

Letters to the Editor

Race Relations not Improving

by Yolanda Hairston

I am mad. Damn mad. And since I completely agree with Amy Woodard, I too am going to join her fight and complain. There are far too many things wrong on this campus that need to be talked about and heard.

I know this is a touchy subject, and also one that many shy away from discussing, but the issue of racism on Salem's "diverse" campus has to be dealt with upfront with no holds barred. I can not believe the onslaught that is occurring at the place that I wanted so much to call home. I am sick and tired of hearing the phrase "you people" that I'm about to explode! The idea that one person from a racial or ethnic group represents the sum is utterly STUPID, and the main reason why prejudice exists. How can so many of you waste your parents' (and Salem's, and the government's) money on a superior education, and you are not learning anything while you are here? Yes, you come to get an education, but you are supposed to learn more than textbook material—you are here to discover the world and all it has to offer, including the great people that make up this world. There are bad apples in every bunch, so when you see a mangy dog on campus, please do not "deduce" that the dog is from Happy Hill Gardens and belongs to a poor black family that can not take care of it.

And speaking of Happy Hill Gardens... who made up that crap about "the really bad neighborhood near us" that we should all be so very weary of? That bunch of garbage was spouted out to me during Freshman Orientation last year, and the rumor lingers on. I am a native of Winston-Salem, and I can assure you that the residents of that area have not a care about us Salem girls and hurting us or our campus. Simply because the area is predominantly African-American in makeup does not mean that it is bad, by any means. And you would have quite a long walk or even drive to get there from here! The neighborhood is located on the other side of the School of the Arts, and I'm sure many of you would get lost trying to get there. I have lived here for almost twenty years, and I have never heard horror stories about an abundance of murders, rapes, etc. occurring in that area. You run more of a risk of getting hurt by hanging out with those damn "Klu Klux Klan KA's" at Wake Forest University.

I understand that the incident of the racist notes left on the doors of four students who resided in Babcock last year (I was one of those students) tarnished Salem's image, and hurt a lot of other people who truly care, but the bottom line is, as Tiffany Matthews would say, "WHO WROTE THE NOTES???" It seems that so much can be done to find missing wallets, money, books, etc., but someone who infringed upon our civil rights and hazed us got away. I feel that it should have been dealt with on a larger scale. Something could have been done, but it was not. All of us need to take time out to think about the incident, our beliefs, our morals, and how we treat ALL people. That person or group of people may still be here, and how can any of us trust someone so devilish and sneaky? It could have been your best friend, and you have no idea what she may say or do to you behind your back or in the early morning hours.

And this all leads me to our Honor Code. It no longer exists. And I refuse to fill the heads of prospective students with the ideals of the trust that we should hold in it, because it no longer works. It can't work when even one person goes against it and gets away with it. There is a thief in Clewell (and I'm sure that the ghosts are not doing the stealing), and she is making off like a bandit. Everything from credit cards to compact discs are being stolen, and I no longer know who to trust. We should all be able to go shower without having to worry about someone creeping into our rooms or be able to sleep at night without worrying what note (or worse) we may find on our doors in the morning. This is not the fault of Honor Council or Interdorm. The failure of our once beloved Honor Code lies within the sneaky, shady, shameful individuals who lie, cheat and steal. They are a threat to the future happiness of Salem's community and we need to seek them out and get rid of them! Salem women, I ask you in parting, to CHECK YOURSELF.

Salem Campus Inhospitable To Physically Handicapped

by Jennifer LeBlanc

Salem has such a friendly, "here-let-us-help-you" kind of atmosphere that it never occurred to me they would be so inconsiderate.

When I broke my foot four weeks ago, I found out that no building on campus has adequate handicap accesses, if any at all. To top off my frustration, I realized that only one of my classes was on the ground floor of a building. Every other class involves several flights of stairs.

It's really sad that a school working against the exclusion of women so blatantly excludes the physically handicapped. What about the policy of Admissions, "regardless of color, creed, handicap, etc.?" Isn't having a non-accessible campus enough to discriminate against a physically-impaired person?

New Faces on Campus

Pictures and Quotes by Ashley Poston

The new part-time faculty were asked the question "What do you like most about Salem?" and here are their answers.



Jennie Puckett (Spanish)—"[I] Feel so at home here and I love an environment where women develop their own leadership."



Jamie Albritton (Music)—"[The] atmosphere here is very warm. Certainly conducive to making some great music."



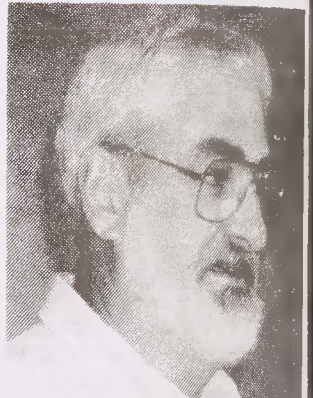
Jim Gregory (Music)—"The atmosphere is irreplicable, like no other place in the world."



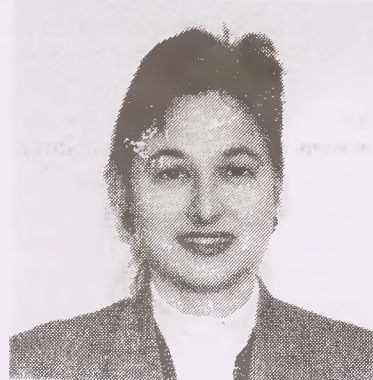
Robert Johnson (Education)—"I enjoy the closeness of the Salem community."



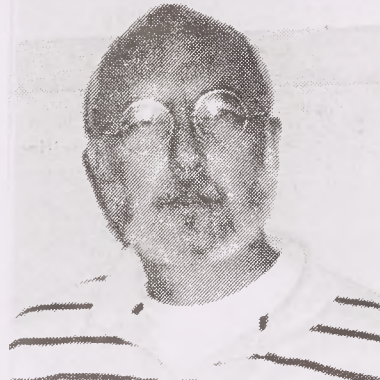
Sherry Cole (Art)—"I have really enjoyed teaching my class!"



John Williamson (Biology)—"It's different—my class is more heterogeneous than I'm use to—It's very challenging."



Ann Harrell (Accounting)—"Real good experience so far, the people and environment are wonderful." Also noted her love of historical surroundings of Old Salem.



Michael Hartley (Anthropology)—"I think Salem is a neat and wonderful place. Like it is a combination of deep tradition and active, intellectual involvement with the present. I'm pleased to be here."



Marguerite Lewis (Economics)—"Salem is a great environment for a new educator. My students are very bright and keep me challenged."

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