

# The Salemite

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## Student Service Examined

Salem College encourages its students to fulfill themselves as human beings as they pursue academics. Students are involved in important decision-making processes which affect the entire college community. Recent attention has been brought to one of our greatest national resources: women. This resource abounds at Salem, where students and faculty laud this woman's college because it not only encourages, but forces young women to take active position in the direction of the school. At Salem, Fire Marshals, Hall Advisors, Student Government Association Officers, Club Officers, and publications editors must be women. Sadly, many women give a limp reason for pursuing an office. If just one officer seeks her position because "it will look good when I apply for a job," then the objectives of Salem College are not being upheld. Knowledge and service are two traditions worth retaining.

—S. Wade Purcell

## What, nobody wants to petition?

Elections are a few weeks away. I yawned as I thought of the petitioning period; the same old names will head the petitions, only the titles will have changed.

Our student offices are suffering from such iron poor blood that not even an overdose of Geritol would help. Wouldn't it be nice to introduce new blood into the system? Some unknown little leprechauns could peer out from behind their tree stumps and become contributing members of society. How nice it would be to challenge the established hierarchy at Salem C.

I began to perk up as I thought of the hoard of Salemites rushing to run for offices. The fervor of a competitive election would be wholesome addition to this campus. But why disillusion myself? I yawned again as I came back to reality. I thought of the plaintive cries of the Chairman of the Elections Committee urging people to please sign petitions; and of the people who win their offices uncontested.

I wandered off into the ozone again and thought of a science fiction story Salem style. Wouldn't it be great if nobody petitioned for any offices? We would not be fifty dollars poorer at the beginning of the year, we would not have SGA meetings, we would not have Honor Council or Interdorm. Oh, how wonderful!

No rules could be enforced because no one would be in office to enforce them. None of us would have her hands slapped for signing her date out two minutes late or imbibing too much on a Saturday night. We could cheat, lie and steal and not be accused for doing so. Who would care? If there were no rules to be enforced then we could do anything we wanted. Of course we wouldn't have the newspaper, or *Sights & Insights*, or *Incunabula*, or dances because we would have no SGA fees; but who needs those anyway? Think of all the things we wouldn't be able to do! The prospect is tempting but . . .

Down out of the ozone again, down to reality. Of course somebody will petition for something; but please, oh please, let's add some excitement, some new blood to elections this year! PETITION — you are as good as everyone else!

Beth Jones

## Defining Budget Organizations

By Kathy Kirkpatrick

Recently the subject of clubs and organizations has become a controversy on campus. A definition that will have to be established is the role of various organizations as either clubs or councils. To differentiate between the two, Executive Board maintains that a club is a group whose main purpose is sponsoring any specific activity for the benefit of its members, whereas a council is made up of a few persons whose responsibility is sponsoring any specific activity for the benefit of a larger group. Ideally the budgeted organizations on campus should act as councils because they are funded by every full-time student. This, then, is the issue—Do all budgeted organizations now on campus act as councils?

As it stands now any special interest group can organize on campus as long as its constitution is approved by Legislative Board. Some people feel that some of the budgeted organizations in reality

only serve a small percentage of the student body. Do the organizations meet their responsibility to all the students? Do they sponsor the appropriate activities to tap a majority of the students' interests? Or is this present condition because of a general lack of interest by the students? If so, should the students simply withdraw budget funds and let these organizations die with the hope that they might reorganize as self-sufficient special interest clubs, which may even exist more efficiently as a club rather than as a faltering council?

This issue must be dealt with carefully but soon because the budget for next year will be set later this spring. Do we want to keep plugging at existing organizations to do things that may or may not interest more people? Or should we let these organizations die? Perhaps apathy has reached epidemic proportions — but is this not a sign of the times apparent on every campus across the nation?

# ERA Would Give Women Full Citizenship

by Sara Engram

Alice Paul is 92 years old. Since 1910, when she was 25, her sole commitment has been the movement to gain full equality for women. Initially she focused on the struggle for women's suffrage. Then, in 1923 as leader of the National Women's Party, she drafted the Equal Rights Amendment. Thus she began the long, continuing effort to amend the United States Constitution in order to guarantee that neither the federal government nor the states can abridge a person's rights because of sex.

Alice Paul has never believed that suffrage is all women need; she sees the web of laws designed to protect women as a trap which denies them the full rights of citizenship. The purpose of the Equal Rights Amendment is to establish as federal law the principle of full citizenship and equality for women as well as men.

The North Carolina House of Representatives approved the Equal Rights Amendment February 9 by a vote of 61 to 55. Before the vote was taken, Representative George Miller, who sponsored the bill in the House, made a brief statement. He pointed out that if he presented a laundry list of things the amendment will and will not do, the Legislature would never reach agreement. The ERA, like other amendments, states a general principle. Representative Miller urged approval of the ERA to affirm the principle that men and women are entitled to equal protection by the law.

Except for the 19th Amendment, which guarantees women the right to vote, the Constitution does not

explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. Because the intent of the law is taken into account in the interpretation of the Constitution, amendments which read as though they might prohibit sex discrimination do not in fact grant that protection.

