

# Speeches Show Healthy Attitude

by Susan Webb  
and Amy Washburn

The SGA election speeches forecasted progress in the 1988-89 academic year. They also marked a new attitude in student opinions of their place in the government at Salem. This past year's Executive Board has indeed laid the groundwork for such interest in individual and group roles in the governing process. As Johanna Metzgar pointed out in her election speech, we need to "keep the momentum going." Not only did the speeches mark new attitudes, but this year's accomplishments have proven *The Salemite's* often published claim that students can obtain what they desire and need if they only ask for it. Though the student government has achieved much this year, students need to follow the trend and really begin to take part in the processes of change. We have proven that we are capable of taking initiative.

It seems that a change in the overall attitude of the Salem student body is beginning to take place. No longer do we automatically identify ourselves as passive and obedient to authority without question. Rather, Salem students are seeing themselves as people whose opinions are worthwhile and should be voiced in every area of campus life. Salem

belongs to everyone here, especially the students, and our voices should not be denied in decisions of any magnitude.

Administration and students alike are beginning to realize that students are sometimes in a better position to identify problems and suggest solutions. Administration seems to be much more open to hearing the comments of students, and students are much more willing to come forward and express their views.

The first steps have been taken--the challenge now is to sustain our strength and drive as a student body. Students can push for higher goals and have higher expectations as we enter the 1988-89 year. As Ginger Saunders, SGA President for next year, said in her campaign speech, all the problems have not yet been identified. However, she emphasizes that as a student body working together we can find solutions and make Salem even better.

*The Salemite* this year has attempted to become an integral part of relations between students, student government, and administration. We would like to see the cooperative spirit continue and even surpass possibilities that once seemed remote.

## Letter to the Editor: SGA Effort Appreciated

Dear Editor,

Ahhh. . . Dinner! Should I eat at 5:30, 6:00, or 6:15? Well, the choice is finally mine. At the beginning of February, the Executive Board of Salem College accomplished one of its goals by reorganizing the schedule for dinner. I would like to publicly acknowledge my gratitude to the Executive Board and to the administration for listening and promptly responding to valid student complaints.

Frankly, I love the new dinner schedule. I think it is terrific that the traditional sit-down dinners occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The new system of handling "sit-downs" appears to be a success. There is much less waste, and

everyone seems a great deal more relaxed. Although some complain about the lines for dinner during the rest of the week, I enjoy having the flexibility of choosing what time is most convenient for me to eat. I usually eat past 5:30, and therefore I avoid the lines. The true worth of the new system lies in the fact that we as students, can CHOOSE when we decide to go to dinner. This freedom of choice is quite a refreshing change of pace. So, here's to Millie and the rest of the Executive Board team, and here's to the administration for responding positively to our constructive criticism--a job well done!

Elizabeth Betts

# Future SGA President Pinpoints Issues for the Coming Year

Hi! My name is Ginger Saunders and I am running for President of SGA. In my three years at Salem I have always been actively involved in Student Government with several positions ranging from Freshman Fall Fest Chairman to Secretary of SGA. Through these experiences, I have gained extensive knowledge of how things get accomplished is exactly what I intend to do.

Although I am running unopposed, you can still decide if you want me as your president. Because of this, I want you to have a notion of some of the issues I would like to see students address and fight about in the coming year.

Primarily, many decisions are made by the administration during the course of a year, but these decisions often don't come out before it is too late for our input as

students. As well, there is much information that gets exchanged among faculty, but hits the students again, too late. These decisions and this information, however, do tend to affect our lives greatly. A second problem that I see is that even when students have opinions on issues often times

those opinions and ideas don't come out of the dorms and make it to our Student Government leaders. In this light, I would like to see Legislative Board take on a more visible and vocal role next year by providing students with necessary information on campus issues. As well, it is becoming vital to establish some type of grievance board, which would be designed only to hear students' complaints,

opinions, and ideas. A third problem that I see is the conflict between traditional and adult students. Although this issue is currently being addressed, there is still much room and a serious need for our input.

I cannot begin to claim that I have all the solutions to these problems, nor do I claim to know what all the problems even are. But I do intend to find out. We've

come a long way this year, but we still have a long way to go to make Salem even better. With all of us working together, we can do it! We, as students, have a right to be heard, and obligation to voice our opinions. Let's make it a great year. Thanks!

## The Salemite

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