

Many Things Have Happened Since He Died

by Elizabeth Sheehy

Many Things Have Happened Since He Died is the title of Elizabeth Dewberry Vaughn's novel. On February 21, Vaughn visited Salem College and gave a reading in the Rondthaler Gramley House from her last novel *Many Things* and her next novel which has not been released.

This novel was Vaughn's first book. She read the first two chapters from *Many Things Have Happened Since He Died* and the story she began weaving was fascinating. The book is the story of a young woman and the events that have affected her life before and after her father's suicide. One of the main themes of the story is her religious upbringing in the South. Vaughn herself was raised in a



Elizabeth Dewberry Vaughn

very religious atmosphere in the South. Vaughn believes that in writing this novel she "deals with things I saw during my childhood that I didn't deal with at the time" Religion is an important theme in the novel because for some people "religion defines everything. Everything is meaningful and utterly significant."

Vaughn holds her doctorate in American literature from Emory University and a Bachelor of Science degree in English from Vanderbilt. She has been acclaimed as one of the best and brightest Southern writers of our time. However, she doesn't "define" herself a Southern writer. *The*

Last Southern Gentleman is her other novel.

A New Face in the Place

by Dawn M. Darby

The Salem College and Academy community recently welcomed to their Public Relations family Ms. Rachel E. Stiffler. Ms. Stiffler comes to us from the Winston-Salem Journal where she was the copy editor in 1988 and has been a reporter since 1989. Her main objectives she says are to place as many stories in the public media about the accomplishments of Salem Faculty and students. She also plans to set up a Speakers' Bureau Booklet which will serve the area organizations, businesses and schools with information about the various fields of which Salem has qualified experts. Ms. Stiffler also plans to send an Experts list to the media as well. "I want us to be more visible" says Stiffler when discussing her motives to expose the Winston-Salem community

to our community's talents, "They need to hear about it" she enthusiastically commented. The fact that Ms. Stiffler has been active in journalism professionally for the past 6 years will attribute she feels, to the success of her carrying out her main objectives for her new position. She started as a reporter for The Daily Tarheel the UNC-Chapel Hill campus newspaper from there she was a reporting intern for The Charlotte Observer, The Virginia-Pilot and the Ledger-Star in Norfolk Va. Ms. Stiffler encourages those interested in pursuing careers in Public Relations to, "write, write, write", she says any opportunity to free lance for newspapers, magazines or intern will be very valuable. Once again the Salem family would like to welcome Ms. Rachel Stiffler and wish her much success.

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attended by a large portion of the Salem community. The group was led by an African dancer and drummer who both perform with such great troops as the Alvin Ailey Dance co. The dinner was authentic and meticulously prepared by the Refectory cooks affectionately known as, "Spam and the crew"! Among the experience was shared an African welcome song and dance. ONUA wishes to thank all those involved in the implementation of the class. Sonya Bennett, a sophomore, voice major admonished, "the continuance of the studies of one of many American cultures which are very diverse and easily misunderstood."

In addition, ONUA has sponsored

throughout the month of February a series of lectures by outstanding Afro-American women of the Winston-Salem community. One lecture a week was held in the Gramley library assembly room and was open to the public and college. The lectures were published in the Winston-Salem Journal courtesy of LaTonya Gary, Rachel Miller who are seniors at Salem College and Mrs. Tonda Smith, from the Salem College Public Relations department.

In celebration of Black History month, on February 26, 1992, the Admissions office held a Black Alumnae and student dinner held in the Club Dining Hall at Salem College.

The Oracle

Partin-g Shots

by Dr. Bill Partin

Once again the Salem community and the nation at large are facing that quadrennial rite of passage known as a presidential election campaign. Aren't we so lucky? What joy and bliss are ours! Month after month of candidates who are non-persons talking about non-issues—that is what we can look forward to between now and November. Perhaps we should all consider joining hands and walking off a cliff together. That might be a less painful way to go!

I suppose that I should apologize for my cynicism about this great exercise in American democracy, but it is difficult to feel otherwise. After all, consider what recent campaigns have brought us in the way of Presidents. We got Ronald Reagan, a man whose hero was Calvin Coolidge and who could not seem to stay awake (even in an audience with the Pope). Of course, when we got dear old Ronnie, we also got that cold fish known as his wife (who had the smile of an undertaker and a taste for expensive fashions).

More recently we got George Bush and Dan Quayle as our leaders (the wimp and the simp)—a President whose finest moment may have been throwing up in the lap of the Prime Minister of Japan and a Vice President whose greatest gift is apparently a good golf swing. Of their accomplishments in office it might be said that Churchill's words on Stanley Baldwin and Ramsey MacDonald ring true: "They did nothing in particular, but they did that very well." George Bush may have waged a glorious war in the Persian Gulf, but it now appears that what he won was a hollow victory. Certainly he has no domestic record to speak of, although at least the Presidential dog was able to achieve something of note—she had puppies!

Perhaps we get what we deserve, for American voters seem most attracted these days to the candidate with a slick television image, etc. Do we really care about issues? I wonder if we do! There are many important issues in this campaign, but both parties will do their best to avoid them. The poor Democrats are so busy sniping at one another that they may present us with no real candidate at all. At this very moment we are being deluged with all kinds of information (and misinformation) about the failings of Bill Clinton of Arkansas. Is he guilty of adultery and does that disqualify him as a suitable candidate for the nation's highest office? While that decision may rest on the "consciences" of the voters, we might remember that other Presidents could have been disqualified on that basis (Franklin Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, and John Kennedy come to mind). Did Bill Clinton seek to avoid the draft and thereby (by implication) shirk the duty of fighting for his country? Why should we care if he did? Who can blame him if he did? I certainly cannot fault him for doing that—in fact, many of that generation (myself included) sought to avoid the draft.

At any rate, we have some long months ahead of us, so let us grit our teeth and bear with it. On election day we could just close our eyes and choose between candidates who will be like "Tweeledee" and "Tweedledum"—or we could look for the nearest cliff.

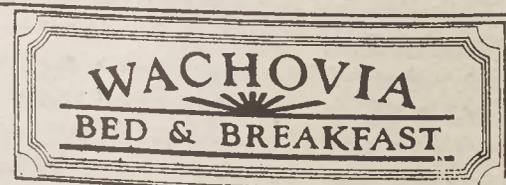
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