For instance, the 14th Amendment declares, "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States . . . nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." But no one has won an appeal to the Supreme Court basing her defense of the 14th Amendment and alleging that her rights as a citizen have been abridged on the basis of sex. The 14th Amendment was written in the 19th century, before women could vote or have full property rights. The intent of the amendment was to extend the protection of the Constitution to all males. Women, by virtue of their sex, were not full citizens, and the men who wrote and ratified the amendment had no intention of changing that situation. The 14th Amendment, therefore, grants no one immunity from discrimination on the basis of sex.

Under current law, any person who charges that she has been discriminated against because of her sex bears the burden of proving that the discrimination does exist, and she must show how it abridges her rights. Proving sex discrimination can be difficult, especially when the Constitution does not explicitly prohibit such discrimination. Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment would

shift the burden of proof. The party charged with sex discrimination would need to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that discrimination did not exist. Thus the victim of discrimination would no longer be responsible for proving that she is, in fact, a victim.

It is ironic that many critics of the Equal Rights Amendment point to the progress women have made in recent years as proof that the ERA is not really necessary. Much of this progress can be attributed directly to the proposed amendment and to the discussion and debate about it. Representative Henry Frye noted the influence of the Equal Rights Amendment in a statement to the House before the members voted to approve the amendment. He pointed out the wording of the amendment. "It says that the amendment goes into effect two years after ratification. This is to give the states a chance to try and clean up our own laws and correct them. Some states like North Carolina are already beginning to do that and generally we're doing a good job. If ERA had not been proposed, I submit to you we would not be as far along as we are now." (Quoted in the *Greensboro Daily News*, Thursday, February 10, 1977.)

During the 54 years since Alice Paul first drafted the Equal Rights Amendment, women have overcome many barriers to full citizenship. Ratification of the ERA will affirm the full citizenship of women, as well as the equality before the law of all Americans, whether female or male.

## Committee Passes Three Proposals

By Kathy Watkinson

The Curriculum Committee met on Feb. 3 to discuss three proposals. They were approved and passed on for faculty approval, which was obtained on Feb. 8.

The Chemistry Department requested that Chem. 201: Physical Methods be split into two one-half credit courses, one in the fall and one in the spring. There would be one lab and one lecture per week. As it stands now, Chem. 201 is a one-credit course with two labs

and two lectures per week. The change will make it easier for the student to fit the course in her schedule.

The Department of History-Political Science will delete Political Science 260: Modern Political Unity and Ordination, and add a new course, Political Science 240: American Foreign Policy. The catalogue will read: "A study of United States foreign policy and of the decision making process in the American foreign affairs establishment. Analysis of American foreign policy trends and contemporary political economic policies. Offered in 1977-78 by Dr. Pubantz." This course will differ from Diplomatic History which will be changed to a historical survey for one semester and a problems course for the next semester.

The Psychology-Education Department unanimously proposed that the Psychology and Education Departments be divided into two separate departments. The Education department will be a department but will not offer a major; the proposal was made with the stipulation that a major will not be formed. There are strong feelings against such action from the administration and the Education faculty. In order to pull the Special Education Center closer to the department of Education, it will be administered under this unit as one of four teaching specialties. James Bray will be appointed chairman of Education. This proposal will become effective in the fall of 1977.

SGA

Thursday March 17

Speeches at required SGA

Tuesday March 22

Elections at required SGA

Thursday April 7

Installation

## Election Revisions

By Kathy Kirkpatrick

Elections for the principle offices for the 1977-78 school year will be held in less than a month. The Elections Committee has reviewed and made a few revisions in the elections process. They have reduced the time that the entire process takes from five weeks to three weeks, thus quickening the process for anxious candidates and reducing the required involvement for the student body. The committee has proposed active campaigning for these positions which will lead students to sell themselves to their fellow students. Active campaigning could include posters, stuffing dorm boxes, holding debates, rallies, etc. The committee feels this will show those students that are interested in the position and want to do a good job.

Elections Schedule

Sunday March 6-9

Petitioning in Lehman each day from 12:00-1:00 and 6:30-7:30 to file see Dawn Scott in Bitting.

Thursday March 10

Primary to be held at dinner if necessary to narrow any ballots to five candidates

Tuesday March 15

Secondary Ballot at required

## Energy Sensibility

by Sandra L. Spear

In the Spring of 1974 Americans waited in line for gasoline to run their cars and said that there was an energy crisis. In the winter of 1977 we shiver under blankets as we turn our thermostats down to 65 degrees. Again we say there is an energy crisis, but this one seems to be costing more than a few extra minutes at the gas pump; it is costing some Americans their livelihoods and, in scattered instances, even their lives. For most Americans, including Salemites, the energy crisis costs money.

Salem uses fuel oil to heat both our buildings and our hot water, and this oil is both short in supply and high in cost. Despite drastic conservation measures which Salem has instituted since 1972, the projected utility budget for '76-'77 is 81 percent higher than the utility outlay for '72-'73. These figures were provided by William Talbert last fall before the cold weather hit and are expected to be much higher by the end of the year.

It is the responsibility of the students at both the College and the Academy to help in keeping this cost down. If your room is too cold, try keeping your door closed as much as possible to retain the heat in your room. If your room is too hot, don't open your window. Call the maintenance department to repair your radiator. Also, try to limit the length of your showers to conserve hot water. Electricity costs money too, so turn off unnecessary lights and appliances, particularly the appliances such as electric curlers, hair dryers and hot pots which use the most electricity. By doing your part to keep utility costs lower, you can help keep tuition and room and board costs lower too.