

# The Salemite

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## Tensions Cause Break

By Kathy King

For the first time since anyone can remember, Salem Students will have a fall break from October 22-26.

Why are we having a break in October? According to Dean Somerville and Dean Johnson, the issue culminated last year. Those present at Salem last fall may remember the tense atmosphere that pervaded Salem right after mid-terms. There was a high incidence of illness and tempers flared. An epidemic of the "blahs" hurt the academic production. In short, it was a trying time for all involved — faculty, students, and administration.

With all of these events transpiring, the administration decided that things needed investigating. In doing this, they discovered that on the old system, school didn't start until later in September, thus Thanksgiving break came just about in the middle of the term. But, when Salem created the January interim, the beginning of school was moved to early September. Therefore, Salem Students were at school ten to twelve weeks before they ever got a vacation.

This information, plus the problems of last fall, convinced the administration and the faculty that everybody needed a break sometime before Thanksgiving. Thus, the October 22-26 break was established.

For the most part, both teachers and students seem to think the fall break is "great", or at least "necessary." The following

are comments concerning the break:

Ann Rendelman—"I think it's great! Last year, near Thanksgiving, everybody was so tired and ready to go home that we were at each other's throats." Darcy Camp—"I think it's needed, because the time between orientation and Thanksgiving is too long. I hope it will relieve that mid-term tension."

Dr. Meehan—"I think it's a good idea."

Kitty Kuhn—"All the other breaks, dorms are closed; but for this, you either leave school or just stay here and have a long weekend. I think it's good." Miss Garcia—"I think it's necessary."

Obviously, fall break has its advantages. However, two questions have arisen:

1. The interruption of classes cause problems in work?

2. Will we have problems with a lot of students cutting classes in order to leave early?

Both Dr. Meehan and Miss Garcia foresee the possibility of having the problem of a lot of girls cutting classes, but hope that this won't happen. As to whether or not the interruption of classes will cause problems with work, this can only be determined later in the year.

For now, most people appear to be looking forward to fall break. Dr. Kelly sums up everyone's feelings by saying, "Never having had it (fall break) before, I don't know if it's good or not. But I'm anticipating it with great joy!"

## Pierrettes Stage Comedies

By Ellen Johnson

Students at Salem have a treat in store for them as the Pierrette Players and special cast members put on their annual three one-act plays. The three plays, characteristically 19th century French farces, have all the zane and wit to keep the audience rolling with laughter.

"Box and Cox," directed by Zel Gilbert, is about two men who, unknowingly, rent the same apartment from the same landlady, Mrs. Bouncer. Mrs. Bouncer (Francien Niekus) tries, with little success, to keep Box (Ellen John), a printer who works by night, and Cox (Jan Guiton), a hatter who works by day, from becoming entangled in each other's belongings. It is some surprise that the two men are betrothed to the same woman, and certainly the way in which they finally establish that they are long lost brothers is hysterical.

The second play, "Pierre Pathelin," under the direction of Janet Jones, is equally as funny as "Box and Cox." There are five main characters: Pierre (Susan Bingham), the Wife (Dolly Vrana), the Draper (Lynn Hill), the Shepherd (Julia McMillan), and the Judge (Freda Mach); as well as seven villagers and two clerks. The story begins with Pierre and his wife who need cloth to make clothes. Pierre, a lawyer, does not pay the draper, whom he buys the cloth from; and, even more, he tries to outsmart the poor draper by con-

vincing him that he is insane. In the course of events which proceed, everybody becomes involved; and events intermingle as the characters find themselves as much a part of others' twisted lives as of their own.

Perhaps the play with the most unexpected conclusion is "In the Suds," directed by Cindy Parker. The story centers around Jacquinet (Becca Lasley), a man who is completely dominated by his wife, Jeanette (Jill Gledhill) and by his mother-in-law, Jacqueline (Lisa Tilly). The way in which Jacquinet manages to become master of his household will undoubtedly have the audience in stitches.

The cast members have been working hard, and all three directors anticipate great performances! The three plays will be presented November 6-8 at 8:00 p.m.

WHO: For You . . . sold by the "Y" representative in your dorm.

WHAT: ABC Movie tickets.

WHERE: Good at any ABC movie theater in North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina. In Winston-Salem, the ABC movie theater is the Thruway, Winston, Carolina, and Thunderbird Drive-in.

WHEN: The tickets are good 'til 31, December, 1975.

