

The Salemite

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EDITORIALS

Future Good for Salemite

Amidst organizational meetings, deadlines, proofreading, and last minute details, we weren't sure this would make it before the end of September!

But it did and we're all glad to have been a part of it and the six other editions of *The Salemite* which will be published this semester. We're promising more professionalism, more editions and more creativity and your ideas are always welcome.

Come to one of our staff meetings and see how we work. We'd love to have you join us! **Allison Buice**

Fall Fest Purpose Questioned

Salem's annual celebration of Fall Fest has become a day of questionable purpose. Originally called Founders' Day, Fall Fest was intended to honor our pioneer sisters who enrolled at Salem in October 1804. College handbooks as far back as 1932 list Founders' Day under "Traditions," and planning the day's activities was the responsibility of the FITS chairman. Founders' Day events included songs, skits, games, and even a speaker. In 1980, Founders' Day was changed to Fall Fest, and its purpose was lost.

Honoring Salem's students of 1804 and promoting class spirit are seldom considered during the planning and the celebration of Fall Fest. Student committees plan elaborate productions during summer vacation; class meetings are scheduled for rehearsals; and the motive is always the idea that one class must be better than the other classes. Competition, not spirit or unity, is the governing factor.

Many students use Fall Fest as a day to exhibit their social finesse and other non-academic talents. Bloody Marys before breakfast, napping through the afternoon games, nipping before the skits, dancing on the tables at TOG after the skits -- these images are what some students remember. Where is the honor and the spirit of the celebration?

Certainly all students do not abuse the privilege of a day without classes. Some enjoy the pomp of a grand entrance into the FAC parking lot, the competitive atmosphere of the afternoon games, and the elaborate pageantry of the evening skits. These students have a sense of the purpose of Fall Fest.

In considering the purpose of Fall Fest and the actual activities of the day, two alternatives come to mind. One is the drastic idea that since the celebration serves no purpose except to suspend a day of classes, we should erase this tradition from the calendar. A better alternative is to change Fall Fest to a Saturday. If Fall Fest is important and the tradition is meaningful, it will survive a move to the weekend.

This year's Fall Fest will be celebrated on Monday, Sept. 28. Class spirit should be the day's theme, and everyone should remember the Salem girls of 1804. Their pioneer spirit is our fortune. **Mary Rogers**

Fall Fest Spirit Anticipated

I get excited just thinking about Fall Fest and all the good it can do for a student, a class, and Salem. Next Monday will be one of the best days we will have this year at Salem. It requires a lot of hard work and planning, but the results are worth it. A student can gain so much by participating in Fall Fest, and it really bothers me when someone does not. No excuse is valid enough to warrant passing up Fall Fest. It is a fun day, and every student should participate.

For the individual student, Fall Fest gives her the chance to show off hidden talents which may otherwise have remained submerged during her four years at Salem. These talents include playing the piano, writing a skit, designing decorations, arranging the entrance, and many other chores which must be done. You have a chance to really help your classmates, and in doing so you make your presence felt as a member of your class. You find a spot for yourself and begin to realize that "Yes, I do belong with my class."

When everyone realizes that she belongs to her class, a feeling of class unity begins to take over, and with it comes class spirit. You see yourselves as a group with a single goal--to pull off Fall Fest. You work hard together and become a close-knit unit.

For the freshmen, Fall Fest really provides a chance to unify and to get to know one another. It is their first project together and they want to make it a good one so they can impress everyone else. To see a group of girls who cannot even agree on what time to have a class meeting put together a flawless Fall Fest is surely a worthwhile sight! I cannot stress enough the value of Fall Fest in uniting a class. It becomes a one-for-all and all-for-one situation that is easy to get involved in and excited about.

Finally, Fall Fest generates much excitement about Salem itself. While watching the senior's entrance, or listening to the freshmen class song, or hearing the juniors out-yell the sophomores, you get caught up in a "Salem high." I cannot describe it, but it is a feeling that lets you know you are in the right place--you are for Salem, and Salem is for you. School spirit is at an all time high during Fall Fest.

I will get down off my high horse for now, but you can believe that I will be back on it Monday. I hope to see you on yours. **Amanda Mays**

Security Tips

Theft has been occurring frequently on campus. For example, a television was stolen from a dormitory room on September 14.

Larry Upshaw, Director of Safety and Security, suggests these precautions to avoid theft: Do not leave dormitory rooms unlocked, most burglaries occur at this time; leave no packages or clothing articles on car seats, this is the second, easiest target for crime.

To avoid problems when using parking lots at night, always have someone with you; when visiting, going to events, or jogging, invite a friend. Upshaw recommends that students do not jog at night.

A security staff is maintained 24 hours a day. For security problems, call 721-2718 from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. From 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. security can be reached through the beeper system at 761-4357. Messages should be conveyed within 12 seconds, then repeated.

Freshmen Only

Who said that being a freshman is easy? It's easy if a person doesn't take the time to study, but for others who have the dream of acceptance into Alpha Lambda Delta, freshman year consists of open books, and lots of hard work. To be admitted into this elite freshman honor society, a freshman must exhibit an accumulative average of a 3.5 after taking a full academic load. New members are admitted into the society at the beginning of the Spring and Fall terms.

Arete Officers Elected for '81-'82



Kathy Glover was recently elected president of Arete, a senior honor society at Salem. Other officers elected are Carol Ann Moorhead, vice-president and Spencer Brugh, secretary-treasurer. Membership is based on leadership, scholarship and service within the Salem community. Arete members are inducted in the spring of

each year.

Other members are Jessica Foye, Minda Salapong, Mitzi Dooley, Katie Davis, Allison Buice and Cynthia Heath.