

Coming To America

by Noomina Al Mamun

For most foreigners America is George Washington, Red Indians, Marilyn Monroe, North and South, The Civil War, Rock and Roll, Elvis Presley, and the Beatles. Dallas and Dynasty, all that Jazz, John Kennedy, Batman, Nancy Reagan, Mel Gibson and Tootsie, Soda Pops and Madonna, _____ a place, a huge vast land where people from all over the world live, a place where so many people of so many different origins stay. There are the yanks, Southerners, people from the east and the west coast, immigrants, settlers, a place which is not quite a melting pot of different cultures but part of a laid down mosaic, which forms its various designs out of so many different kinds of people, people from different cultures, backgrounds and origins, living with their own tradition. If not mixing or intermingling with other cultures, then living side by side, keeping their own identity. This is one country where you will see people speaking in English, Spanish, French, Chinese, Polish and many other languages. This is a place which has a sort of mystical aura surrounding it. A place which was just a barren land-but with hard work and hope and motivation-through very new and young, has become one of the most powerful, richest, and most developed nations on earth. "A land of opportunities" is that what she is called? A place which not only has Rockefeller Buildings, Pan Am Towers, American Express, slums, the Harlem but also some of the world's most distinguished educational institutions.

I cannot precisely pinpoint what exactly made me decide to come to the United States to study at Salem. There

seems so many yet so few reasons. Even though this is not my first visit to the United States, it is as a student and believe me visiting a place as a tourist and staying over there as a student are two totally different things. I come from a place which is on the other end of the world: Bangladesh, a new country but very old in culture and heritage, geographically on the South, South-East of Asia. So even if it might seem very ordinary to many people, to me, traveling such a great distance, leaving family and friends behind was a poignant and heart-rending yet exciting occasion. I have been traveling since I was a year old and always have been fascinated by and interested in visiting places, different countries, trying to have a glimpse of their hidden treasures, hearing about people, also in knowing about different cultures, traditions, visiting historical and modern places. I have visited other foreign countries and studied in them-but I have ALWAYS wanted to come here. America fascinated me, with its vastness, with its pot pourri of people, so many places to visit, North and South, East and west coasts, a place which always seemed so unpredictable to me, a place which is so different, yet has some ingredients in her with which people from all over the world can identify with.

I came to know about Salem only recently. The fact that it is the first women's college and the fifteenth oldest institution in the United States

a college which is small but very beautiful in surroundings and also known to have a warm and homely atmosphere, Plus the very warm en-

couraging letters from the college really pleased and impressed me and I guess they were the main factors for me in deciding to come here.

Well, it was a tough decision to make, especially when one comes from a very close and united family. But I guess sometimes we just have to endeavor to do something difficult in order to receive something rewarding. In my case, learning and knowing and experiencing more of life and learning to be my own. So I sailed to the United States (by British Airways)-some journey (a thirteen hour layover in London) and amidst apprehension, awe, excitement, wonder, a few expectations in store, a desire to make it and also with lots of doses of homesickness.

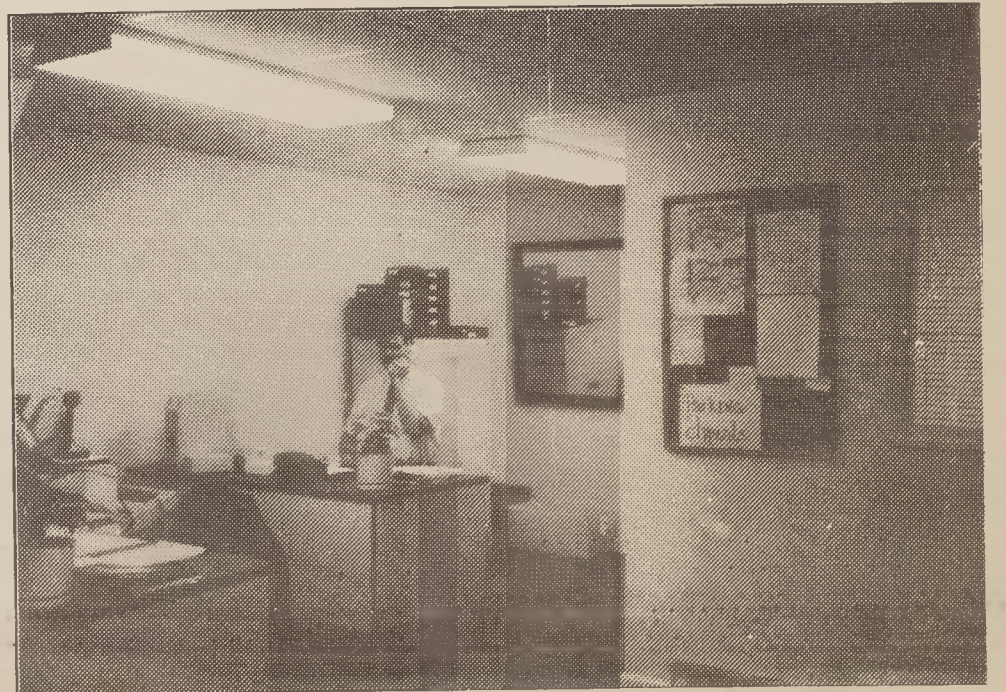
The thing that most impressed me when I was coming to North Carolina from Baltimore, with my father, was green, green everywhere, people's warm smiles, and I knew this is the place where I wanted to be. Now I am here, and it has been very interesting and fun and educational so far. I have already come to know a lot of new things which I did not know before, was not accustomed to and have met a lot of new and interesting people. Though it is too early for me to say whether my expectations match with reality or not but I plan to make the most of everything. I hope I have a rewarding and fruitful year here. I hope to learn more about this country and perhaps help Salem to get to know more about my country too.

A Move for Salem's Public Safety

by J. Robin Wilson
The Salemite

In past years Salem's Public Safety Department has had to operate out of a tiny office in the basement of Main Hall. It was certainly not the most accommodating location for the staff of thirteen officers; however, as a result of negotiations with the faculty, Public Safety was able to exchange lounges with them. The faculty agreed to trade their comparatively large lounge for the Security Office.

As a result of this exchange, Public Safety is better able to serve its purpose. Not only can the new office fit more equipment and officers, it can hold more students in case of a crisis. Another plus is that Steve Wright, head of Public Safety, was able to hook up a phone outside of the office in case a student has a problem. Now, she may walk directly to the Security Office and make a report.



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