

SALEM STATE COLLEGE

October 9, 1969

To the College Community at Salem State College:

There is an issue being raised under the banner of a free press which cannot be resolved by a charge of censorship against any individual who would stand in opposition. At one of the State Colleges the staff of the college publication elected to print a copy of an article by Eldridge Cleaver containing obscene and offensive words. This article already has had national publication. Individuals wishing to read it are free to do so. The question at issue is not its appearance in the college publication. The question is the use of state funds allocated by the college and dispensed by the students to circulate such deleterious language.

It has been brought to my attention that the staff of The Log plans to join the staff of other State Colleges in printing the article in its coming issue. I ask that all students at Salem State College, particularly the staff of The Log, consider such action.

The Log is the "Independent Student Voice", gaining its support from the student activity fee which is administered by the Student Association after allocation through the Bursar's office of the College as a mandatory fee at registration. Such support of extracurricular activities at Salem State College was secured by the efforts of many student leaders of the past two decades, who saw that unless the activity fee is collected as a mandatory fee, subject to the proper accounting of its use, it will not function as a means of budgetary extracurricular activities such as athletic teams, publications,

drama, art, and many worthy extra classroom activities in the life of a student.

The decision by the staff of the college-supported paper to publish the article in question will set before the student body and those near to the campus, such as their families and pupils of the laboratory school, a level of language offensive to the majority of those paying the activity fee. This action of a small group raises the question as to the legal responsibility for the welfare of the college.

Who can act to withstand the purveyance of obscenity and filth in the name of the "Independent Student Voice"? As one charged with the legal administration of the State funds in question, I ask that The Log maintain an ethical code which reflects an adherence to the canons of good journalism. If the staff does not accept its responsibility, those legally charged with the responsibility for the coordination of the programs of the students and faculty of the college must act.

We as a College Community should consider the fact that each of the 3,600 students at Salem State College contributes \$60 collected by the college, audited by the State, and administered by the students. We should remember that if the fee is not mandatory, the entire extracurricular programs are threatened. In good conscience I cannot endorse the payment for an issue of the student paper which carries obscenities. Such an act is not censorship. It is an issue for the college community to decide as a fundamental principle.

Shall the funds to support student activities be collected by the college, audited by the State, and administered by the students, or shall each activity

secure voluntary fees or contributions from interested students? If The Log, or any activity, wishes to sever its relationship to the mandatory fee, then it is no longer an activity of Salem State College.

In reasoning together, let us benefit from the efforts and actions of past student groups and continue to maintain cooperative administration of the activity fee of the students.

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President