

# Newspaper Week

*'The vital measure of a newspaper is not its size but its spirit — that is its responsibility to report the news fully, accurately and fairly.'*

Arthur Hays Sulzberger

October 10-16 is National Newspaper Week. So what, right? Wrong. The theme for the week, "A Free Press — Your Key to Freedom" is worthy of your attention -- whether you are a student, a faculty member, or a member of the administration.

Although freedom of the press is guaranteed in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, today the press continues to fight to maintain its freedom to seek, to ask, to understand, to know what is occurring in and out of the government. Efforts are being made in Congress to weaken the Freedom of Information Act. President Reagan's Executive Order 12356 is abetting this effort by making it easier for all government officials to attach secrecy labels to government information.

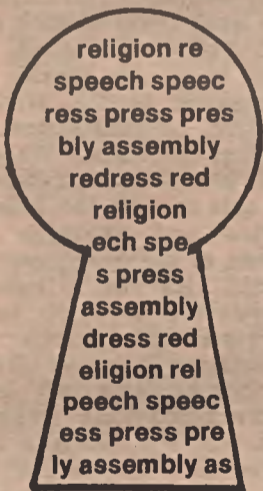
Freedom of the press belongs to all people in this country, from the largest daily to the smallest collegiate bi-monthly like The Salemite.

The Salemite has 'served the Salem College community since 1920' — How well, is determined year to year, to some extent, by the individual editor. But the entire campus has an equal opportunity to participate in the production of The Salemite and influence its content and style.

However, the Salemite is not a 'tool' that can be used by the administration or the student body. We on the staff strive to responsibly report the news fully, accurately, and fairly. Personal opinions can be expressed through editorials or letters to the editor. I personally object to the administration's policy of not announcing tenure decisions and in an editorial last semester I vehemently voiced my opinion. Dean Sullivan, likewise, responded in a letter to the editor with the administration's viewpoint. In the last issue of the Salemite I vehemently spoke out against poor behavior at Fall Fest. I have since, through hearsay, learned that I have been 'blacklisted' by many Freshmen. That does not worry or trouble me as much as the fact that NO Freshmen or Sophomores have voiced their disagreement with my editorial by submitting a letter to the editor.

A free press is your key to freedom. Anyone can contribute straight news articles or opinionated letters to the editor; to The Salemite. Recognize, appreciate, and support the freedom The Salemite offers.

by Teri L. Capshaw



**A Free Press:  
Your Key  
To Freedom**

## The Salemite

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King, N.C.  
 Editor: Teri Capshaw  
 Associate Editor: Stephanie Vance  
 Business Manager: Pamela Sawers  
 Assistant Business Manager: Anna Shell  
 Reporters: Carla Blakely, Ellen Brown, Alice Crawford, Robin Elmore, Sandra Freuler, Laura Hester, Amanda Mays, Melinda McAfee, Susan Miller, Chandra Stallworth, Robin Wiley.  
 Proofreaders: Ferebee Brown, Susan Butler, Melinda McAfee, Sarah Robinette.  
 Lay-out Staff: Susan Butler, Alice Crawford, Laura Hester  
 Cartoonist: Nina Anderson, Kathy Schulze  
 Photographer: Kathy Schulze  
 Circulation: Carla Blakely, Sandra Freuler, Robin Wiley.  
 Advisors: Laura Edwards, Nancy Stephens

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

It has become increasingly obvious to me that some of the professors at Salem College have a condescending attitude toward some of their students.

I first noticed this "Yes, Dear" attitude in one of the professors who I had last year. I brushed it off as I considered it to be the personal viewpoint of that

particular professor.

I have, this year, noticed a number of professors talk down to a number of intelligent students.

An example of this was when I observed a fellow student raise her hand in class and ask a question. Her question was relevant to the topic of discussion. The professor answered her question in a sarcastic tone of voice and spoke very slowly.

This made the student feel embarrassed. This made me feel angry, and lowered my opinion and the degree of respect I had for that professor.

