

Pit Still Safe Wendt Remembered

by Elizabeth Fennell

Why hasn't anyone responded on their own? Why are there no answers forthcoming and no seeming action taken? These questions and many more have been running through Libby Brown's and many others' heads this past month concerning students' safety in walking from the Pit to their respective dorms -- which happens to be directly in the path of newly planted trees where would-be attackers can easily hide.

The new trees beautify the parking lot, therefore serving their purpose; however, I believe that a student's safety is much more important, as will many students, staff, and administrators. And a student walking up that long hill will definitely agree when a man can jump from behind one of the bigger trees.

Libby Brown has written 2 editorials that have been printed in the Salemite, and nothing has happened! Why?

Mr. Sandy Tilley, the Superintendent of Grounds, was contacted and extremely helpful concerning this matter. He was very knowledgeable and made every effort to help. He said that since October, 1989, about 385 trees have been planted around campus, and the trees in question were planted on February 20, 1990.

The many trees and shrubs taking root in Salem were carefully planned by a professional designer and President Litzenburg in July, 1989, with the safety, night lighting, and screening purposes planned and arranged very carefully. Mr. Tilley keeps the grounds looking beautiful along with "limbing up" the dozens of shrubs and trees for the safety variable. His main "territories" for limbing up is all around the dorms and especially around the new sidewalk pathway between Gramley and the Infirmary.

Mr. Tilley continues by saying that the 3 newly planted deadora cedars in question are very safe



"...for right now and the next few years" due to the proper lighting from the two Dusk-to-Dawn lights and the several spotlights on the sides of Gramley, Strong, and Babcock dorms. The Dusk-to-Dawn lights are the street lights on poles that turn on automatically at dusk and switch off at late dawn.

Other types of trees planted in and around the Pit besides the deadora cedars are: 1 deciduous sawtooth oak, 2 Washington hawthornes, and 3 catsura trees. The hawthornes and catsura trees are light shading trees, and combined with the lighting fixtures, they can be easily seen through in the dark. Mr. Tilley's future is cut out for him because as the trees grow taller and wider, they will need continuous "limbing up" to 6 feet above the ground.

Hopefully, the "limbing up" will prevent problems with prowlers, but both then and now it is important to remember to get an escort or friends to walk with you from the pit.

Members Chosen

by Tammy Taylor

Seventeen new members have been chosen to join Fremdendienerin. Fremdendienerin is the student group on campus that assists the Admissions office with tours and overnights. The new members are Angela Aaron, Elizabeth Barrett, Heather Belote, Hillary Black, Allison Burkette, Jennifer Carlson, Stacy Dillon, Ashley English, Mary Beth Evans, Amanda Long, Gayden Plowman, Rennie Rosenthal, Terri Smith, Karrie Stansfield, Jenny "Spaz" Thomas, Betsy VanBenthuyzen, and Charla Vlarervich.

by Steffan Hambright

Robert L. Wendt, the retired head of the sociology department at Salem, died March 3, 1990 at the age of 69. He taught at Salem for 29 years and also served as an interim minister for Baptist churches in the area. President Litzenburg said that Wendt "was probably one of the more beloved

professors at Salem." Wendt took an active interest in his students and encouraged their interest in the community around them. Litzenberg states: "He believed that no one should spend four years at Salem and not understand the community that they lived in. And they ought not graduate without showing that understanding through volunteer work."

Genetics vs. Ethics

by Karen Elsey and Kathryn White

On Thursday March 29 as part of the Lunch and Lecture Series, Dr. Jim Edwards presented "The Genetics: Medical and Moral Implications of Recent Advances in Recombinant DNA Research" to approximately seventy people. The lecture was periodically interrupted by bursts of laughter at the various Far Side cartoons thrown into the slide show by Dr. Edwards. Last summer Dr. Edwards attended a program on the New Genetics held at Oxford University, thus increasing his awareness of the ethical implications of recent genetic advances. He began with an overview of DNA as a double-helix strand of nucleotide pairs. These strands make up genes which compose the chromosomes located in the nucleus of cells. Genes are often characterized as 'the basic unit of heredity.' They determine the characteristics of an individual inherited from the parents. Recent advances in genetics have raised new ethical issues in the scientific community.

Approximately 4,000 of the 3 billion genes in the human genome have been identified. The technology is available to map the entire genome, although Dr. Edwards questioned whether that was desirable. As a result, prenatal amniocentesis can now indicate whether or not a fetus carries a gene for a hereditary disorder such as Tay-Sachs disease, muscular dystrophy, Huntington's disease, and cystic fibrosis. If a serious problem is discovered the parents can then decide to abort or continue the pregnancy. Biotech companies are scrambling to market genetic tests. These tests can also be used to identify carriers of genes responsible for disorders. The carriers can then decide if they wish to risk having children. According to Dr. Edwards, many insurance companies help fund genetic research. Unfortunately, the results of genetic testing may be used to deny insurance to individuals with genes predisposing them to a disorder. Dr. Edwards stressed the importance of educating the public to these new advances in genetics and of being prepared to deal with the ethical questions produced.

Imagine, if you will, ten years from now when doctors can tell you that your child will have blond hair, blue eyes, and furthermore, Tay-Sachs disease. Do you abort the pregnancy or give birth to a child destined to die before age five? Besides its startling medical implications, recombinant DNA testing may also lead to further moral and ethical considerations. For instance, in the future many couples will be able to determine the 'simplest' of characteristics of the fetus. Suppose that these couples want one 'perfect' baby? Unfortunately, doctors determine that the fetus will be a short pigeon-toed boy with terrible acne and protruding buckteeth. This is simply not their 'perfect' child. Do you keep the 'misfit' or abort it and try again, and again, and again, perhaps, even again. And just where does society draw the line? Genetic research--what are the real consequences? Are we prepared to pay the cost?

SACS - cont. from p. 1

These committees have looked at a big picture and then narrowed down each item in the various categories.

From the Maintenance staff, to Main Hall and all the way into the dorm rooms, the committees have compiled information into a multiple manual.

This manual is reviewed by representatives from SACS during their four day visit. This coalition is comprised of twelve representatives from other collegiate institutions (out of state) as well as one official from SACS. The representatives will be talking with all members of the

community, from administration to students. While talking with Dean Cobb about SACS upcoming visit, she reiterated the importance of student interaction with the SACS representatives.

WKZL - cont. from p. 1

learning in the Triad in the development of intern programs to give students hands on experience in commercial radio. In fact, we've been so impressed with some of our Salem interns that they are now full time WKZL employees. We hope the faculty and students of Salem will accept our sincerest regrets over this incident."