

## EDITORIALS



## Salem Ambassadors' Purpose Is Explained

When one hears the word "ambassador" visions of Henry Kissinger probably come to mind. Yet, on Salem's campus about 17 different images of ambassadors appear.

Ambassadors is an organization which was founded in the fall of 1980 to serve as a liaison between alumnae and students and to work conjunctively with the Development Office and the Alumnae Office. Their ultimate functions are to assist with the seven-year

fundraising Salem Challenge and to give alumnae better campus support.

Ambassadors work directly with Martha Carlyle and Laura Esleek of the Development Office and Doris Eller of the Alumnae Office. The students represent the college at alumnae functions and fundraising kickoffs in neighboring states. This semester they will have traveled to campaigns in Greenville, Spartanburg, and Columbia, S.C. The Ambassadors also

assist with the Salem Challenge phonathons, Alumnae Weekend and Senior Pledge in the spring. This weekend they will give historic lantern tours of the Salem campus.

New upperclassmen members are selected in the spring and freshman members are elected in the fall by old members. Ambassadors remain in the organization until they graduate from Salem.

Members for 1981-82 include: Angeline Fleeman, president; Ellen Hamrick, vice president; Janie Parker, treasurer; Libby Glenn, recording secretary; Valerie Reibel, corresponding secretary; Fordham Baldrige, Muffie Barksdale, Laurie Davis, Mitzi Dooley, Lynn Winston, Susan Hemmingway, Lynn Tate, Beth Waters, Sally Hill, Susan Britt Murphrey, Martha Pritchard, and Katherine Baldrige.

## Express Your Opinions

The purpose of a student editorial page is to voice opinions about issues concerning its student body. Therefore, The Salemite editorial staff hopes that students will take advantage of this opportunity either by writing editorials or letters to the editor.

The deadline for the final issue of The Salemite for this semester is 4:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 30. The Salemite office is located in the basement of Lehman Hall.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

At the end of the last SGA meeting, I felt an urgent need to express my disapproval of the way that students and student leaders have conducted themselves at student government meetings. At each SGA meeting, unacceptable conduct has been exhibited by both those attending the meeting and those speaking on the stage. This situation must be remedied immediately.

Our student leaders need to have more pride and confidence in themselves than to stand for the harassment which they receive while on stage. I feel that it is not unreasonable to expect Salem students to give credit to these leaders by simply withholding their inappropriate comments (i.e. whistles, sneers, laughter and defamatory remarks). These comments can, and often do, discredit the student's entire presentation.

One of the benefits of Salem is the fact that our own personal friends represent us in our student government. It is disappointing to witness that our leaders are not allowed to separate themselves from being our friends, for just a few minutes, in order to assume the roles which we have elected them to fill.

In future SGA meetings, we must express our pride and concern for student government by conducting ourselves more appropriately. Those people who serve as our student leaders must demand respect. We as students who have chosen them must learn to give them the respect that they deserve.

Lee Richardson

Dear Editor:

Tuesday, Nov. 2, brought stunning news to the Square: Dr. Richard Morrill resigned. As a student strongly committed to Salem and her purposes, I felt anger, betrayal, and concern. The seemingly pivotal point of Salem's fund drives, changing image, and progressive nature had moved. Where that left us was my question.

Now, though, my perspective is different. I have realized that I cannot know the many variables involved. More important, though, is my second realization: the pivotal point of Salem has not moved. This pivot is not the

Richard Morrills, the Dale Gramleys, the Howard Rondthalers. That which is Salem is time-tested and secure in its victory over many challenges. It is not stagnant; it changes with the passing of time, but retains its intrinsic character. Our legacy is this specialness, and

we alone are responsible for its vitality or demise.

It is left for us 1) to accept Morrill's decision and his need to consider his future; and 2) to look ahead, to search for the person, whomever he or she may be, who will be committed to Salem's economic and, more importantly, educational goals.

Dr. Morrill will be missed in ways. However, we, too, must pursue our ends, our aims, our goals. Salem is moving forward; a turnover in administration may stall, but cannot stagnate, this process. Not an individual, nor a faction, but all of us here are forces in this movement.

We must discern our ends and, keeping those in sight, require both of ourselves and of the new president the commitment to achieve these ends, for we are the means.

Julie Risher

## A Practical Solution To a Costly Problem

For many years, the Salem College library has been plagued with the problem of missing books. Recent inventories indicate that the problem may be growing more severe. Because the library is one of Salem's most valuable resources, funds should be appropriated to provide the library with an electronic book protection system.

A protection system for the library's books would cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000 to install. This is not an unreasonable price to pay considering that the system would pay for itself in a few years.

One example of the large number of missing books and their cost to Salem is illustrated in the results of a 1980 inventory. In 1971, volumes in the Salem library were put on the Library of Congress classification system, an alternative to the Dewey Decimal System. Nine years later, in 1980, our collection of books on the Library of Congress system were inventoried. The collection had grown to 51,000 volumes and the missing book rate was calculated at approximately 1 percent. At first glance, this appears to be a small loss; however, when the facts are closely examined a 1 percent rate of loss means about 500 missing books. If all the missing books were replaced at an average cost of \$30 each it would cost \$15,000.

Now, eighteen months later, another inventory is being taken on selected sections of the collection on the Library of Congress system. One section inventoried yielded a missing book rate of 2.2 percent. Although this is a small sample, it may be an indication that the problem is getting worse.

Some of the missing books are returned, but the majority of them are not. The cost of this loss to Salem is felt in various ways: the initial cost of the books; the replacement cost of the books - which unfortunately do not all get replaced; and the opportunity costs to the student.

The problem of missing library books at Salem is not a new one. Salem College should install a book protection system to end this problem. An electronic protection system is a practical solution to a very costly problem.

Ann Biswell

## The Salemite

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