

# HOLLY LEAF

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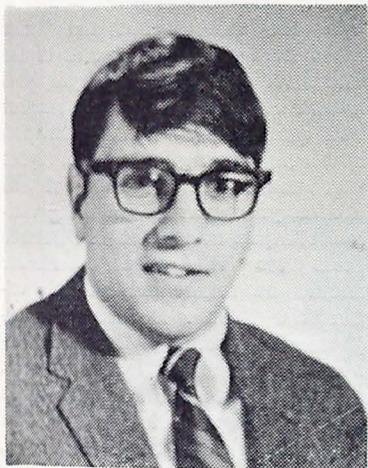
SALISBURY, STATE COLLEGE, SALISBURY, MD.

APRIL 20, 1969

## THREE PRES. CANDIDATES INTERVIEWED

### Decerbo Calls for Student Representation on "More Than Advisory Level"

Joseph Decerbo was a member of the Salisbury S.G.A. in both his freshman and sophomore years. Mr. Decerbo ran against Tom Smith, who is now president, but elected to not participate in a run-off against Mr. Smith because, "I didn't feel the time was right." Mr. Decerbo now feels the time is right and the following are excerpts from a recent interview with him.



Q. What do you feel that you, as President of the S.G.A., could do that our current president hasn't done?

A. I would like the students to feel, and they haven't felt it in the past, that they are a part of the S.G.A. Often the S.G.A. is thought of as an association that is apart from the students themselves when in actuality everyone

is a member of the organization with its leaders elected by the students. With the new atmosphere that has come about this year I believe that the new S.G.A. President should be one who can command respect as a leader; one the electorate will have faith in. I don't think that there has been that confidence in the past. I think I can promote that confidence.

Q. What are some of the specific problems that you see and what as S.G.A. President do you think you could do about them?

A. One of the problems I see in the future is representation on faculty and administration committees. I believe that students should be represented on more than an advisory level. As a member of the Student Academic Committee I think that this year we have seen the students do in one year what the faculty has been unable to do in many years; that is establish a definite policy regarding cuts. The students, if their opinions are sound enough to advise should likewise be sound enough to be taken into full account along side faculty and administrative opinions. A free interchange of ideas is the ideal and this can be accomplished only if the partners are equal in their voice.

I think that another problem that arises is: the amount of free-  
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### Outten Seeks to Distribute "Work Load" of SGA Board More Effectively

Nelson Outten is currently serving on the S.G.A. Board as a Representative at Large. Mr. Outten feels that, having been an "insider" so-to-speak, this year, along with other qualifications, he would make a strong president. He is currently a junior.

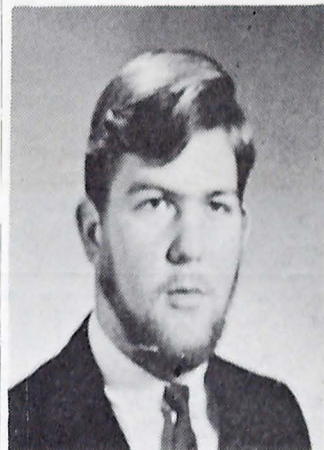
Q. What do you feel that you, as S.G.A. President, could do differently from our current president?

A. I believe that Tom Smith has done a fine job but I do think that I could, in many tight situations, offer a more open mind. I feel that I'm more apt to listen to more people and more ideas. This will be important as the campus grows and new, and hopefully better, ideas are introduced. I feel that Mr. Smith could have distributed more of the work load on other members of the Executive Board. In doing this I feel that he has let members of the Executive Board shy away from their designated duties, without intending to do so. I feel that I would try to delegate power more efficiently . . . because I have learned from this year's mistakes by working with the current president.

Q. What are some of the specific problems that you see and what as S.G.A. President do you think you could do about them?

A. Well, there are "social life" problems at SSC but this is not the only problem field. There are

academic issues and administrative policies that don't seem to do what they were set-up to do. Let me cite an example: I believe the Student Life Committee has too big a job. They presently have to sponsor, or are responsible for both formal and informal dances. Possibly the Student Union Board could take on some of these responsibilities so that group has very little to do despite their title.



