

# The SALEMITE

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## Seniors Speak-Out

Thinking back to August and the beginning of my senior year I do not recall any special feeling associated with outset of my last year at Salem. Now, with the weeks until graduation so few they can be counted on one hand, I have taken time out from lifespan appointments and seminar reading to re-examine my thoughts.

The subject of graduation is approached with mixed emotions. There is both excitement over the beginning of a new life 'beyond the square' and sorrow at leaving what has been our home for the last four years. While the excitement over the months to come can be anticipated later, the sadness at leaving must be dealt with in the few short weeks that we have left.

We can soon look forward to exams and the hectic end of the year packing race. Before the final lap, let me ask you to look back over the last four years and your experiences at Salem. Remember the first nervous weeks as freshmen and the relief of turning in term papers? Our sophomore slump, 'transferitis' and our plans for Soph.-Sr. Banquet? Junior year we declared our majors, played Big Sister and measured for caps and gowns even though graduation was over a year away.

Now we are faced with graduation less than a month off. The thrill of moving on to other things is tainted with sadness at leaving our friends and classmates, many of whom we will never see again. Before closing your last suitcase, please take time to reflect over your experiences here, the friends you cherish and the years you will never forget.

Amanda Vannoy

If we were to look at some statistics to describe our generation it would be a pretty gloomy picture. Alcoholism, divorce, child abuse and world hunger are a few of the crisis of today's world.

I could stand here and quote a list of statistics describing these ills, but I don't think this is necessary. First of all, behind every statistic is a human being, often lost among the numbers and secondly, we are all

convinced that the "Golden Age" is long past.

Regardless of how dark the picture is, my purpose today is not to paint it but rather to ask ourselves where we are in this picture.

Are we complacently living day by day or are we dreamers?

One of the proverbs in the Bible says, "Where there is no vision, no dream, the people perish."

Broken people are often the result of broken dreams. If we dare dream and then hold on to our dream, we will be a people with a vision, and to put it in the biblical language, we won't perish.

The kind of dreamer I am challenging us all to be are those dreamers who are willing to nurture and allow our dreams to become a natural part of us, so that their realization is more of a reality to us than their defeat.

Perhaps many of us associate dreaming with a state of rest. In my own experience, my dream - my dreams, of what I want my life to be and what I want to contribute to the world have been born during times of unrest, times where I have not been satisfied and often times, when I have been struggling through an issue.

We have all been accused at one time or other of living sheltered lives at Salem. To me, Salem has not been a place of shelter but a place of preparation. It has been a place where I have been encouraged to develop and to nourish my dreams and to take them seriously. Through the seriousness with which I take my dreams, I believe I can determine to a great extent the reality of the "outside" world.

Whether you have three years or two or one year left at Salem, MAKE Salem a place to DREAM.

To illustrate this process of dreaming, let me compare a dream to a tree.

When a dream takes root within us, and it sprouts and begins to grow, our dream will experience seasons of sunny springtime, dry and windy weather, rains and bleak winters.

A tree does not give up during the natural season of the year but it adapts itself



and continues to produce its fruit - naturally.

If our dreams have in fact taken root within us, then they too will adapt to the season and produce results - naturally.

The American architect, D.H. Burnham said, "Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir the blood - and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans: aim high in hope and work."

Make Salem a place to dream - BE A DREAMER.

Paula Myers

The major point I attempted to make last Thursday, was that each and glimmer. It's not a fatal error, whether student, faculty, administration, or staff, should make a concerted and continuous effort gain the most from their to get to know and understand experiences or themselves oneself. Not just know your and others without a good. "name, rank and serial strong understanding of who number," but knowing your They are. This is a challenge which I needs, your motivations, your goals, your feelings...The list goes on and on essentially, community, as well as a being constantly sensitive reminder to myself. and aware of yourself and your reactions to every experience you have.

Caroline Wannamaker  
Cont'd. on two

