

Editorial

I never fully appreciated spring until I came to Salem. The luxurious days of summer; with their golden warmth sustained by the slightest saltiest sea breeze, were what re-awakened my slumbering senses. The brief respite from winter hibernation this past weekend, like a clarion, heralded a spring just on the horizon; and the sights, smells, and sounds of Salem springs past once again enraptured me.

The spring of 1977 seems as distant on the calendar as the dimmest star on a clear night. Fortunately, memories are not absorbed by fading almanacs. In the spring of my freshman year my love for Salem began as the first flowers shyly blossomed. Awkwardly, I sought to give my quixotic ideals the strength to become reality. Through fall and winter, I had observed others enact the roles of young women with a proud history and a promising future. I desperately deired to share with them those rites of passage which ripen the child to ageless maturity. Though journalism seemed terribly uncomplimentary to my romantic aspirations, I was drawn to the school newspaper as my mode of communication.

The following spring found me sincerely committed to the demands of quality which Salem requests from each student who chooses to be more than a passive observer. By being on the staff of **The Salemite** I could attempt to realize my image of the student who creates a college experience for herself, which is one with the college which offers her this challenge. I, who had sworn to transfer, now swore an unflinching love and devotion for my class, my fellow students, and my alma mater. Secure in my knowledge that I had been blessed as few others are with perfect combination of place and time, I wanted only to become a representative on campus of the best Salem can tender.

How quickly a year can pass is comparable to how close to that time you still feel. I remember the fear mingled with promises, as I accepted the position of editor-in-chief in the spring of 1979. This was my chance to return to Salem, that which we had together built within me. I was restrained only by my own limitations and by a senior year which is as brilliant and brief as a falling star. **The Salemite**, as the students' newspaper, would echo their voices and publish their interests. As a part of Salem College, it would be faithful to the traditions of service and honor which inspired the founding Moravians to build our school. The image of the college would be strengthened through the efforts of her special community and reflected in the pages of **The Salemite**. These were my promises a year ago. I have failed to mention that spring is a schizophrenic season. Each warm breeze and shade of green is feverish with rebirth and blatant of its brevity. My last spring at Salem is just beyond my grasp. My role, as editor of this paper, I am handing over to those with new visions and promises. Just as I have strived to represent the students on this campus, I must recommit myself to a new responsibility. Wherever I may be in springs to come I will be an illustration of what Salem is. I view the conclusion of my editorship with both relief and sadness. For better or worse, I have done my best and it is consoling to entrust **The Salemite** to capable hands. However, there is melancholy in the parting with what has been one of the most meaningful of my college experiences. Spring is schizophrenic, but this kind of lunacy I welcome. I have been a part of the proud history and now shall endeavor to assume responsibility in the future.

Laura Castellanos del Valle

The Salemite

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To the editor:

This is regarding prices at the Salem College Book Store, which most students consider rather high in comparison with other stores in the area.

I interviewed Mrs. Clay last year for a feature article in the *Suburbanite*. During the conversation, she mentioned that she and her husband owned all the Ellis-Ashburn Stationer Stores in Winston-Salem. She explained that when one store runs out of an item, a truck is sent across town to pick up the item.

I was questioning the price of poster board earlier this year, and was told then, by a store worker, that the reason for the high prices was the fact that the bookstore "couldn't buy in volume."

I was told last week by an informed source, that although notebooks bearing the Salem College and Academy insignias, toothpaste and other articles must be bought specifically for the college's needs, (and so not purchased in volume), other items such as poster board and plain paper are indeed bought in volume.

I am not questioning the prices, as any business has the right to set its own prices. I was, however, discontent to learn that I had been told an untruth.

I do find it hard to understand why texts books are so expensive, especially used books. When a student takes a book to sell back to the store, she receives a much lesser amount than the book store does upon sale of that book.

A student who receives half of what she intially paid for a text may find it the next year for two or three dollars less than the original price.

The SGA book sale was a great undertaking, and I hope it will continue to do well next year.

Sincerely,
 Carolyn McCollum

Dear Editor:

In response to the editorial and associated columns of the *Salemite* (February 15, 1980), I would like to present another opinion. As an alumna and employee of the Salem Book Store, I feel that I have had exposure to both viewpoints.

As a previous student, I agree that many of your points are valid. Yes, the prices are high which is understandable considering the small quantities in which they are purchased for resale. Concerning the "no charge" policy, it is an embarrassment to find out that your parents have not paid your bill and an embarrassment to the employee that must tell you so.

There are a few facts that I have found out as an employee of which I believe most students are unaware. The Salem Book Store was at one time owned and managed by Salem College as most college bookstores are. This proved not to be a profitable venture which caused the College to put it up for lease to a private organization. The only stipulation was that the Book Store also handle the textbook sales which was a drawback to many prospective private owners. Ellis Ashburn Stationers leased the Book Store from Salem College and added this store to their two other stores in town. The Book Store is the only store of the three which carries sundries (shampoo, deodorant, medicines) and food. The other items are bought, priced, and distributed in the same manner as in their other two stores. The textbooks are handled separately by only one employee.

The Book Store has its own billing system separate from that of Ellis Ashburn. Some students don't understand the reason for a minimum charge, but this is due to the ten transactions done on each ticket. These steps include: 1) write the ticket and file, 2) alphabetize, 3) ring into the register, 4) yellow and white pages divided, 5) white pages filed, 6) yellow pages added together, 7) yellow pages sent to another store, 8) totals posted to personal ledgers, 9) yellow pages filed, and 10) white pages mailed with bills. This paperwork is only a portion of the overhead and adds to the smooth workings of the Book Store.

