

# Public Safety and Faculty Trade

by Elizabeth Fennell

The Office of Public Safety for Salem Academy and College, as of May, 1990, will have a new office that is going to take the place of the Faculty and Staff Lounge underneath Main Hall. The official swap will occur soon after Commencement.

The main purpose behind the move is for the Public Safety Department to gain a larger - sized office. The Director of Institutional Services at both the College and the Academy, Mr. Steve Wright, explains the swap by stating that "...the staff expanded and [was] upgraded, but the facility had not." The change into the expanded work area for the certified security officers also is much "more practical" because both the Faculty Lounge and the Public Safety Office can update their furnishings and make necessary changes to deal with the expansion.

The move between the Lounge and the Office leaves only about twenty steps difference in between the two

(both the Lounge and Public Safety are currently underneath Main Hall -- cattycornering each other around the main Xerox room), making both "...still easily accessible to find" and to work with, continues Wright. He said that the swap became official on January 12th of this year by a memo within the College administration. In reference to this memo, Wright mentioned that "...this is a change needed long ago...", but now that all is finalized "...everyone is more adequately furnished of their needs....and [can] continue to function better."

The Student Government Association and the self - study that originated this past Fall semester "...was what made...[this move] possible..." states Wright with a small grin on his face. It helped to bring into light the issue of the Public Safety's expansion that was definitely needed. However, Steve Wright deserves much of the credit for his negotiations in this matter and has been successful in doing so by

receiving a larger work area for his officers.

The following is a little background history on the Public Safety Office at Salem College and Academy. All officers have been certified as law enforcement officers by having to work 416 hours completing basic law enforcement training and also passing a four hour North Carolina state exam. After finishing training and the exam, the trainees are eligible to be sworn in as law enforcement officers through the N.C. Sheriffs Association.

Since the College and Academy is an independent agency still answerable to the Sheriff's Department, the Public Safety Office will eventually be called a "company police." Other universities and colleges are following suit, like Queens College and East Carolina University.

The way that Steve Wright and Captain Owen, the "head" and thinktank of Public Safety, find applicants for future Salem community officers is mainly

through networking and by scanning and checking graduates of nearby technical colleges' Criminal Justice programs. The overall process takes from four to eight months due to the heavy screening required about the applicant's background, educationally and personally.

Looking into the future at the Student Commons, which is to be completed in 1995, there is going to be a satellite Public Safety Office ensconced within the building. This subsidiary - type office will have an officer stationed there for quicker response to calls along with a student worker.

In conclusion, all the students of the Salem College and the Salem Academy can look for the new Public Safety Office to remain underneath Main Hall but where the Faculty Lounge used to be. Overall, this is a very positive step for the Salem community in that changes needing to be made are being achieved. It may take a few years for finalization, but things are moving ahead -- slowly and surely.

## English Department Implements Changes

by Karen Lewis

The English Department is planning to make some exciting changes in their curriculum, according to Brian Meehan, chair of the department. As part of the 5-year plan recently submitted to the Curriculum committee, the department proposes to change its statement of purpose in the course guide to reflect more of an interest in the literature of women and minorities. Actual course changes, if approved by the committee will include, adding more works by minorities and woman to existing courses, such as those featuring novels and poetry of the twentieth century. There are also plans to create yearly Special Topics courses around the genre; possible topics include Afro-American Literature, selected autobiographies of authors in the genre, and Women of the Renaissance. As before, Independent Studies on particular aspects of the genre will be available.

The size of the English faculty prohibits implementing these various changes all at once. Particularly challenging in putting these plans into action, Dr. Meehan says, is the fact that the growing Communications major may take department member Jim Booth away from Freshman English classes, requiring another professor to fill in for him. Consequently, one existing course may have to be dropped each year, but this option has not yet been approved by the Curriculum Committee.

Dr. Meehan is quick to point out that women's literature is by no means making its premier in the course guide of Fall 1990: former faculty members Louise Gossett and Jess Byrd, both

"committed feminists," included works by women whenever course description allowed it. Current faculty members have this same interest and will now be able to create courses around descriptions specifically for women's studies. Emily Wilson, a published writer, made many of the suggestions which now appear in the official proposal sent to the Curriculum Committee and shows particular expertise in Afro-American studies. Janet Zehr, who plans to return to classes next semester, has taught many of the existing courses on women's literature. Caroline McAlister, the newest member of the department, has already sponsored a January Term Independent Study on Minority Women's Literature.

Dr. Meehan emphasizes that current courses in the English Department, specifically courses covering the "classics" which English majors need to have read for graduate school, will not be neglected. The English Department is simply responding to changes in literature and society. The department wishes to interest more students in the English major and in taking English courses as electives, and Dr. Meehan believes that these new courses on women's and minorities' literature will help accomplish this. Another department has an interest in these changes as well. Dorothy Russell and Jim Bray of the Education Department have endorsed these changes wholeheartedly because they bring the major more in line with the educational requirements of secondary English teachers.

It is hoped that some of the proposed changes will be in effect by next semester, with full implementation of the new emphasis by '91-92.