

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors,
Every time you watch a play, from Broadway to college theatre, you are witnessing dreams coming true.

For people involved in the theatre, the chance to perform in front of a large audience is their dream.

By not attending these plays, you are not allowing dreams to be fulfilled.

Imagine rehearsing for a production from the end of September to the end of November only to play to an opening night audience of 47 people in a theatre able to hold 150.

According to the House Manager of Salem's production of "3 Comedic one Acts by Chekov," for seven actors, this was not imagination, but reality.

The audience did increase to 58 on Friday night and 65 on Saturday night, but sadly enough, Salem students accounted for roughly 10% of the audience.

Two of the seven actors were not from Salem. This was a good thing because the majority of the audience came from the North Carolina School of the Arts and Wake Forest University—the two male actors' colleges.

The other five actresses were Salem

women and had the pleasure of performing for an audience that only 10% of which were their sisters.

For the past four years, I have been a part of the Fall Production at Salem College. Attendance has always been mediocre, but this year, it was downright embarrassing.

Salem College has gone through many changes in the past year: she has gained a whole new attitude about social life with now record attendance at mixers; she has acquired a new President who has dreams of "putting Salem on the map;" she has embarked on a campaign to increase enrollment; she has hired new professors.

Still, with all these attitude adjustments, only a few students could find their way to the Drama Workshop, pay their two dollars, and support their fellow sisters for a one-hour performance.

Let's just hope for the artists that attendance for the Spring Musical of "Sid by Side by Sondheim" is not lacking. Wake Forest will be on Spring Break, so they cannot be relied on for an audience.

Sincerely,
Juliet Dyal

Dear Editors,

I'd like to respond to the editorial in the December issue of *The Salemite* entitled "Aww Shut Up!!!" Although I understand that the author's intended message—that Salemites need to work to change things they don't like rather than merely complain about them—is a good one, I believe that other elements of the editorial were damaging to its professionalism and quality. Below are the elements which I found objectionable.

1. The tone: As we are equals and adults at this college, it is inappropriate and insulting to be addressed by another student, regardless of her position on campus, in such a condescending and scolding tone. The position of Co-Editor and the accompanying editorial license does not entitle any student to rebuke, preach to, or talk down to her fellow students.

2. The language and style: The fact that words such as "hell" and "damn" appear in a college newspaper, serving no clear purpose other than shock effect, reduces the quality and professionalism of the journal. In addition, the breathless and disorganized rhythm, made worse by incorrect or lack of punctuation, gives the editorial an unpolished and decidedly immature style.

3. The criticism of specific members of our campus: Although freedom of speech in all editorial duties is a guaranteed right, it should be noted that editorial duties do not include criticizing, insulting, or singling out specific students or faculty members. In a community this size, sharp and destructive criticism does not contribute to unity or positive change; and attacking a student leader and a prominent faculty member for whatever reason is unprofessional. The criticism of our student leader is unreasonable, because she, herself, has worked to alleviate the very

problems which the editorial criticizes. Moreover, the fact that the criticism of the faculty member was not related to the topic, but seemed motivated by a sense of personal bitterness, is all the more damaging.

4. The implication that Salemites should either act on their concerns or "shut up": Although active participation by all students is a goal shared by most campus leaders, the cleansing effect of discussion, even if it does not lead to a plan of action, should never be overlooked. Students are encouraged to discuss their concerns with one another, in any circumstance, if they feel the need to. Never should we be instructed to "uncover what (our) gripe is... or SHUT UP ALREADY"—it is every student's decision whether or not to act on her beliefs.

5. The implication that the only concerns Salemites have to share involve romance, men and "dirt": *The Salemite* has been a vehicle for expression of many student concerns, from women's issues to eating disorders to international peace conferences. Romance, men, and dirt are hardly the subjects of legitimate journalism; they are the topics of trashy and sensationalist tabloids.

6. The implication that Salemites don't read or appreciate our newspaper: Quite simply, if we didn't, we never would have gotten to the editorial which so rudely instructs us to do so.

7. The timing: Although it is obvious that this paper was the new editor's first chance to express her opinions, it was also the end of the semester and the beginning of exams; and students don't need to be distracted by accusatory and confrontational editorials such as this one. In addition, there was an applicant visitation that next day, and as it has

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Dear Editor,

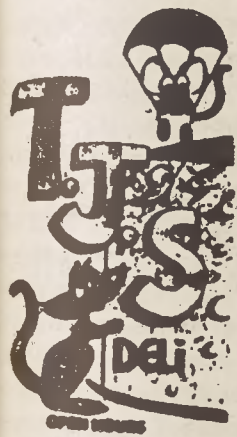
As many of you know, I am a great believer and "pusher" for traditions here at Salem. But there is one tradition that has begun I do not like. In the past few years a majority of offices in SGA have only had one person running to fill the position. Two years ago when I ran unopposed for SGA secretary a million reasons why this was occurring ran through my head. Was it because no one wanted to run against me? Was it because the job was extremely demanding and I was the only one dumb enough to do it? Was it because no one cared or because no one really understood SGA and what it does?

I felt very silly giving a speech when people had the choice of me or nobody. And that too was a fear; what if I lost because people would rather have the job go undone than to have me do it? There is minimal joy in running for an unopposed office.

Yet, I can understand why people do not run for offices, especially if it is an organization you have only been involved in for a short time. The fear of losing is great. The fear of winning and doing a bad job if elected is also great. The concern of how much time and stress are involved is also worrisome.

But fear not, there are advantages to

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Dine In
Carry Out
Party Trays

Menu Specialties

- Reuben
 - Smoked Turkey
 - Hot Roast Beef
 - Cham
 - French Dip
 - Gourmet Burgers
 - Potato Skins
 - Fried Mushrooms
 - Fried Onion Rings
 - Homemade Soups
 - Salad Bar
 - Beverages
- 10% Discount with I.D.**

SUN-THURS
FRI-SAT

OPEN HOURS:

11 AM til 10 PM
11 AM til 11 PM

LOCATIONS:

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| Clubhaven Shopping Center | 760-0488 |
| Market 150 Center (I-40 & 150) | 993-6644 |
| North Battleground, Food Lion Center | 545-1162 |
| Northchase Shopping Center | 744-7466 |
| Parkway Shopping Center | 748-0155 |
| Sherwood Plaza | 760-3714 |
| Downtown Winston-Salem | 721-1750 |
| 1540 S. Stratford Road | 760-2100 |