

Letters To The Editors

Old Salem Addresses Noise Problem

Honors Program Needs Restructuring

To the Editors:

Does the fact that I don't have a 3.5 grade point average mean that I am not as deserving of intellectual stimulation as someone who does?

Education is an institution that is open to anyone regardless of race, sex, social standing, or origin. Why then is the college honors program discriminating against those who, by virtue of a mere number do not fall into a special category?

I feel that the criteria for entrance into the college honors program needs to be re-evaluated. I realize that college honors enters into the upper echelon of academics. There is a way to restructure the program in order to stimulate all those interested and deserving. The criteria must be brought to a human level, away from the technicalities of numbers.

If there were an application and interview process for entrance into the honors program, more people would be reached, thus more people would be intellectually stimulated. There is already an honors program committee that could have part in this application and interview process. Intellectual stimulation might even be an eventual weapon against the ever-growing apathetic attitude on campus.

Numbers, GPA's, do not mean everything. There are numerous individuals on the campus who would grow by quantum leaps and bounds if admitted into the honors program. These individuals would be able to contribute a great deal to the academic atmosphere inherent in such courses.

There is a great need for intellectual stimulation on this campus. It is time people took an interest in course work to experience the miracles of education and knowledge, not because the information will be on the next test.

—Maria Karres

Dissatisfied With Drapes

To the Editors,

Since I am one of those seniors who has "consistently griped and complained" and who is "dissatisfied" with the senior pictures for the annual, please allow me the chance to explain my point of view.

1) Granted, the editors of **Sights and Insights** may have been doing us all a big favor by allowing us to vote for drape, or, as it was stated in the first meeting, for "hugging a tree," but certainly they do wish to attempt to please more of the student body than merely themselves. Don't they?

2) Furthermore, can we really call the second election a "fair election?" When asked why there was such an enormous difference between the sitting fees for drapes (\$3.85) and environmental (\$8.50-\$10.00), our editors could not tell us why. Did not one editor reply that the price difference was for moving the camera equipment to various locations on campus, and the other reply that all pictures would be taken at the same location? Come on! Can't we get our facts straight?

3) Was the real gripe over whether the pictures would be taken formal or environmental? My answer is no. My gripe is about how the election (either election) was handled. Were we not told that if we elected drape, we would later vote on the color? Yes. Did we? No. Our editors chose that (black, of all colors!) for us. When this color choice was questioned, via, I assume, the proper channels, (a chat with Dean Johnson and with the editors) I was told that we could choose from four colors: navy blue, forest green, wine, or black. Two days later I received a letter from May Sherrod which said that Smith

Oct. 17, 1984

Dear Editors-in-Chief:

I read with interest the editorial "We Demand Respect" in the September 1984 issue of **The Salemite**. I regret that unnecessary noise from the visitors to Old Salem has interrupted final exams at Salem.

We at Old Salem, Inc. are very appreciative of the fine cooperation the students have given in parking their automobiles on campus. I want our organization to cooperate whenever possible with the needs of the Salem students.

I have advised our Director of Education and Interpretation and the managers of the Salem Gift & Book Store and T. Bagge - Merchant of Salem's needs for less noise by visitors and Old Salem staff during exam periods. Short of gagging "the tourists," banning children, or closing down, we will cooperate in trying to help the problem. Please advise me of the specific dates and times when exams will be held.

While we want each student to have four happy and educational years at Salem, we would hate to feel responsible for causing any to have to return for an extra semester because the noise of our visitors caused her to fail a final exam.

With best wishes for a successful 1984-85 year.

Most sincerely yours,
R. Arthur Spaugh, Jr.
President, Old Salem, Inc.

Studios had only one color to offer -- black. Please tell me why the receptionist at Smith Studios said that either black or blue drapes could be provided.

Your assumption that "most of the students who are angry about the drapes, are those who did not take the time to vote," is a misjudgment. I assure you that I, as well as many of the other "gripping" seniors, attended the meeting and cast my vote.

—Jenny Surber

Oct. 26, 1984

Dear Editors-in-Chief:

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed letter we received this week.

It illustrates why we do not want to ban children (just get them to turn down their volume). You never know which one Old Salem is recruiting for "Salem Colage."

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,
R. Arthur Spaugh, Jr.
President

Oct. 19, 1984

Dear Mrs. Jones

Thank you so much for being so

patient with our group you were so fun to be with and the nicest guide.

I enjoyed the single sister house and the girls school, I also enjoyed making the pipes and playing school, I love Old Salem and I am thinking about going to Salem Colage.

Your truly,
Emily Hudspeth

The editors welcome the contribution of letters to the Salemite.

Against The Dying of the Light

To the Editors,

Election day has passed, and you breathe a sigh of relief. You no longer have to watch campaign ads bombarding you at intervals during your soap operas. The decision about who will govern you until the next election has been made, and you can go on existing as you did before the campaign began. You voted, you had your say in what will happen during the future, and you can live with the decisions that were made by the majority until the next election.

What? You didn't vote?! You weren't registered?! Oh, and now you don't think about registering because there aren't any more campaign ads to remind you of our democratic process.

Well, you have a chance to register now, before the next elections. Please don't wait until it's too late again. Register now, or if you live out of state, during the Thanksgiving holidays. It's not hard to do. In many states, including North Carolina, all you have to do is pick up some forms at the post office or public library and fill them out. In other states you can spend just a couple of minutes in your county courthouse to fill out the forms there. If you are unsure about the rules in your state, ask your parents and/or friends. It really is a painless process that will benefit you and your country.

Please register and vote in the next election. Voting is a right and privilege which many people in the world never have. The people who are elected will make decisions that will affect you. Don't you want to help to decide who will make those decisions? Your vote does count, but your opinion doesn't count if you don't vote.

—Julie Bedenbaugh

To the Editors,

On November sixth Salem Students had the chance to participate in what was for many of them their first national election. To my great despair, our incumbent president was re-elected—apparently to the delight of 71% of the student body. I must say, though, that I have enjoyed immensely the politically inspired conversations and debates with my classmates. I never cease to be amazed by the personal and political philosophies of my peers.

I have been very disappointed by the seemingly abrupt lack of interest in the current political scene now that the elections are over. Now—more than ever—we need to be relentless in our pursuit of those common goals of a better nation and life. We all need to remember that our responsibilities as voters and citizens do not end once the polls close.

—Amy Kearns Davis

Salem Today — Are you satisfied with the results of the presidential election?

By: Fran Spier



Cotten Smith, Freshman
"Yes. I like Reagan and don't like Mondale."



Kelly Conolly, Junior
"I was somewhat letdown because it was a clean sweep with the electoral votes but the popular vote was close. I'm personally satisfied, but not for the country as a whole."



Monica Carter, Sophomore
"Yes. But I'm unsatisfied with the number of recounts in many districts. Reagan will be able to bring America back to the power it was before Russia became so powerful. He'll be good in making America powerful again."



Holly Fowler, Senior
"Yes. I'm a Republican."



Julie Mills, Junior
"Yes. I was for Reagan."