

# After the Banquet...

This is one of those emotional times when it is difficult to put to words what the moment means. Seniors are bound to be reminiscing endlessly about the past four years -- orientation, King Tut, freshman term papers, room drawing, Mary Poppins, Camelot (is there such a place), TOG (and Max), Oscar's, Safari Room, Simo's on Friday afternoon, Wake Forest, Chapel Hill, Hampden-Sydney (oh, those road trips and those "bear" necessities), dances, Kent's place at the lake, congratulations to Roberta, good friends, hard work and many, many more happy, emotional memories.

These memories will no doubt become even stronger in the next two months and 18 days. It will be harder to walk around campus without remembering something, longing for a moment past. As seniors, we hope you will feel the same emotions when you pass this way. As seniors looking back, we're glad to have been a part of it all. Allison Buice

## The Oracle

by George McKnight

*The purpose of "The Oracle" is to involve faculty and administration in expressing their views about pertinent issues concerning students and today's world, around or beyond the square. This week, Dr. George McKnight addresses the topic, Career Opportunities for Women in the Sciences.*

At a time in the not-too-distant past, a student earning a Ph.D. or MS. in math or science had a number of career options open to her on leaving the university. She could choose to teach and-or do research at a college or university; she could choose to work for a government agency at the state or federal level; or she could choose to work in industry or business. The options open to today's graduate are much more limited.

Teaching positions at colleges and universities have dwindled in number, and competition for these positions is extremely intense. The exception is engineering colleges, which have difficulty filling vacancies with qualified individuals. At the high school level, there is a demand for teachers in selected areas such as physics and math and to a lesser degree, chemistry.

The recent reduction in spending at both the state and federal levels has affected the number of positions available in this sector. Fewer openings are expected; hence, competition for these openings will be keen.

Unless a serious depression overtakes us, the number of openings in business and industry will remain relatively constant and may even increase slightly. However, due to the reduced numbers of openings in the other two sectors, competition for jobs in the industrial sector is likely to increase.

From what I have written thus far, you might conclude that you would be foolish to major in math or a science. Before you do so, let me assure you that there are challenging and interesting

jobs open to the student of math or science. However, since competition for these jobs will increase, you must prepare yourself well. Simply majoring in math or science is no longer an open door to a rewarding career. Employers can and will be very selective in hiring. Given the interdisciplinary nature of modern day science, employers will be looking for graduates who not only have a good foundation in their disciplines, but who also have a broad background in mathematics and the sciences. They will be actively recruiting those graduates who have learned how to "solve" problems, and to think critically, and to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing. They will be looking for the individual who has demonstrated initiative in seeking out education and extracurricular experiences which will be beneficial to her development.

Given these new realities of the job market, if I were a student of math or science, I would think twice before avoiding that extra course in math or chemistry; and I would definitely take that computer science course. I would seriously consider squeezing in a creative writing or public speaking course. (You'd be amazed at how much creative writing is done in science.) I would seek out positions of responsibility and leadership on campus. I would make good use of my January Terms and summers to gain experience unavailable on campus. Finally, I would explore non-traditional career opportunities in math and science, and choose my electives with the idea of broadening my background and acquiring expertise which may be helpful in the future.

There are a lot of challenging and interesting careers in science, and as a woman you might have a slight edge, but only if you are qualified.

# Letters to the Editor

## Don't Complain

To The Editor:

There seems to be a concern among the student body as to the cost and quality of student publications. As editor of *Sights and Insights*, I would like to address these concerns.

I think there are very few students who realize the cost of producing a yearbook. Our S.G.A. allocation covers the publisher's cost. We must rely on the sale of advertisements, fund-raising projects, and patrons to cover all other costs. These costs include film, processing of color pictures, darkroom supplies, artwork and special effects, shipping, as well as, general supplies, Xeroxing, etc.... This year we have also had two additional costs: the cost of two-thirds of the publication's darkroom and the debt left by last year's book.

Obtaining the money needed for the extra costs presents a problem. There is a limit to the number of ads we can sell. Pages cost money. Fund-raising income is also low. It is difficult for a group of 15 to raise large amounts of money when the same 15 people are trying to meet deadlines. I also find it interesting that only 31 people supported our last fund-raising project, the Ryan's raffle. At a cost of \$18 per student, the staff must raise an additional \$4-5 per book. That is where your \$18 go.

As for the quality of the publications, I have one remark. If you don't work on the staff, don't complain about the quality of the final project. The staff works hard and puts a great deal of time and effort into doing their best to produce a good yearbook. For those of you who have complaints, why not put that energy towards getting involved? Until I see someone willing to do a better job than the one that is currently being done, I find it difficult to accept complaints.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Fuller

## Solo Gripe

Dear Editor:

I'd like to say a word for those of us who live and work at the FAC: Salem students are constantly encouraged to take advantage of the cultural opportunities in our city, but why is there seldom any publicity for musical events here on our own campus, such as student recitals?

We music majors spend the majority of our time during our sophomore and senior years (sometimes even freshman and junior years) preparing for our solo recitals, only to walk out on stage and see Shirley Auditorium half-filled. It's a little depressing to spend four or five hours a day preparing for a recital, and then end up performing to empty seats. Now, granted, many of us do have decent attendance because our parents, friends, and teachers come to support us, but I'd like to encourage the whole student body to attend solo recitals this spring.

Preparing a recital takes much time, concentration, and patience, but most of all it requires a dedication to, and a great love for music and performing. We as musicians enjoy sharing our music with others - that's the whole purpose of giving a recital - and part of our satisfaction comes from knowing that we are supported and appreciated.

If you have a friend who's a music major, or even if you don't, you can understand the trauma and excitement of giving a recital - it's just like taking an exam only it's more fun (and more pressure). In fact, our recitals do count as the exam for our performance credit, so you see, we do need support - don't you need someone to encourage you when you go take an exam?

There are twelve solo recitals coming up this

spring, and I'd like to encourage each student and faculty member at Salem to attend at least one. It's a fun way to be exposed to classical music, but more importantly, it's a way of saying that you support your friends, and that you appreciate all the time and effort they put into their major.

Your attendance means a lot, believe me. Watch the Salemite, and the bulletin boards in the refectory for dates and times, and please do take an evening to enjoy some good music while you support a friend. You'll be glad you did.

Sincerely,  
Robin Elmore

## Abortion

To the Editor:

In reply to Barbara Meskill's pro-life campaign, I would like to speak for the pro-choice conflict. Many people do look at abortion as an easy way to shirk the responsibilities that having a child entails. However, what if a 14 or 15 year old girl becomes pregnant and cannot obtain an abortion? How can a child take care of a child? Also, many people have problems with their reproductive organs and can become pregnant but cannot bear a child. In this respect, if an abortion can not be obtained, is it up to the state to take two lives where an embryo could have been sacrificed?

If a child is seen deformed or handicapped as an early fetus, abortion offers a choice to the parents. Abortion would be an easier aspect rather than watching that child grow through society as a subject of society's mockery, cruel subjections and constant references to his-her handicap.

Pro-choice is in no way advocating abortion as a means of alternate birth control, or as an easy way out of responsibility. It is offering a choice to both partners involved in a relationship, as to whether either of them is responsible enough to raise a child and provide for the child. It does offer medical help, where a person has problems with reproduction organs.

Abortion is a common-sense approach to people who have only one choice, one decision to make. To take away that choice opens channels to illegal abortions with fatal side effects and the unnecessary loss of lives. It is not a choice to be made by the state. The choice must be made by the people involved in the relationship.

Alice Crawford

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