

Ready to Quit?

Hope and growth are not necessarily the emotions one might be feeling contrary to the expectations often associated with the arrival of spring.

It is at this time of year that we tend to become tired, weary and ready to quit -- wondering if the year's work has been done only in vain.

However, it is at these times that it seems to be most important to re-evaluate why the work does matter, because it really does.

Salem's ability to continue depends on us. It must continue to matter to us. Salem will not remain the strong school that she is unless we continue to care. This does not entail a mechanical, day-to-day existence, but an active, demanding and creative one.

Salem has some disillusionments, like all things in life. But we must work to turn those disillusionments around, whatever they may be for each one of us. Giving up and giving in to fatigue and frustration will only allow Salem to stagnate.

Therefore, I suggest that each one of us push Salem to be all that she is capable of being. Treat her like a close friend, respect her principles and make her persevere. I promise that the friendship will be reciprocated.

Allison Buice

The Oracle

by Judy Aanstad

The purpose of "The Oracle" is to involve faculty and administration in expressing their views about pertinent issues concerning students and today's world, around or beyond the square. This week, Dr. Judy Aanstad, director of the Lifespan Center, addresses the topic of Expectations After Graduation.

May 23. At least 133 students on this campus have this date circled on their calendars, etched in their minds; the countdown has begun. For you seniors time is speeding up as you attempt to somehow bring a sense of closure to four important years of your life. Not only are there papers to write, tests to pass, placement files to complete, but there are also many good-byes to be said - to both the place and the people who have been an intimate part of your lives for 4 years.

Time Slips By

For most of you the time has slipped by very quickly. The same will be true of the next four years and beyond as many of us who are a few years older can affirm. I'd like to suggest, therefore, that you find a few quiet moments in this time of busy transition to reflect on two things. The first involves looking back on your four years here and asking, "What have I accomplished for myself?"

Can you see ways in which you have become a better person? Are you more tolerant and caring of others? Have you become more self-reliant, able to turn to yourself in a pinch? Have you formed the kinds of relationships and friendships you have wanted and still want to be part of your life? Have you stretched yourself intellectually, enjoyed the thrill of discovery? Are you

liking the self you have and are creating? Hopefully enough of your answers are pleasing to you that graduation will be a celebration not only of receiving a degree, but also of joyfully affirming who you are.

What Do I Want?

The second reflection I'd like you to make involves looking ahead and asking yourself, "What do I most want out of my life?" Life offers so many adventures and possibilities for each of you and yet, as you will quickly learn if you haven't already, life is also a series of trade-offs. None of us can do it all. If you get married soon after graduation, you give up the opportunity to be responsible only to yourself for your life decisions. If you decide to stay in Winston-Salem, you trade off the opportunity to explore a totally new environment on your own.

No Right Answers

Unlike the multiple choice questions you faced on tests at Salem, the ones in life have no "right" answers. No book, professor, or even parent can tell you which choice of many is right for you. There is only the inescapable bottom line that you are totally responsible for your life in a world in which once a moment passes, it never comes again.

It is within this context that we must make our choices and live our lives. I find this frightening, awesome, lonely, and, at times, exhilarating. At your graduation I wish for you, as I wish for myself, the courage to trust yourself enough to live each moment fully by choosing to do and learn what is most important to you in order to become the person you truly are.

Letters to the Editor

What's Your Image?

Dear Editor,

I am writing to address the current phenomena regarding the question of the "Salem image."

Maybe I am naive, but I did not realize Salem was experiencing an image problem that went so far as to involve the type of music that the students listen to, and the clothes they wear. Obviously I was wrong. The "Salem image" problem surrounds not only students but alumnae too. Whether it is the cartoon in the Salemite berating some students for attending a certain concert, or the Salem alumna I spoke to this weekend who has been told repeatedly that she "doesn't look" like she went to Salem College, this problem has reached epic proportions.

