

The Salemite

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Letter to The Editor

Dear Editor:
As I read the 1974 Salem catalogue, I was interested in the description of our newly renovated library. One sentence states that "a new Audio-Visual Room houses a large collection of microfilm and non musical recordings, with the latest equipment for their use." Since I was aware that these recordings included the plays of Shakespeare, I went rushing over to the library as I studied for my Shakespeare course. Perhaps the Audio-Visual Room exists, but I never saw it. When I asked a librarian about the records, I was bluntly told that only teachers are allowed to take them out of the library. Remembering the information about the "latest equipment" I asked if I could listen to the record in the library. Apparently the "latest equipment" is pure myth, at least as far as stereo systems are concerned. The librarian informed

me that the library has not been equipped with stereos, that I could not take the records out of the library, and that if I wanted to hear the records badly enough I would have to have a professor check the records out for me. Needless to say, I felt very frustrated as I left the library. It seems as if students just cannot be trusted with recordings and that we must resort to elementary school tactics to check out material that we need. All students either own a good stereo or have a friend who has one. The records would not suffer if we used them. Professors have more to do than to spend time checking out materials for students. It is stupid to even have materials that cannot be widely used. This is a ridiculous situation that has got to be rectified. Shakespeare deserves to be heard as well as read, and students deserve the right to use all library materials. Catherine Delbridge

Versatility Prevails Among Students Trivia and Cliques Dominate Lives

By Charlotte Pepper

"... Guess who was at the White Horse last night?" (Click, click. Change programs.)

"... And he's a Sig. Ep." (Click, click.)

"... Boola, boola..." (Click. End of program. To be continued, or repeated, as is necessary.)

Now direct your attention away from the group engaging in social intercourse, and instead, focus on the "not-so-Salemish" girl, the questionable Jr. Leaguer. She represents the ones who, following graduation, will not immediately exchange their jeans for Talbert's of Boston, the ones who, in later life, will not assimilate into the station wagon set quite so gracefully as their Salem "colleagues" across the dining room. Watch how she deftly darts to the salad bar for bean sprouts and hippie-type food. And how after reaching for the parsley (and eating it), she saunters towards an empty corner and savors her meal in solitude. In fact, she remains detached, isolated from the rest of the school much of the time. (And she never goes out with the girls for a burger!) Yet, there are those among us who pattern (or is that "patent"?) themselves after her, suggesting to outsiders that Salem is no longer a school for "nice" girls.

Still another prototype indigenous to Salem can be discerned if you'll let your eyes rove to the book-cluttered table occupied by hunch-shouldered members of the academia. The intelligentsia: well-versed in the arts and sciences, these gifted few act as shining beacons for the deplorable souls floundering in the darkness of illiteracy. With forks held like pencils, they grudgingly allow time to refuel — to restoke the furnace of their minds — to rekindle the blazing flame of knowledge. These brief moments spent in esoteric discourse also serve as a comforting reminder that their participation in our educational community is, indeed, in-

expendable. There is the rustle of starched lab coats, and they disperse, leaving behind a distinctive aura and a lingering cloud of fruit flies.

We watch as the Refectory begins to empty. Group leaders and their disciples depart and go their separate ways, and with them goes the potential for making Salem a more stimulating, innovating place in which to learn and grow. For the purchase of group identity, individuality has often been the price. It is natural, and even desirable, I suppose, for a school to be divided and grouped according to mutual interests, tastes and values (and of course, fraternities). Yet, at Salem, this has been exacted to such a degree that we have mortgaged variety and diversity. Furthermore, unless there is a revival of individualism, I see the chances of Salem remaining a multi-faceted, multi-dimensional institution lessened with each new purchase of Toppersiders.

While participating in this great academic decathlon, I have observed a distinct and rigidly-defined caste system, here at Salem. There are, within our midst, certain groups around which life seemingly revolves. As these colonies transmit trends, they breed conformity, and orthodoxy infects our campus.

Behold the Salem Refectory at mealtime: a mirror in which to catch a glimpse of yourself as others see you. (Look closely, being careful not to mistake another's reflection for your own.) Follow the girl with the bottle of diet dressing, an excellent specimen for observation. She is a member of the common species, Promo Collegias. It is believed that this species reproduces itself by mitosis, based on their ever-increasing population. She thrives on beer and has a life expectancy of Friday-Sunday. (Or rather, she is expected to live, Friday through Sunday.) Don't lose sight of her as she urgently makes her

Book Titles Welcome

The Browsing Collection on the second floor of Gramley Library is still new and small; the first books were added last spring. Plans are to provide a collection which will include contemporary works and reflect current interests. Recent fiction will be a main feature, but a sub-section on the theater will include scripts of current Broadway and off-Broadway productions. Non-fiction additions will include travel, recreation, biography and politics as well as other subjects.

