

Editors' Notes

by Amy Cass

Recently, the Salem community lost a very important person. Clark Thompson, Professor of Religion and College Chaplain passed away Sunday, January 14. He will be missed very much as a professor and friend. Although many freshmen and sophomores did not have the opportunity to know Clark personally, it is important to me that I express how much he was a part of this campus' life. Throughout this article I must cover two areas. First, I want to discuss my personal concern regarding the search for a new religion professor from a Moravian student's perspective. Secondly, I want to mention the magnitude of greatness to which this man stood for.

As a Moravian student, I am concerned about the continuation of the Moravian traditions and heritage being experienced on this campus. Clark shared his religious beliefs, values, and knowledge with everyone. In addition to this, he spread his love and sense of the Moravian background. He taught us the unique traditions making it apart of our daily lives. Now I express a concern of who will continue this special part of the Moravian heritage. I am aware that the college is in search for another religion professor. Clark was the one who held this whole community together. He interlocked and intertwined the college, the church, and Old Salem. Although each separate place works independently, they also feed off each other. They feed off of the Moravian background and traditions.

Fortunately I was lucky enough to develop a relationship with Clark during my first two years here at Salem. As a teacher and friend, he pushed me to do my best, like he stressed with all his students. For those who did not have the opportunity to know Clark, it is hard to describe the special and unique qualities that he exhibited. Therefore I must share with you a message I found in a 1971 *Sights and Insights* yearbook which was dedicated to Clark Thompson. These words should express to you the type of man he was. "He is a thinker, a man of action...he is a planner, a mover, a shaper...he is a friend, an adviser, a teacher...in his own words, 'Teaching is my life. If I fail in my teaching at school one day I take it home with me and if something goes wrong in the classroom it is not forgotten.' By speaking, he challenges; by listening, he advises; by thinking he motivates. For the things he does, but more for the man he is, the Senior Class dedicates the 1971 *Sights and Insights* to Clark Thompson." Through my eyes and memoies he is still exactly that person!

As I stood by Clark's graveside January 17, I reflected upon the man I remembered as a teacher, Chaplain, and friend. Although it was hard to put him to rest, we all knew he was at peace in our Father's arms, the safest place possible. Afterwards I spoke with Dr. Litzenburg and commended him on the excellent message he gave during the funeral service. We both commented that it was unique for a college professor to fianlly rest in a place he so much well loved. To Clark, that place is in God's Acre here among us in the Salem community, a place he definitely loved!

by April Edmondson

Have you ever felt like you have done everything possible to get someone's attention? Perhaps you have tried diligently to improve things and make positive change come about for the benefit of others.

This is something that I believe all of the leaders on this campus strive for.

Recently, I have reached a point where I feel I have given too much. Let me rephrase that, I feel I am being drained and not replenished!

I guess everyone reaches the point where they feel they are not appreciated.

I wonder if by the time you are a senior you are "supposed" to feel this way. Maybe that's why seniors are typical characterized as "beginning to become less involved in what's happening on campus."

I think it is very sad that we expend so much energy on other people and issues only to be lead down the road of disillusion. We have been observers now for three and a half years...Indeed, we may have some very wise observations.

Dear Editors,

As I look back on my last three and a half years at Salem, I wonder if I have lived up to my responsibilities that I have taken on. In some ways I feel like I have, in others I have not. Now I have a very large responsibility as Campus Activities Council Chairman. Last year when I decided to run for it, my roommate was a little apprehensive and skeptical about whether I could handle it. But I am proud to say that I have accepted my responsibility, and I feel that I am doing a pretty good job, but what really bothers me is people who take on responsibilities and don't live up to them.

In my dealings with people who take these certain responsibilities for the most part, they end up doing what they are supposed to do. However, it is sometimes too little and too late. I feel

that if you are aware of what you are to do, you should not be asked a million times to do it. Actually, you should not have to be asked to do what you are responsible for doing. Let me add in that I have been on the side of being asked a million times to do something, but I feel as if I have learned my lesson. I think that a lot of people take on too much and leave at least one task high and dry. There are a lot of things on this campus that have to be done which cannot be fulfilled by one or two people.

What I am trying to say is if you have a responsibility, accept it, do it and do it on time. Everyone should be aware of tasks they are expected to carry out and be able to give as much as they can. There are a lot of great things happening on this campus that cannot be done alone.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Savage

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors,

I have become increasingly disturbed the more I hear about the future plans for Strong Dorm. The College is in the process of preparing most of the first floor of the dorm for "dignitaries," the intention being to create a mini-hotel inside Strong for visiting scholars and alumnae.

Aren't the Alumnae House and the Rondthaler-Gramley House where these people stay? I've heard these places are constantly full. How can this be? I haven't noticed many visitors on campus other than when the Trustees or an occasional lecturer comes. Who's staying there the other times? Is Salem using these places as hotel space for the general public?

The area to be closed off from students includes the Friendship Room, the current RHD apartment, and the surrounding rooms. In other words, the students living in the dorm will only be able to go into the tiny room we consider our lobby.

These plans anger me for several reasons.

It was always my understanding that the Friendship Room was intended for student use. I remember as a freshman going to Wesley meetings in the Friendship Room. It is the perfect place for religious groups to meet. Since that year, it has been a constant problem for groups on campus to find a private place to meet. There are other places to meet, sure, but dorm lobbies have too much noise and traffic, and other places are too small, too large, or simply not appropriate.

It amazes me that the college would want to put these "dignitaries" in a dorm. Let's face it folks - quiet hours or not, dorms are loud. In Strong, noise grows as it travels down the stairs. To make matters worse, whether you are on first or second floor, (when toilets are flushed) it sounds like Niagara Falls in the rooms these important people will be staying. Pleasant accommodations, wouldn't you say?

The College plans include moving the RHD to a room on second floor. I feel that to do this is to open a can of worms. First, I feel that an RHD needs to have privacy not only for herself, but for the residents as well. Many times students need to talk with the RHD and don't want anyone to know that they have done so. I also don't think it would be fair for the RHD to have to share the hall bathrooms. When people apply for the job, they are told they will have a bedroom, sitting area, kitchen area, and a private bath. The only thing the Strong RHD has now is the private bath off her one room, let's not take that away too.

In closing, I feel the college needs to think more about the students here now than all of these "dignitaries." I feel the administration needs to ask itself if Salem is in the business to educate her students or to entertain her visitors.

Sincerely,
Beth M. Brown

The Salemite

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Published bi-monthly, excluding examinations, holidays, January term and summer vacations, by students of Salem College. Subscription price \$4.75 yearly.

Printed by Winston-Salem Chronicle.