If, say, informal dances could be sponsored by the Student Union Board I think things would run smoother and be better for all involved. Maybe, in this way, more day students, who participated less than most dorm students, would become more active. A better atmosphere, I believe, would be the result. I'd like to see the day stu-  
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### Dr. Smith Speaks on SGA Election for '69

Student government has become a most important part of nearly all our campuses. Both the administration and faculty of most colleges look to the student government for setting policy as well as implementation of policy decisions in the student life area. Also, student government often has been asked to share in planning curriculum and other vital academic and administrative areas.

I hope the Student Government Association at S.S.C. continues to play an important and responsible role in the affairs of the College. I am pleased to pledge the support of the President of the College to our Student Government Association and to its officers in 1969-70.

The friendly and loyal support of the S.G.A. during my first year at Salisbury State has been most gratifying, and this is one aspect of the year that I shall remember. Students have been generous and willing when their help was requested. This year's officers have been very effective in advancing the development of a stronger  
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### Phillips Stresses "Involvement"

Albert Phillips, a sophomore, has been on the SGA the past year and hails from Silver Spring, Maryland.

Q. "What do you feel you can offer that Tom Smith has not done?"

A. I think Tom has done an adequate job. I don't think, however, that he has opened student participation in the SGA. This participation hasn't increased — and it must if the SGA is to be functional and important. I am running for President because the current government leadership hasn't been able to bring any students into the SGA, because it hasn't been encouraging students from the bottom up.

Q. "What particular problems do you have in mind?"

A. As I've mentioned, student participation is a problem. But our big problem is communication, between student and student as well as H.H. administration and student. There are very few factual communications on campus; rumor is our main vehicle of transportation. The SGA has to become the center of communication, to become the effective voice of the students; if it cannot

be the place for student action and representation, the SGA will soon degenerate into nothing.

Q. "What is your opinion of the current run-off system?"

A. I agree with this system. There will always be some dissatisfaction no matter what the system. In a small school, however, if a candidate cannot get a majority of the votes, he won't be able to accomplish this anyway.

Q. "What is your attitude toward the desegregation plan?"

A. I haven't thought much about the plan, because until SSC develops self-pride, and until the rest of the state knows we exist, our problem is recruiting all students, black and white. Maybe "black must be emphasized now, but the fundamental need of SSC is for an active recruitment of all students. Because such a recruitment can only be effective with the help of our present students, some of us may have to change our attitudes.

Q. "How do you conceive the role of the SGA president with the administration?"

A. Primarily as an active voice  
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### Run-Off Possible in SGA Election

Questions have arisen this year as in past years concerning the process of "run-off" elections. So prevalent is the occurrence of a need for this procedure that the elections committee is planning in advance this year. This move is justified since in past years the necessity for a run-off has often presented itself. Last year, as political fans may recall, a definite majority was not attained by any of the three candidates for the office of S.G.A. President in the first election.

Article 4, Section 2, "Election Procedure," of the Student Government Association By-Laws, places a strict requirement for Executive Office elections; "S.G.A. Executive Officers must have a majority of votes cast to assume office." While this requirement insures the support of the student body for the winning candidate, by necessitating a greater volume of votes to win, it also creates the "run-off" election.

In the event of three or four candidates striving for the same office, the natural split of votes  
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## Outfen

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dents be a tight knit group and be a part of the whole college atmosphere and not just a "stay-home" segment.

Q. Do you support the present "run-off system" that is sometimes needed to elect the S.G.A. President? That is, that the candidate, in order to be elected must receive 50% plus one vote to be president.

A. Yes I do support the present set-up. The S.G.A. President should have at least half of the campus behind him.

Q. Where do you stand on the HEW demand that SSC end its "defacto segregation" policy?

A. Well, I've studied the issue from many angles. I've asked around and tried not to listen to second-hand opinions and misconceptions. I found out that there was not that much alarm here. The HEW has only asked for a 120 day period for the school to offer plans for ending that "all-white" campus here.

