

Wrong Target

Though we have completed the second full week of classes, occasionally students and-or faculty members can still be heard grumbling over textbooks -- that is, their expense or the limited supply which seemed available. The target of criticism concerning textbooks is usually the Bookstore. Only recently when I spoke with Bookstore proprietors, Tommy Tucker and Mary Louise Allan, did I change my original notion that they were "highway robbers."

The Bookstore is not responsible for the escalating prices of textbooks. The publishers set the prices, and with paper costs rising (and the economy sinking) they pass the expenses on to us, the consumers. Our faculty members select which textbooks to use; they don't have to select the most expensive ones, when less expensive ones are available.

The Bookstore makes only 25 percent profit on most textbooks sold -- including paperbacks. Twenty-five percent is not a lot when you consider their expenditures: they pay rent on the textbook room all year long, they pay the in and out freight expenses and in order to pay cash for student's books during "Buy-Back", the Bookstore must borrow the money for 90 days and pay 15 percent interest.

In response to those of you still complaining because you feel the Bookstore did not order enough books, consider this: Ms. Allan checks with the Registrar three times before she places an order. Preregistration figures are used, but Ms. Allan also goes over the orders of the past three years to see any trends in class enrollment. She cannot determine how many students will drop-add, how many CE students will register in the fall, or how many students will borrow or share a textbook and not buy one at all.

There is no perfect system for ordering-selling textbooks. If you know a better way or have any suggestions, VOICE THEM! I believe we at Salem should be appreciative of the job our Bookstore is doing.

by Teri L. Capshaw



Book Buying Blues

The Salemite

Printed by Lindsay Publishing Co.
King, N.C.

Editor: Teri Capshaw
Associate Editor: Stephanie Vance
Business Manager: Pamela Sawers
Assistant Business Manager: Anna Shell
Reporters: Julia Bedenbaugh, Elisabeth Butler, Alice Crawford, Robin Elmore, Sandra Freuler, Amanda Mays, Melinda McAfee, Susan Miller, Sarah Robinette, Robin Wiley.
Proofreaders: Ferebee Brown, Elisabeth Butler, Laura Hester
Lay-out Staff: Susan Butler, Alice Crawford, Laura Hester
Cartoonist: Nina Anderson
Circulation: Sandra Freuler, Robin Wiley
Advisors: Laura Edwards, Nancy Stephens

Letters to the Editor

Inauguration

Dear Editor,

I recently received an invitation which has been extended to the entire student body at Salem - this includes not only boarding students, but also day students and C.E.'s. The event is the inauguration of Dr. Thomas Vernon Litzenburg which is scheduled to take place October 12, 1982 at 2:00 P.M. in Salem Square. There will also be a reception following the ceremony which all may attend.

As is customary with such an important occasion,

seniors and faculty members will process, as will the distinguished representatives from other institutions of higher education and our own Board of Trustees. Many important friends of both the Academy and the College will also be in attendance.

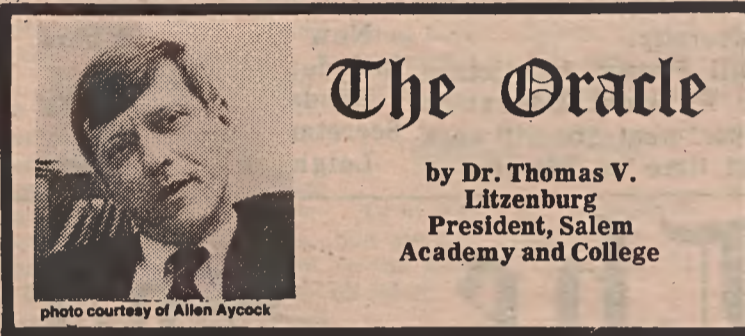
As most seniors will attest, an inauguration (especially that of the President of Salem Academy and College) is pomp and circumstance at its best. There's a new twist this time, though, that I'm sure will please all - that is, that the ceremony is to be simple yet elegant (and with things being as complicated as they are - the simpler the better). I

urge all students to please attend this special occasion. It's a "once-in-a-lifetime" event that really shouldn't be missed!