WHY: To save you money—they are \$1.25 for a regular \$2.50 movie.



Team congratulates "Wat" after scoring. See sports section, page three.

Photo by A. Kincaid

## New Changes In Faculty

Rhett Huber

Fall is the season of change. It is also classically the time of year when colleges re-open their academic arms to admit returning old timers and fresh new faces. At Salem this fall, the new faces are not only present in a large freshman class, but are also cropping up in the form of new faculty members.

At Salem this year these changes range from the acquisition of a new chairman of the Biology department to an Art department teacher who was timed on the staff.

Dr. Valerie Chase, a 31-year-old native of California, opened her office last week as the new departmental chairman in Biology. She received her undergraduate degree, a B.A. in Biology, in a liberal arts branch of the University of California at Riverside. From this 1,800-student college she proceeded directly into graduate school at Stanford to earn her Ph.D. in Biological Studies via a government-sponsored program established through the National Science Foundation. She describes graduate school as a "very pleasant experience."

In spite of the recent trend in students choosing to defer graduate school for one year or more, Dr. Chase believes the most valuable time to spend a year out of school is between high school and college. Having seen people go to Big Sur to drop out for a while, she says there is no better student than the "reformed hippie" who has endured the experience of being unable to get a good job and who finally enters college with a clear idea of what he wants to study.

Her previous teaching experience involved both the good and the bad. She said that she enjoyed teaching in a junior college on the west coast where, because of teachers' unions, the salaries were very good. The college also placed major importance on developing good pro-

grams for students, she said, with little friction between teachers and administration.

From there, she migrated to the east to take a job with a state college in southern New Jersey. That situation proved very unsatisfactory, she said. Although the college was aimed toward her major interest of environmental science, she found that the low quality of students prevented her from successfully transmitting her knowledge.

In addition to functioning as chairman of the department, Dr. Chase is carrying a heavy course load that includes Biology 10, Evolution, Morphology of non-seed plants, and botany. She has some help in that Biology 10 is team-taught by herself, Dr. Jim Edwards, and another new faculty member, Mrs. Miranda Dungan.

Mrs. Dungan has a B.S. in Medical Technology and a masters in microbiology from Indiana University, and has done research at the National Cancer Institute. Besides Biology 10, she is teaching microbiology at Salem this semester.

Although this is her first experience in teaching, Mrs. Dungan has worked in microbiology at Bowman Gray School of Medicine. Her husband is a second year graduate student in business at Wake Forest, and, after living in Maryland and Virginia, they have enjoyed seeing Nags Head and the Outer Banks as well as having been camping near Mount Mitchell. In her off-campus time, the smiling red-haired, freckle-faced Mrs. Dungan enjoys "fooling around with house plants."

Moving into another scientific field, one finds Ms. Susan O'Neil, a transplanted native of Massachusetts, in the Chemistry department. She is the no-nonsense, frank-but-friendly replacement for Roy Gratz, who departed Salem this summer for a job at Mary Washington College.

Ms. O'Neil moved to North Carolina when she decided that

she wanted an inexpensive liberal arts college and found what she wanted in Elon College. Although she says Elon has greatly declined in academic strength over the past few years, she was able to acquire a B.S. in Chemistry before things worsened. After graduation, she remained in North Carolina for a masters degree in Analytical Chemistry completed at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

At Salem this semester, she will be supervising the lab work that accompanies Chemistry 10 and will also teach Quantitative Analysis, a course which is related to Organic Chemistry. As for what she expects from students, Ms. O'Neil says that she has no patience with students who do not make an effort to do their work, but "will go to all ends" to help those who do. She attributes the academically advantageous atmosphere of a woman's college to the lack of performance-inhibiting males in the classroom.

Another believer in the beneficial qualities of student life at Salem is Penny Griffin, past part-time, now full-time instructor in the Art department. She initially taught at Salem some five years ago when Mr. William Mangum went on sabbatical; then transferred to Wake Forest where she noticed an increased tension in the students compared to Salem, which she attributes to the extreme amount of competition among students.

Her own background in education includes undergraduate study in Spanish at Appalachian State University, and undergraduate and graduate study in Oriental Art history at Florida State University. While with Florida State, she spent some time in Florence, Italy, teaching and studying with people from other colleges and universities. After completion of her masters, Ms. Griffin returned to the mountains of North Carolina to teach studio art in a junior high and high school.