—a woman's place is back in man's rib cage! ?!?!"

"I see no harm in reiterating the fact that there should be no discrimination based on sex."

editorial

Saigon fell. ERA in North Carolina failed. And once more Salem slept, or so it seemed.

Six or eight years ago the defeat of the Equal Rights Amendment in North Carolina would have been an excuse for a demonstration (or at least a sit-in or two) on many college campuses. This was the exciting and often disturbing era of the vocal Sixties, when individuals said what was on their minds, whether it made any sense or not.

The Seventies are different. Demonstrations are passe. The once-loud voice of student rebellion is silent, not because of administrative force but by the choice of the students themselves. College students today prefer to keep their individual thoughts to themselves, and Salem is no exception. The last time we "demonstrated" for or against anything was the Great 1973 March From The Lily Pond To Chandler's Office when intervisitation was being discussed.

The silence of the Seventies is probably an over-reaction to the boisterous Sixties. But to assume that college students, and Salem students in particular, are no longer opinionated just because they are quiet is wrong.

When the North Carolina legislature defeated the ERA, Salem did seem to be sleeping. Because Salem is a women's college, one would think that this issue would have been an important one to many students. As it happened, ERA was scarcely mentioned one way or the other in dorms or classrooms. It was only when *The Salemite* conducted a poll of students' and faculty/administration's feelings on ERA that we discovered that Salem was still alive and kicking.

The response to the poll was interesting. Over 300 ballots were returned, which is a pretty damn good response for this campus. But more importantly, the poll also pointed out that while the Salem community might not be willing to vocalize about the ERA or anything else, when it comes down to writing what they believe, they really come through. We were amazed at the quantity (and quality) of written comments on both sides of the ERA question and wish to thank those who participated.

Hopefully, this poll has helped stimulate at least a little more campus-wide discussion of important issues. Writing what one feels is fine, but discussing it certainly makes college life more interesting. Salem students and faculty certainly don't need to return to the often disruptive tactics of the Sixties in order to express their views, but a little more vocalizing around here certainly couldn't hurt.

Enough said.

Avery Kincaid
 Laura Day