I'd also like to clear up a rumor that students may or may not have heard: No, classes will not be officially suspended for the afternoon of the inauguration; however, most faculty members will be processing in their full regalia.

Please remember this is our formal welcoming of Dr. Litzenburg to the Salem community. I hope all students will attend. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Judy Watson



The purpose of "The Oracle" is to involve faculty and administration in expressing their views about pertinent issues concerning students and today's world, around or beyond the square. This week, Dr. Thomas V. Litzenburg, Jr., president of Salem College and Academy, addresses women's education.

M. Carey Thomas, the early and legendary President of Bryn Mawr College, once accused Charles Elliot, the President of Harvard, of having a "dark spot" on the brain for suggesting, as she put it, that "the great tradition of learning" exists for men "and is of no service in woman's education." The truth of the matter, according to President Thomas, is that "there is ... not a word to be said against the success and efficiency and healthfulness" of the women who have been "educated by men's curriculum."

President Thomas' defense of women's education was both determined and defiant. She had little time for the notion that there were "subjects peculiar to women." If women are to live and work together with men, then their college education should provide them with the "same intellectual training and the same scholarly and moral standards." That President Elliot appeared to suffer from "some dark spot of medievalism" about the worth of a liberal education for women was, for President Thomas, reason enough to champion the cause of women's colleges and to ensure that Bryn Mawr provided a course of study comparable to that of Harvard.

While Elliot's opinion on the matter remains as foolish as when he unwisely put it forward for President Thomas' consideration, it is unlikely that anyone could have foreseen the untoward consequences of Thomas' contention that, in matters of scholarship and learning, there are no distinctions to be drawn between men and women.

In retrospect, however, we can see clearly what President Thomas may have only dimly perceived. The education afforded women is comparable to that provided to men. Indeed, in the view of many women, the education they receive is one that, for centuries, has been the province of men -- designed to serve their needs and purposes. It is not surprising that women have begun to ask for even more. As the eminent historian, Carl Degler, has noted, women "are beginning to see their scholarly interests and concerns as different in some ways from those of men."

The students and faculty at Salem have long understood and accepted the implication of Degler's more recent discovery that "women's conception of humanity is not necessarily identical to that of men." We, I suspect, would consider it something of an understatement to suggest that "the ways of studying human beings may not be the same when women's interests and concerns are acknowledged and included." Afflicted not at all by Elliot's dark spots and convinced that President Thomas conceded too much, at Salem we live by a forthright and firm resolve: an education for women worthy of the name is one that seriously and consistently takes into account their needs and concerns.

Rushed Fall Fest

To the Editor:

This year several changes have been made in the format for Fall Fest. These changes were made as a result of complaints by professors that the quality of students' work was hurt by the time spent with Fall Fest preparations and the day itself. I would like to argue one of these changes; however, I would first like to say that I know we are all here for academic purposes and that nothing should deter us from that.

I feel that one of the (perhaps THE) most important result(s) of Fall Fest has been lost due to the limited one week planning period. It won't hurt me personally because I'm a Senior, but it will hurt our most important class - the Freshmen. They will have one week to rush and put together a skit, songs, and costumes; they will miss out on a wonderful month of working together, getting to know one another, and coming together as a class. I believe the Class of '86 is being cut out of something that is very "Salemy" for something that is already very "Salemy." The professors should be happy when all the freshmen make A's on their first assignments, since they will not have that "horrible" Fall Fest to distract them. However, when the Freshmen still don't know each other by the end of first semester, who will be the hurt ones?

Sincerely,
Amanda Mays

The Salemite welcomes all Letters to the Editor. Names may be withheld from publication at the request of the author(s) if cause to do so is evident, but will be disclosed upon individual inquiry. Letters must not exceed 300 words in length. The Salemite reserves the right to edit any letters for length, clarity, or those which are libelous or clearly in poor taste. Letters may be left in the 'Letter to the Editor' boxes in Main Hall or the Refectory, or they may be submitted to Teri Capshaw, 305 Bitting.