

Editors' Notes

by Amy Cass

What has happened to Salem's campus in the last couple of weeks? Since Dean Eulalia Cobb's resignation on October 9 (student common knowledge on October 18), Salem students and faculty have expressed emotions of outrage by her decision to leave the college after serving two short years. Of course each and everyone of us, (student, faculty, female and male) has seen this woman become a vivid part of the Salem College and community bringing with her an energetic, vibrant, and flamboyant personality.

As such a small, unique community we should be pulling together in order to understand and cope with Dean Cobb's resignation. Instead, through my eyes, I have seen students and faculty split and exhibit outrage at a time in which we need to support each other. But even more than that we should be supporting Dean Cobb for her decision.

President Litzenburg sent a memo to faculty and staff announcing Dean Cobb's resignation explaining it was due to "family considerations." Many of the various campus members expressed outrage toward Dr. Litzenburg as "pressuring Dean Cobb's decision to resign." The fact is that Dean Cobb did resign because of personal family reasons. Therefore, we as students and faculty should accept her resignation and not presume additional reasons.

In turn, after Dean Cobb's resignation, bottled emotions and feelings about various campus problems broke and resulted in students taking a look at Salem's administrative management and future welfare. For the past several years, our main goal has been to improve communication among students as well as the administration and staff. In the future let's don't just assume something. Much too often people in this community have a bad habit of hearing what they want to hear and accepting that as the truth.

For some reason I, as a student, feel we have been sheltered and not quite aware of what has been occurring here at Salem. I don't want to believe something that is not the truth behind the actual story. We are mature young women who care very deeply for our home here at Salem. It is only fair that we understand the circumstances that effect our well-being while we are students.

As a senior at Salem College I am very much concerned about the future of this institution. One of the most unique aspects I see in Salem is the closeness and unity among the students, faculty and staff. Now I am apprehensive about the welfare of the college and all the special people who make up this distinctive, historical community. Even though in seven short months I will be an alumni of Salem College, I will always continue to care about it's future.

by April Edmondson

The ability to communicate effectively can have many different twists. For instance, one may feel as if making an announcement in the refectory during lunch or dinner is effective communication, or that sending a memo to another individual represents effective communication. Of course, the first thing we must all realize is that each individual may have a different perception of what effective communication is! In many instances making announcements in the refectory, sending memos, and calling special meetings may be the most appropriate and efficient way to communicate the needed information.

However, there are times when communicating can be a tricky and difficult process. Concerning the issue of Dean Cobb's resignation, the manner in which Dean Cobb and President Litzenburg went about informing the Salem community was, evidently, not the best way to deal with the situation. Perhaps, the fact that neither Dean Cobb nor President Litzenburg realized the significant impact this decision would have on the

college explains the failure to express this information more adequately. I believe if they had realized the consequences of Dean Cobb's resignation, they would have addressed the problems which have arisen much differently.

It is important for the students, faculty, and staff to remember that we are a community - we are a very special family. We have the opportunity to open and close doors at our beckoning, and, indeed, if we do not take the initiative to do so, we have no one else to blame except ourselves! We, the students, have the privilege to express ourselves to one another without the fear of retribution. It is the student who can speak and be heard far louder than the faculty of staff member. It is the student who has the ability to demand, expect, and receive change. For it is the student that this college revolves around.

As capable adults, it is our responsibility to ask questions when we do not understand and to demand the answers. We have an obligation to ourselves and one another to find out as much as possible concerning the issues which involve and interest us.

Responsibly Informed

by Paige Parker

When I started this article, I, like many Salem College students, wanted to know why we were not informed about the violent events that have taken place concerning Salem students in the last couple of weeks. I had full intentions of writing a very negative editorial voicing my concerns, but before I started to write, I went to see Steve Wright, who heads Public Safety, and to my surprise my attitude changed entirely. He, just like us, wants students informed, but he cannot do this alone.

The student body of Salem College prides herself on unity and involvement, and if this is true, I have to question why Salem has endured 218 years without a Student Awareness Committee. Students do need to be informed when Salem students are assaulted and when cars are broken into in the FAC parking lot, but Steve Wright cannot possibly do his job and

report every incident to the students when they occur. Even when Public Safety sends out memos to the students about tips to stay safe, many students look it over and ditch it in the trash. We, as college students, need to take warnings seriously. No one that is ever assaulted, raped, or murdered goes out with the intention to be hurt. We want to be treated as responsible adults, but we often avoid the act of being responsible.

Steve Wright is in the process of organizing a Student Awareness Committee which will inform students of the events which occur concerning Salem College students. I do not feel that I am alone in wanting to know what goes on at Salem, both good and bad. It is up to us, as students, to unite with Public Safety in order for important information to get to students. We are all busy with our hectic lives and so is Steve Wright, but if we join together and work together, I think our accomplishments will be immense.

I, Susie Salem, wish to bring to everyone's attention that our Student Government Association's president, Strat Newitt, did a wonderful job in her meetings with the Board Of Trustees. She not only missed two days of classes due to lengthy meetings, but she also missed several tests and had to give up her personal time to make up these tests. I do not think that she, nor anyone else involved in student government for that matter, receives enough thanks from the student body.

I have seen Strat put off things that she really needs to do until later because "Salem business" came up.

Strat is definitely a very dedicated member of our community, (not to mention a wonderful friend!) and really cares about Salem. She is willing to go the extra mile to get information on campus issues and she is willing to stick her neck out for all of us.

So, Strat, three cheers to you for all you have done for us, and for all that you will do!!

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