In summary, the Book Store is for the student's convenience, but it is by no means a non-profit organization. It should also be obvious that rules of economics dictate higher prices in independent, smaller stores. I am as aware of this as the next consumer but often will save the cost of gas to go to a store within walking distance.

I hope this clears up some of the misconceptions of the Salem Book Store. If we can help you understand any of the other store policies or problems, do not hesitate to ask for an explanation.

Sincerely,
 Judith Kastner, Class of 1979

Dear Editor:

In reaction to your editorial in *The Salemite* of February 15, 1980, it is difficult to believe that any editor of any newspaper would put into print such derogatory accusations without first researching the subject completely. Such vilifying journalism is considered libel. No officer of Ellis Ashburn, Stationer, Inc., lessee of the Salem Book Store was contacted by you or any member of your staff prior to publication. Apparently no knowledgeable individual from the college administration or board of trustees was consulted either.

Kindly note that Ellis Ashburn, Stationer, Inc., did not seek the lease of the Salem Book Store. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees and The President of Salem Academy and College approached us. If running the bookstore had been considered to be in the best interest of Salem, obviously they would have arranged for Salem to continue to do so. If we have not considered being of service to Salem, we would not have accepted the challenge in the first place, nor remained on the scene throughout the vacillations of subsequent years.

Being "down-on-the-bookstore" is a common occurrence on college campuses. In its fairest form it indicates questioning minds and a chance for learning and exchange. The path to honest investigation and responsible airing of grievances is always open. Choosing to harbor unknown complaints constitutes a disservice to all and in no way enhances Salem's heritage nor anyone's integrity.

Let us all be reminded of the Danish proverb that observes, "He who is afraid to ask is ashamed of learning." I also recognize that adversity can be used as opportunity for improvement and advancement. Please understand that I welcome responsible approaches by any person seeking legitimate information and will be happy to schedule an appointment with those interested in pursuing enlightenment. I extend best wishes to you and all Salemites in your educational endeavors.

Richard T. Clay
 Secretary and Treasurer

Editorial Response:

In response to the letter from Mr. Richard Clay, the editor would like to respond along the lines of the following points:

1.) It is not the policy of the *Salemite* or any other newspaper (to the editors knowledge) to contact the people involved in an editorial statement previous to publication. However, as responsible journalists the *Salemite* staff did confer with students, faculty and administration knowledgeable of the Bookstore situation prior to publication to check accuracy of the complaints made against the Salem Book Store.

2.) The *Salemite* is fully aware that the lease of Salem Bookstore was negotiated under a previous administration and that these negotiations were made at a different financial point in the College's past. However the *Salemite* questions the "service to Salem" which Mr. Clay contends his business provides. What is Mr. Clay's definition of "service"? Also, to which "Salem" is this "service" being offered; Old Salem (e.g. tourists) and/or Salem Academy and College? We are also curious to know in detail which "vacillations of subsequent years" Mr. Clay feels have been of particular importance.

3.) The staff of the *Salemite* does not believe itself to have played the role of instigator in the boycott of the bookstore. The boycott movement was a spontaneous display of concerned action by members of the College Community. The grievance which sparked the boycott were common knowledge and under investigation by student government. The *Salemite* supports and will continue to support the Boycott movement.

4.) The *Salemite* would like to thank Mr. Clay for his letter to the editor. We would welcome any opportunity to further our dialogue with him as the bookstore situation continues to develop. In closing, The *Salemite* would like to strongly object to Mr. Clay's cry of libel and remind him that such a statement is slanderous to the reputation of a newspaper which is proud of its service to the Salem College Community since 1920.

Elections '80

The Offices Students Can Run For:

1. President of Student Government.
2. Chairman of Honor Council.
3. Vice-President of Student Government.
4. Treasurer of Student Government.
5. Secretary of Student Government.
6. Director of Student Activities.
7. Secretary of Honor Council.
8. Secretary of Interdorm Council.
9. Class Representatives and Day Student Representatives to Honor Council.
10. Big Four Chairman.
11. Social Activities Chairman.
12. President of YWCA.
13. Chairman of April Arts.
14. Chief Marshall.
15. Fall Fest Chairman.

Monday, March 3 - First day to apply for office. See Ann Carter Craddock, & sisters to fill out an application.

Thursday, March 6 - Talk with old officers at 1:15 in Bitting Reception Room.

Monday, March 10 - Last day to apply by 4:00. Campaigning begins at 8:00.

Tuesday, March 11 - Primary balloting if necessary in S.G.A. Thursday, March 13 - Required S.G.A. speeches, secondary balloting.

Tuesday, March 18 - Required S.G.A. Final balloting. After elections party at 4:00 in Student Center. Everyone welcome!

Chopin Celebration

Incunabula invites you to celebrate Chopin's birthday. Sunday, March 2, 1980 at 4:00 in Shirley Recital Hall. Dean Sandresky will give a brief lecture on the composer, and a film, Arthur Rubenstein: Homage to Chopin will be shown. The film includes performances of Chopin's Prelude in F Minor, Nocturne in F Minor, and Pohnaise in A Flat Major. After the lecture and film, bir- thday cake and other delectables will be served. Please note as well, the display of Chopin set up in Gramley library.