On Maryland Day I was fortunate enough to go to a Board of Trustees meeting. There I learned that Salisbury students are not alone in their concern. Black students from Bowie, Coppin and Morgan, do not wish, any more than we do, to have anybody forced into their institutions because of color. That's my position, but of course the Board of Trustees and Salisbury will eventually settle the issue with the HEW people.

## Decerbo

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dom a student is given, who is in authority, as compared to the amount of responsibility he is required to take on. This is a problem that re-occurs every year. For example the Student Life Committee Chairman, is a subsidiary organization of the S.G.A. If this is really the case then I believe that the S.G.A. and its officers should have more direct say in what the Student Life Committee plans. As things now stand the Student Life Chairman, along with a dean decides, at the beginning of the year what the activities will be. The S.G.A. has no voice whatsoever in activities, yet it does out the money for these committees. I would like to see the President and other officers and S.L. chairmen decide . . . what the social program will be. The students here want a better social program. This can be provided for only if more people participate in the planning of the programs. Student Life would have to be the first thing considered as a problem area.

Q. Do you support the present "run-off system" of electing the S.G.A. President? That is that the candidate, in order to be elected must receive 50% plus one, of the votes cast.

A. No I don't. I think that too often I've seen three candidates in an election that has only two principal candidates. The run-off is merely a re-run, or a repeat of the original election plus the few

third candidate votes, which must now be second choice, deciding who will be president. If one man receives enough votes to beat any other man then he should be the new president. . . . I would, of course, prefer the 51% vote, I believe anybody would. But I'd like to think that if the candidate had 45% of the votes before the run-off, and leads all other candidates, then he has more support for his policies than does anyone else.

Q. What is your position of the HEW demand that SSC end its "policy of de facto segregation"?

A. This is one of those areas that the students will have to rely on an S.G.A. President next year. The issue involves treatment of individuals, not as entities but rather as people, regardless of color. If Joe Blow meets the standards then he should be admitted. Izac should not be admitted just because Joe Blow has been accepted but rather because he too meets the standards of acceptance. When Salisbury, or any college, has to lower their standards just to admit a group then the "regular" students, or those admitted under the normal procedures have reason to holler.

# Candidates Speak at Assembly Last Week

By

JEAN ENGLE and SHIRLEY GROSS

A school-wide assembly was held on Wednesday, April 12th in accordance with current campus elections. The purposes of the meeting were to open the nominations for some offices and to hear campaign speeches from the office of the president of the S.G.A. Nominations have been thus far: President: Joe Decerbo, Nelson Outten and Albert Phillips; Vice President: Ron Bartyczak and Greg Wood; Secretary: Jeannie Stewart; Treasurer: Robert Clark and Gary Eskridge; Student Life Committee Chairman: Bob Jones and Co-Chairman of the Cultural Affairs Committee: Frank Parks.

Tom Smith, present S.G.A. president, gave the student body a review of the accomplishments of the SGA during this year. He stressed that the interest in S.G.A. has been revived this year and that among other accomplishments the dress code has been improved, the library hours have been extended, censorship of student publications has ended, (hopefully) and efforts have been made to establish a student court. He feels that the relationship between students and faculty has been improved, but that the S.G.A. has failed in promoting communications between the students and the S.G.A. The S.G.A. has been allowed to present their ideas to the Governor concerning higher

education and also integration of S.S.C.

Among the three candidates Joe Decerbo was first to speak. He expressed the belief that the president should concern himself primarily with social affairs on campus. He stated that the "office must hold up to the needs of the students." Some of his proposals included: increasing the number and quality of weekend activities, a strengthening of school spirit and more participation of the S.G.A. president in planning various campus activities. Mr. Decerbo feels too that the cheerleader should be reinstated, possibly under the S.G.A. Decerbo also expressed a desire to improve communications on all levels and feels that student-administration talks are not impossible or hard. He also stated that Salisbury should, if possible, retain its "color blind" attitude toward admitting Negroes. According to Decerbo, it will be time for students to do something if academic standards are lowered.