The "Salem image" is not a prescribed "Susie Salem" pattern. It does not involve one's dress, manner of speech, or social class. The proper "Salem image" is exhibited by any student who is proud of her school, and responsible in both the social and academic areas at all times.

We should be proud to have the diverse student body that we do at Salem. This should be expected with a group of 600 women coming to Salem for a quality education from all over the United States and the world. From the academic standpoint our student body is pursuing a variety of four degrees (B.A., B.S., B.M., B.M. Ed.) in over 20 majors. The variety in these facts alone does not add up to one image of a Salem student; rather, many individuals bound by a common love and interest--Salem College.

I hope that Salem students do not have an image problem, especially at social gatherings. I would like to think we could handle such a problem as the alumna I talked with does: by simply responding, "I wasn't aware of the fact I was expected to look a certain way just because I received a good education at Salem College."

Let's keep Salem in the tradition of "strength in diversity," and not a predictable prep school pattern.

Sincerely,
Johanna Miller

Marshal Speak-Out

To the Editor:

The marshals recently raised the issue about whether or not marshals should be chosen strictly upon academics and whether the position should have the office of minor.

I, like the other marshals, am against the proposal. We feel that the marshals should be chosen by the rising senior class, but only on an academic standard. With this standard, marshals would be those who had shown academic achievement and extracurricular participation.

An opposing argument is that other schools select their marshals from the top eight of the junior class. This is true, but when has Salem ever been like other schools? Moreover, Salem is so small that everyone knows each other; therefore, we can choose who we wish to represent us.

In addition, it is argued that academics are not honored on campus. What about the Dean's List, honor societies and honors assemblies?

Where distribution is concerned, the position should be a minor one because being a marshal is more than just an honor. Its duties include publicity, Convocation, Commencement and taking attendance at SGA.

Also, without distribution a person may hold several positions and not have enough time to be a marshal. What is going to make her do her duties?

Although our proposal was voted down by Leg Board, I hope that students will take time to reflect upon the importance of this view.

Sincerely,
Chief Marshal
Sara Hinkle

Nuclear War?

To the Editor:

"The first step toward lessening the probability of nuclear war is admitting that it can happen," says Roger Molander, head of the Ground Zero organization in D.C.

Ground Zero week will be a nationwide effort designed to educate people of the tumorous reality of nuclear weaponry through community directed discussions and events to take place from April 18 through April 25.

The planners of Ground Zero week propose to present factual material on a range of aspects of nuclear weaponry, such as principles of nuclear fission and fusion, the increasingly elaborate evolution of designs for genocide, and both the immediate and long term environmental effects of a nuclear explosion.

In addition, the controversial issues of arms control, strategic concepts of arms limitation, and the economics of defense spending will be presented in open discussion seminars.

While plans for Ground Zero week in Winston-Salem are still tentative and in formation, a basic schedule follows (exact locations will be listed in local newspapers next week):

On April 18, 2:30 p.m., the Dedication of the Ground Zero marker will occur (ground zero refers to the detonation point of a nuclear explosion). The following Monday through Friday at 4:30 p.m. each day, the lectures and open discussions will be conducted in local recreation centers.

On April 21, a letter writing workshop will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Parkway United Church of Christ to present techniques used to communicate effectively to our congressional representatives. On April 24, at 7:30 p.m., the film *War Without Winners* will be shown at the Y.M.C.A.

The immediate blast, thermal, and radiation effects of a nuclear explosion will be profoundly communicated by the "Run for your Life" race scheduled for Sunday, April 25 at 2:30 p.m. The race will take off from the Ground Zero detonation point. Markers along the 10 kilometer race will describe the various conditions of an environment turned inferno by a nuclear hit. Rewards will be presented to the "winners" of the race. Other community seminars will describe actions taken by a society of survivors when possibilities are severely limited from a nuclear hit.

The community group CANdisarm welcomes to meetings those interested in the recent appeals for a freezing of nuclear arsenal production before the

see Nuclear, back page.

The Salemite

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