Income from a gift of \$1000, given by the Class of 1974, will help to support the Browsing Collection.

Suggestions of titles for the Browsing Collection are always welcome. If you would like to suggest titles for addition to the collection, please fill out this form and return it to the Library.

Suggestions for Browsing Collection:

Author
Title
Author
Title
Author
Title
Author
Title

Please return to Gramley Library.

The Idiot and the Oddity

Sunday night I found myself playing the role of the scholar. I armed myself with Wordsworth and Coleridge to take a stance amid the fifth floor stacks of the Wake Forest library in the battle against ignorance. Surprisingly enough, I got off to a pretty good start. Nestled among the works of fellow scholars (I prided myself on that realization.), I read and reread, underlined, highlighted and committed copious comments to the marginalia. But as I always do, I glanced up to find some other object to fix my attention to. What chanced to catch my eye was a small orange book belittled by an impressive expanse of Encyclopedia Britannica's to the left and the bulging volumes of some ancient unheard-of encyclopedia to the right. I stuck my pencil in Wordsworth (or rather his book) and arose to inspect this fellow oddity.

Upon closer examination of the book, I found that it was interestingly enough entitled, Some Things Worth Knowing: A Generalists Guide to Useful Knowledge, by Stuart Chase. I thought to myself that it must be a pretty valuable little book judging from the title and the fact that it was among all those brainy encyclopedias. Glancing at the first chapter, I discovered a trivia quiz which I readily gobbled up.

- Who wrote the Divine Comedy?
What is a flying buttress?
Who was Pavlov?
What is a gene?
Name a book by Karl Marx etc . . .

Meanwhile back at Salem, the Sunday night returnees were having a pow-wow around the communal popcorn popper sharing weekend experiences. The Idiot was there among the natives of third floor. I hustled in, bounced up books on the nearest bed, and proceeded to tell them about the little orange book that I had found. I fished the book from the others and opened it to the same trivia quiz that had hooked me. In giving the quiz to them, I was surprised to find just how much or how little we had retained from previous learning. Most agreed that they had heard of all of the subjects at some time, but had just forgotten them until now when they were resurrected.

There was one question, however, that no one was able to answer. "What is the second law of thermodynamics?" All of the science majors insisted that they had had it in micro. or physics, or one of those courses. The remainder of us, the un-science majors admitted that it may have crossed our paths maybe once, but that it really did not form a lasting impression. So while the Idiot and her science cronies unshelved numerous science books, the Oddity abandoned the search and went to bed.

No sooner had I pulled up the sheets, than my roommate and I heard a strange scratching on our door. It continued at irregular intervals for quite some time. Realizing the probable source, I whispered to my roommate that it must be the second law of thermodynamics. Although it was dark, I could have sworn that I heard her brow wrinkle. At any rate, when the noise subsided, she got up to check. Sure enough, there it was: "There is a tendency toward maximum randomness," with the additional comment, "The third floor scientists reign supreme."

And so it started . . . third floor's true liberal arts education. Jan Somerville would be proud of us. The Idiot posted a legal pad at the end of the hall with the invitation to submit any trivia questions, and every Sunday night we plan to have a trivia party and find the answers. By the way, Idiot, who was the only wife of Henry VIII to bear him a son?

Hockey Team Strives for a Great Year

Are you looking for an excuse to abandon the books? Are you tired of watching Wake Forest lose every game? Well here's your chance to see some victorious action. The Salem College Hockey Team will "roll-in" to the hockey season starting Tuesday, Oct. 15 at Averette College in Danville. After they push past Averette, they will tackle Guilford, N. C. State, and Wake Forest. Now that you've got the scoop, make your goal to attend the next game and cheer the Salemites to victory. Here's the schedule:
Tues., Oct. 15 Averette Col. (A)
Thurs., Oct. 24 Guilford Col. (A)
Tues., Oct. 29 Averette Col. (A)
Fri., Nov. 1 N. C. State (A)
Tues., Nov. 5 Wake Forest (A)
Tues., Nov. 12 Guilford (A)
Fri., Nov. 15 N. C. State (A)
Thurs., Nov. 21 Old vs. New (A)

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