

Editorial

The Ego Hour

By Alice Crawford

Many universities have a flourishing campus newspaper. A few university newspapers struggle along with an editor, an assistant editor, a business manager, and an assistant business manager, and sporadic printing schedule because the paper has a budget that it can barely subsist on, and an all-volunteer newspaper staff.

The many people who cry out for a quality newspaper are very entitled to that quality paper. These people, however, do not realize the problems that confront an editor that must manage an all-volunteer staff. There is the ever-present problem of bruising egos, or worse yet, unknowingly offending someone with editorial policies.

Once a person has had a bad experience writing for a newspaper, she is not willing to write for that newspaper again. How can one act as editor or more importantly as a human being, capable of making mistakes, in the threat of a staff member's bruised ego prevades all thoughts of editorial procedures?

Some might counter this with the old cliché "The pen is mightier than the sword." Nothing can replace a staff member if she chooses to resign from any position on the paper because something was unknowingly done to offend any person. The pen is only mightier than the sword if one can present one's goals clearly and thereby initiate the support needed to fulfill these goals.

Since the paper is staffed by volunteers, the reporters are rarely the same. So much of the paper depends on who has exams one week, who is planning a road-trip and will be out of town, or who is just exhausted from overloading already!

The main difference between the flourishing campus newspaper and the struggling SALEMITE is motivation and incentive. Many of the flourishing college newspapers pay the staff of the newspaper. If the staff is not paid for their services, then the students receive some kind of classroom credit or even internship credit for their work.

How can the people here demand a quality newspaper (and indeed they have a right to a quality newspaper), if no incentive or motivation is provided for the students? Perhaps this incentive would overcome the problem of bruised egos and inadequate staffing due to varying circumstances. Once these problems are solved, the credibility problem of the SALEMITE will fade from memory, and financial dire straits will ease.

The people that devote their time and energy to this paper are to be thanked and commended for helping produce a newspaper, for they have a personal incentive to do the best they can to help the SALEMITE improve.

The Salemite Staff

Editor.....Alice Crawford
Assistant Editor.....Cathy Cass
Business Manager.....Anna Shell
Reporters.....Jill Haly, Carla Litaker,
Dani Malbasa, Neal McArthur,
Liz McGehee, Pat Phillips,
Anne Roberson, Susan Robinson,
Lee Sears, Barbara Teates, Char Tipton
Cartoonists.....Catherine Ghoneim, Char Tipton

The Oracle

"Honor (Mistrust) System"

Mr. Michie is a professor of history at Salem College. This column is a means of expressing an opinion and will not be subjected to the editorial pen. This text appears in its entirety.

I have been asked by the SALEMITE to write a short piece for the "Oracle," so I will take up a subject that maybe all of us should consider. This is the low estate into which our so-called "Honor Tradition" seems to have fallen. The greatest manifestation of this condition is the "iron curtain" that descends upon Main Hall during final examination period. Students have to leave their books and notes outside the building. Nasty caveats are posted all over the place, and worst of all, students have to present their identification cards to obtain copies of their examination.

I take the liberty of commenting on these conditions which I find rather appalling because I grew up neat and attended the university where the honor system was founded, and where it actually worked—at least it did when I was there.

At this university, the honor system was founded on a basis of mutual trust and respect among its participants—a student's word was bond. Students should take copies of final examinations anywhere they wanted after they received them and could move about freely when taking the examination. The positive aspect of the system was always stressed, i.e., the student was always to be trusted; therefore, one was allowed a great latitude of freedom during examination periods.

I am afraid, however, our system is based on mutual fear and suspicion or why would Main Hall resemble an armed fortress during every examination period?

Also, from what I gather from the freshmen, they are scared half out of their wits by what they are told about our "Honor Tradition" at orientation. They are told that even expressing an opinion, i.e., whether Instructor X's examination is hard or easy can be interpreted as an honor of-

fense. It seems as if we stress only the negative aspect of the "Honor Tradition." Another example of this negative aspect occurred a few years ago when an Honor Council official discussed our system at a faculty meeting. The gist of her remark was, "Trust the students but don't trust them too far!"

This fear and mistrust that seems to enshroud our "Honor Tradition" encourages the attitude of "they are out to get me" and "them against us"—a sort of atmosphere we find in the novel THE LORDS OF DISCIPLINE. This atmosphere tends to generate a coterie of snoops and busybodies who pry and spy into other's private business and cloak their activities in the "noble" mantle of "We are doing this for the good of the school."

When conditions such as this prevail it seems that the whole purpose of our honor system is perverted. I think it is time to recognize our whole system, basing it on a foundation of trust

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Letters To The Editor

Insecurity

Dear Editor:

Are Salem women who park in the pit safe?

One evening during the week I went out with three friends. We came home around 12:30 a.m. in a convertible. On the way home a car with two guys followed us through Salem Square and then down into the pit. They parked behind our car waiting for us to get out of our car. Luckily they did not try to do anything to us; because if they had who could have helped us? There are no bright lights in the pit to see us clearly; the other exit is locked; and there is really no place to run or call for help in the pit.

So, my question is are Salem women really safe if they park in the pit?

Name withheld by request

A Letter to the Editor of the Salemite:

Are the ladies at Salem College really safe? This is an issue which has recently come to my attention. I feel that security is severely lacking in the Salem community.

After talking with Larry Upshaw, Director of Security, I learned that three security guards are supposed to be on duty at all times. One guard is supposed to man the office 24 hours a day. Unfortunately, Salem security is understaffed and has been for quite some time. Therefore, there are usually only one to two officers on duty. Upshaw says it is difficult to find trained guards who are willing to accept part-time jobs, especially since part-

time help receives no fringe benefits such as health plans, etc. He hopes that the staff will be built up soon. Let's just hope it's soon enough!

How well equipped are our security guards in whom we put our trust to protect us? The six guards now working have had a one-month training session with Larry Upshaw. They are not however officially trained police guards. The guards do not carry guns; they carry mace and a few carry bull sticks.

A few areas such as the FAC and the pit are obvious danger zones. The school expects us to park in these places yet very little security is provided for us. The lighting is bad,

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