

Mangum, Shewmake Leave Void in Art Department

By: Malinda McCall

Well, here we are in the far corner of the Salem College Fine Arts Center with Mr. Ed Shewmake and Mr. Bill Mangum, two professors soon to retire, both from the Salem Art Department. Mr. Shewmake and Mr. Mangum, as well as some part-time teachers, teach in all media from oils to pencil to charcoal to clay. They were kind enough to consent to an impromptu interview together; Mr. Shewmake here on your left wearing his customary loafers and cardigan and Mr. Mangum in this tweed jacket and turtleneck.

M: That, and I had visited (Salem) before I took the job and we went to the faculty lounge and there was a heated discussion going on...but it wasn't about campus politics, none of that stuff. It was about concepts. That was one of the things that got me interested in Salem.

S: Yeah—we used to have heated faculty discussions of that nature pretty often. There used to be a coffee shop, Gooch's, across from Wachovia Museum. Both students and faculty would meet there...they would discuss anything. I miss that. Now we only see students in class.

S: Hmm, yes. But one of the nicest things about Salem is the town itself. Beautiful.

Q: Where did you go (to school)?

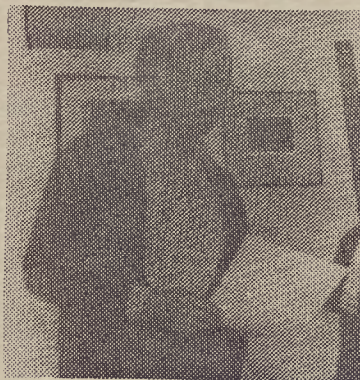
Shewmake: Corcoran Art School in New York. It was in affiliation with George Washington. I also went to the Art Student's League summer school...didn't you, Bill?

M: Yes. Went both terms, fall and summer too.

S: It was in Woodstock, New York. And, let's see...we both have master's degrees from Chapel Hill...Art History...

Q: To know that you had "gotten through"?

Mangum: Oh, I could see it, yes!



Ed Shewmake

Q: Okay, here's a nice, pat question for you: "Art today. What does it mean to you"? What do you like?

Shewmake: Frankly, I don't like most of modern art. Some of it is like a "tomato at 30 paces".

Mangum: You can't really talk about art today like you could in the 50's. Today, it's everyone doing his or her own thing.

S: I got a gift from someone once; it was a stamper that says "Art is anything you can get away with." That's about right. (sighs) I don't really like that sentiment, though.

Q: What will you miss most about Salem?

Shewmake: Mostly the students.

Mangum: Definitely the students.

Q: How long have you taught at Salem?

Shewmake: Thirty-five years.

Mangum: Since '61...

S: That's (pause)...twenty four?

M: Yeah—I taught three years at Western Carolina, too.

Q: Why do you plan to do after you retire?

Shewmake (laughing): Same as I'm doing now—nothing!

Mangum: Sculpture.

S: Seriously, I'll probably have time to paint and so forth. Art.

Q: Why did you choose to teach at Salem?

Shewmake: Students; they are helpful. They follow suggestions here well—they do as you teach.

Mangum: Yes, that; and the campus, and the students—they are very pretty. Those are very good reasons to work here!

S: They are very pleasant to be around. I like to see what they will come up with next.



Bill Mangum

M: Funny thing—I came here to visit Ed. We used to know each other in school. I came to see him and that visit was a big incentive to work.

S: Yes—I was talking to a friend in Woodstock and asked him how possible it would be to be successful and he said you had to be homosexual and live in NYC so I went to Salem.

M: Salem has changed...well, not the students. It's just not the same.

Q: What are some of your interests (outside of painting and sculpture)?

Mangum: Jazz! I play the trombone and I want to find a group...

Shewmake: He's pretty good; yeah.

Q: How about your interests, Mr. Shewmake?

Shewmake: Golf! I'm no musician, that's for sure!

Q: What's the most rewarding experience you've had since you've been here at Salem?

S: Seriously; I think it's seeing the students being very successful after they leave. We've had quite a few who have done very well.

Mangum: I remember when I taught a lecture course called Expressionism. We explored all aspects of that movement and the concept in general and soon all the art majors in the class started to paint in the style of the Expressionists! So that was exciting...

Q: Who would you like most to meet?

Shewmake: I met an ex-student of Robert Henri once. I asked him how to pronounce his, Henri's, name and he said they just called him "Henry". I'd love to have had a chance to study with him. Henri stressed personal integrity, among other things. He advocated a form of freedom that was very influential on American art in the twenties; Romantic tradition-based stuff.

M: Yep—art for Robert Henri was an extension of life itself: good. Hmm—I would like to have met Billie Holiday...to have had a date with her, as a matter of fact! Take her to dinner or something. Let's see—I certainly like Picasso. And Jeb Stuart.

Q: And where would you like to go, if you could go anywhere?

Shewmake: Rome or Florence.

Mangum: Ah, Italy! Rome, Florence, Milan, Naples, Bologna.

And with that, the interview broke up. Mr. Shewmake and Mr. Mangum then strolling over to the window to look at and classify a row of paintings left there according to style represented there:

Shewmake: ...some expressionism, even And...

Mangum: ...and a smattering of surrealism in that one there...

and the last sounds were those of the two artists arguing good-naturedly about the dubious merit of another artist, mercifully absent, Mr. Shewmake waving a cigarette about as he made his points and Mr. Mangum nodding in assent. Five minutes after leaving the FAC, I realized I had forgotten something and returned. The art area was totally silent and empty.

Salem Today:

By: Noel Lumpkin

Have you ever used the career planning services available in the Lifespan Center and if so, did you find the service adequate?



Brett Ashcraft, Junior

"I think the students would like to know what kind of information is in the Career Reading Room. I was surprised when I found out what was available there. I think the Career Reading Room is useful; however, I would instead like to see more activity in employment opportunities (recruiting instead of available catalogs and information. Along the same line, I only hear about information for Econ-management majors but none for other majors. I think improvements in this area would be very beneficial."



Pam Simmons, Senior

"My use of Lifespan as a career placement service have been limited. The Job's Fair was not productive for me or for many of my friends. The only benefit I received from the Fair was the experience of interviewing, and maybe some exposure to companies that I might not have had. Lifespan has not helped me in my job search. The interviews that I have gotten, I have gotten on my own. The information in the Career Reading Room needs to include more companies with updated pamphlets including all the opportunities within that company."



Suzanne Smith, Senior

"Just recently I have discovered how useful the Lifespan Center is. Although I have not participated in any of the afternoon programs, I have found two jobs from the material in the Career Reading Room. Participating in the Shadow Day Program allowed me to talk with a person in marketing for an entire morning. Mary and Judy have given me lots of advice on my resume and general job hunt anxieties! My only improvement would be that when we question the staff, with fear or excitement in our hearts, that they answer our questions more directly."



Judy Thompson, Senior

"The staff of the Career Placement Office/Life Span Center are very eager to help those students who want help, however, it is unfortunate that many Salem students are unaware of all the services that are available. The resources that are available to aid in the research of a particular business/company need to be updated and also need to remain in the Life Span Center (some are missing), otherwise, it is a very helpful place to go for career planning."