

Open Doors

Since Nancy Stephens' death, the worst part for many of us to bear has been passing her office in Main Hall and seeing her door closed--a closed door is the antithesis of everything Nancy strived for. Nancy literally and figuratively opened doors for Salem students.

Nancy exceeded her duties as an administrator. She was a teacher, role model, and willing advisor to me and others. Her door was always open to students seeking advice or information. Nancy took an interest in individual students and their personal development. As advisor to *The Salemite* Nancy was always available to members of the staff--whether we need a faculty photo for "The Oracle," advice on layout, or a shoulder to cry on. We knew we could always count on Nancy.

Nancy was a very strong supporter of student publications and the communications program. She gave a guest lecture in journalism and advanced composition each year. Nancy also sponsored student interns and workers in her office. Under her wing, one was sure to learn almost all there was to know concerning public relations, writing skills, graphics and photography.

I first realized the extent of Nancy's interest in student activities last spring when I became editor of *The Salemite*. It was Nancy who suggested that I might want to consider trying to relocate the newspaper's office for the betterment of the paper and campus communications. Nancy suggested I consider moving it to the Back Door. This fall when I returned to Salem, I was convinced that the move was necessary and I was ready and eager to make it happen. Nancy was very helpful to Ellen Brown and me in formulating the proposal. She was an author of it as much as Ellen and I. I will never forget the elation and excitement Nancy and I shared after Publications Board unanimously voted to recommend the proposal--three days later Nancy entered the hospital. Nancy was to have gone with Ellen and me before Administrative Council to make the proposal. She of course wasn't able to, but Ellen and I didn't have to either. Dean Sullivan presented the proposal and Administrative Council approved it.

Getting Back Door was a triumphant victory for me, Ellen and *The Salemite*--it was an empty victory though because we could not share it with Nancy. The Back Door is a fitting tribute or memorial to Nancy because she worked and strived so hard to open doors for Salem students.

Flight

*Anchored to the sand
inexorably -- as the ships,
tied by iron-link hands,
are captive in their slips --*

*the child, a silhouette
against the diamond sky,
runs on the silver sand, and yet
escapes her bonds to fly.*

*No longer tied to earthly things,
airborne by joy, a spirit free,
she soars, unchained, with gulls and wings --
a moment in eternity.*

*Brief golden moment in the sun
that warms when legs no longer run.*

Teri L. Capshaw

Nancy Stephens

The Salemite

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Letters to the Editor

Fall Fest

Dear Editor,

In response to the editorial of the October 1, 1982 issue of the *Salemite*, we beg to differ. The behavior exhibited by the Freshman class did indeed leave us with the impression that some of them are not prepared for the freedom of college. However, we felt the sophomore class showed true Fall Fest spirit. Had the Fall Fest competition included a Spirit award, the sophomore class would have beaten all the other classes, including the seniors.

The Freshmen's behavior, shown through their booing at the volleyball game and

throwing beer at Holyfield's (even after repeated warnings by the management), has us worried about the future of Fall Fest at Salem. The day is supposedly designed to show our Salem Spirit. Let's keep it that way.

Sincerely,
Ellen Hennings
Jo Stephenson

Dear Editor,

I was very upset when I read the editorial on Fall Fest in the Oct. 1 issue of the *Salemite*. Ms. Capshaw's opinion of what Fall Fest is supposed to be distressed me. I understood that Fall Fest was supposed to bring each class closer and to bring the

whole school closer together. I never knew that it was only for the Senior Class to "shine." I can't believe that the school would actually set aside an entire day for just the Seniors to shine (not that I have anything against the Seniors).

Claiming that both the Freshmen and Sophomore classes acted like "obnoxious, callow highschoolers" angered me not only because I am a sophomore, but because I did not push, shove, or throw beer on people. And not all freshmen and sophomores exhibited this behavior. Maybe Ms. Capshaw did not act like this when she was an underclassman but how does she explain the 'mature' senior class of '82 gatoring and throwing beer at last year's Fall Fest after party? All of the pushing, shoving and beer throwing was done at Hollyfields which was the after party and not an official part of Fall Fest. Nowhere on the Fall Fest schedule that students received is Hollyfields mentioned -- so any actions that took place there should not be considered when examining Fall Fest '82 behavior.

The last sentence of Ms. Capshaw's editorial warns the underclassmen not to step on their peers' toes, for it won't get us very far -- it seems to me that Ms. Capshaw stepped on many toes with her editorial.

Sincerely,
Madeline Gilbert

Professors' attitudes

Dear Editor,

I'd like to respond to a letter in the October 15 issue of *The Salemite* which addressed the perceived condescending attitude of professors. Perhaps a professor's actions have been less than praiseworthy, but complaints don't always bring about change.

I propose that a positive measure be taken when a "Yes Dear" attitude is observed. Be assertive and confront the professor with the incident that is annoying you. Don't just brush it off, but make certain your approach to the professor is not sarcastic. Most professors are probably unaware when their actions are insulting, and will respond positively to constructive criticism.

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The Salemite welcomes all Letters to the Editor. Names may be withheld from publication at the request of the author(s) if cause to do so is evident, but will be disclosed upon individual inquiry. Letters must not exceed 300 words in length. The Salemite reserves the right to edit any letters for length, clarity, or those which are libelous or clearly in poor taste. Letters may be left in the 'Letter to the Editor' boxes in Main Hall or the Refectory, or they may be submitted to Teri Capshaw, 305 Bitting.



The Oracle

by Dr. Dudley D. Shearburn,
director of Center for Special
Education and associate
professor of education

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. Dudley Shearburn addresses the issue of women and education.

WOMEN and EDUCATION - That's a favorite subject of mine. In fact it's probably my most favorite subject. So it seems a good point of departure for this article.

Let's prognosticate about the future of the present Salem student. In years to come a Salem student will surely work. She may - and in all probability will - marry and work. She will most likely have children (and believe me that's super work!). Some, for various reasons, may become the sole breadwinners for their families. Some, through divorce or widowhood may enter the marketplace at mid-life. Whatever the happenstance, in each case a Liberal Arts education will provide the understructure for an enriched life as well as better job choice.

So how does Art 121 or Religion 125 or any of the basic distribution requirements fit into this prognostication? Since this is an opinion column, let me state mine from my own experience.

Having graduated from Birmingham-Southern College, I worked one year, got married and promptly had the first of seven children, all about two years apart! There seemed little time for philosophy and music appreciation among the diapers and laundry, but looking back I can remember that my Bachelor's degree lent an enriching dimension. When I was tied pretty close to home, reading good books was a God-send. My liberal education dictated my choice of entertainment. The American Association of University Women, an organization for women college graduates, opened a door to interesting programs. My choice of furnishings was influenced by an esthetic taste awakened in college. My delight in history brightened and heightened an interest in family tradition and southern folklore. Then when the children were of traveling age, I stacked them in a VW van and we visited "museums and confederate cemeteries" - at least that's how they describe it!

After a number of years of creative motherhood, life turned an unexpected corner and work was part of my life style. My BA degree, plus some added certification courses, led me into a marvelous career - teaching. Indeed Birmingham-Southern College and my liberal arts education shaped and colored my whole life.

Salem College will shape and color your whole life - invest your time and get all you can from it. It's truly like an annuity, like money in the bank, like an inheritance. But you can spend it and spent it and it's never depleted.

It's a marvelous gift to be a young woman in a splendid place at a splendid time, blessed indeed by your opportunity to be liberally educated at Salem. Make the most of this pristine opportunity!