Nelson Outten, a sophomore from Pocomoke City, was the second candidate to speak. Mr. Outten discussed some of the mistakes of the present student government and pledged his support in remedying these "problem spots" in the future. He said that he would put the majority of the funds into those activities affecting the majority of the students here. Other proposals included increasing the usefulness of the gym to the students and evaluating the honors awards. Outten also stated that he would like to see "fewer but more effective committees."

Speaking third, Albert Phillips, a Silver Spring sophomore voiced his opinion that the S.G.A. must assume its proper role on campus. He too stressed the importance of the communication gap among the various members of the campus. He stated that it was "time for the Student Government Association to come out into the open and be heard." According to him, "The key word in Student Government Association is student."

Seven representatives-at-large will be elected for next year's S.G.A. There were twelve students nominated: Becky Golt, Dave McNamara, Jim Miller, Tom Smith, Jeanne Bosse, Mike Holloway, Peg Collins, Susan Tull, Jeff Wilson, George Messmore and Guy Wilson. Nominees for Homecoming Queen are Jeannie Stewart, Candy Moore, Becky Golt, Helena Moore and Joan Claytor.

## EDITORIAL

The Student Government elections here, as anywhere, are good. Students have a part in choosing their leaders and basic policies. For anyone not to vote at the SGA elections is very nearly a crime. Last year the pre-run-off vote had the first and second candidates for president separated by one vote! At a school this size every vote does indeed count.

Past experience and past incidents are fine to talk about but there are basic issues in this election that cannot be overlooked. The three candidates could not be more different. The students, for once, seem genuinely interested. This all points to a good, healthy, election; one not marred with apathy as in the past.

One should be careful to study each candidate, each position, and each statement. It is there and not in banners, slogans and bandwagons, that one finds the real crux of the issue: who is the better candidate. It is hoped that this election deals with the better candidate and not the "better personality" or the "better experienced." We should all wish for such an election; one that enhances the republican form of government.

**APRIL 23, 1969  
SSC SGA ELECTION  
VOTE!**

## Dr. Smith

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Student Government Association. It has been a good year for our S.G.A.

I look forward to working in the same cooperative way with the 1969-70 S.G.A. officers. Because of S.G.A.'s influential role on our campus, the forthcoming election is to be considered an opportunity not only to guarantee the future strength of the organization but also to assure its continued support for the entire College in 1969-70.

Walter D. Smith  
President

## Phillips

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of the students to the administration. He must be able to find out from whom he must receive help, to whom he can make suggestions. He cannot have a demanding attitude; our administration is afraid of demands but very receptive to suggestions, actively cooperating with the SGA president. He must have the strength to work for what he wants, compromising when necessary but actively supporting what is right.

Q. "What do you see as the role of the SGA?"

A. The SGA is the voice of the students to the faculty and administration; it must also work in the reverse, speaking to the students. It must stand up to the administration as well as work with it. With hard work, determination and student support and cooperation the SGA will be active and changes will be achieved. The determining word for the SGA will be STUDENT.

## Run-Off

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almost eliminates the possibility of a winner on the first ballot.

There is no specific statement in the S.G.A. Constitution or By-Laws concerning run-off elections. The process followed in the event that no candidate has a majority of the votes cast is to re-ballot the two candidates receiving the greatest amount of votes and to hold another college-wide election. Now narrowed to two candidates overlooking a tie, the Constitutional requirement may be met by this run-off election.

There have been suggestions to amend the Constitution (none have been formally brought before the S.G.A.) to allow Executive offices to be obtained by plurality vote. This however would, if four candidates were running, allow a person to win an office with only 26% of the votes instead of the presently needed majority. The question could be posed, is 26% a fair percentage to assume an executive office or is the present rule and run-off election a necessary evil.