I have observed other instances when professors have not said anything condescending, but have acted in such a way that anyone could readily interpret the expression on their face or their body language as, "Get with it, honey."

Salem women have been said to be "green," over-protected, and naive, but I do not think the majority of women here are so unob-servant that they have not noticed this condescending attitude in at least one instance.

This type of opinionated behavior has no place in the classroom, and especially not at Salem College.

If emancipation of Suzy Salem is the goal, these biases are only solidifying the stereotype.

Sincerely,  
Pamela Sawers

Dear Editor,

In the last issue of The Salemite there was a mistake made in the Fall Fest article. The article stated that the juniors were the sister class of the seniors. I would like to take this opportunity to apologize for our mistake, but I would also like to discuss the reactions of some students toward this mistake.

A lot of work goes into turning out a bi-monthly student newspaper. Until this year I did not realize how complicated and time consuming it can be. Since The Salemite is a student newspaper we need student support. After the last issue came out I was thoroughly discouraged by the comments I heard. Many people after finding the mistake began to criticize the entire newspaper. This is unfortunately not the first time I have heard students criticize campus organizations. Each organization at Salem needs and deserves the support and cooperation of the entire student body.

Any suggestions for improvement of The Salemite are welcome. We are not professionals.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Vance

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.



## The Oracle

by Dr. Dale H. Gramley,  
President, Emeritus

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. Dale Gramley, President, Emeritus addresses the college president's role.

Although Thomas V. Litzenburg, Jr., is Salem's 17th president, he is only the fourth head of the institution to be formally inaugurated. My inauguration as the 13th president was the first. This was on April 30, 1950, in Home Moravian Church after I had been in office ten months. Obviously the Board of Trustees, the faculty and the students were waiting until they thought I would "make it."

At many large institutions students never see the president until they graduate. But at Salem he is easy to spot and available to students as early as their first day on campus.

However, he is still something of a mystery to many. Space doesn't permit a full identification of him, but here is a partial glimpse:

A College President is a creature that the Board of Trustees and the general public think is essential to the operation of a college, but which faculty, staff, alumnae and students are quite sure on many occasions that they can get along without.

He is a symbol of authority, but he doesn't really exercise much authority in the conduct of academic and student affairs. Certainly, if he attempts to dictate, he might as well give up.

People give him credit for every good thing that happens on campus, including able teaching in the classroom, the honors which faculty and students win, the cleanliness of buildings, good food in the dining room, the state of the weather on a glorious day, and the attractiveness of the students (at Salem, that is).

Despite all the credit and honor that come his way, the College President is the goat when things go wrong; his position is a hazardous one. If the budget doesn't balance, he is on the spot with the trustees. If raises aren't forthcoming, he is in trouble with the faculty. If student commits a thoughtless act, he has permitted the college's good name to be tarnished. If he says "no" when student petitions finally reach his desk, he's behind the times. And if tuition and other fees are increased, he's a robber.

Deans try to protect a College President and so does his secreatry. Faculty members often misunderstand him. Freshmen seem to fear him, and a few Sophomores still revere him. Juniors, on the other hand, gradually come to realize he is a person as well as a symbol, and Seniors generally have him spotted as a guy not much different from their own fathers. As a consequence, they are reasonably tolerant of him.

Although he is frequently in the public eye, the College President leads a somewhat lonely life. His worries and troubles can't be shared, really, with anyone except his indulgent, generous and tolerant wife. And she undoubtedly gets tired both of his obvious preoccupation from time to time and his repetitious shop-talk most of the time.

No one really knows where a College President goes when he dies. However, up above or down below, as the case may be, he will observe in the year 2023 alumnae of the Class of 1983 coming back for their 40th reunion and saying to their grandchildren, when questioned as they pass a portrait in the hall: "Oh, let's see! Now wait a minute! I'm not certain, but I do believe that's the fellow who was president of the college when I graduated."