

View From The Other Side

By: Bill Pixley

College is an experience that one does not easily forget. And this is especially true for me as a recently enjoined, male member of the Salem College student body. As a male, I and the editors of *The Salemite*, definitely not male, thought it might be interesting to give a new, altogether different vantage of that much heralded cultural institution known as "Life at Salem".

Though this writer's most prominent remembrances are, and will always be, from my days as an undergrad transplant from Wake a few years back—I, like many, practically pitched camp on the Salem grounds many a day and night (often to the chagrin of more than one dorm mother trying to get a good night's sleep). The past few weeks have given me a fresh, more insightful view of Salem as I have come to know her as more than just a social institution. While I do think it safe to say that this piece will be unique, it is nevertheless somewhat limited as "College Life" is primarily encompassed in the sometimes silly, sometimes serious, but always sincere environs and courses of events that unfold in the company of friends, often behind dorm room walls. This space will attempt to relay some of the special flavor of "Life at Salem", that one such as myself can readily identify.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of Salem as a student has to be the grounds. The town of Salem, with its Moravian background, is what has to be described as an ideal atmosphere for personal and intellectual growth. To stroll through the community and feel/be in the virtual sameness as those passionate souls who established the town and one of the most honorable traditions of thought and society, is truly inspirational. To mindlessly, or mindfully, project oneself back in time and attempt to make contact with the Moravian tradition is something I had never done until I became a student. The square brick buildings with their quaint but solidly composed style, emit a friendly but substantial ambiance conducive to matters of a higher plain. From the graveyard to the Winkler Bakery, to the newly built athletic facilities, Salem has a special and complete physical, and even spiritual, plant which invokes development of all kinds.

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The most striking aspect of Salem which I truly had not expected, was the quality of the academics. Having gone to Wake, where Salem was often looked at as little more than an accredited, upper-level finishing school for a group of talented, attractive, free-spirited, and properly placed, but less than educationally oriented young women (You can take a Salem woman out of class, . . .), I am pleasantly surprised by the academic tradition I have found at Salem. My professors have been superb, the classroom discussion has often been lively, and my fellow students are active. From what I have seen, Salem offers the type of challenge that any serious student looks for; and a faculty that is more than willing to help in such an effort.

Not only does Salem seem to have a more than adequate academic grounding in that a young woman appears to be able to get a solid core curriculum, it also appears that Salem has a special quality which allows a woman to develop her special personal talents to the best of her ability. Salem's appreciation for the true liberal arts tradition as exhibited by the breadth of academic involvement and honest attention to individual need, as well as its unique environment, are qualities which I'm not sure one could find elsewhere. Salem truly does seem to be the best of both worlds and for this, you gals are lucky.

As for being a man and going to Salem, what can I say—it's Great, sometimes hard to concentrate, but great! Having been in the cold, cruel world for a few years, there is something that approaches spiritual renewal in seeing so many "cute young things" running around with smiles and a happy how-do-you-do. With spring in the offing, and the tans beginning to get Mocha brown (I had to put in a plug for my pooch), I'm sure that I will begin to experience severe emotional trauma within the next couple of weeks. So if anyone sees this poor boy, and needs some tanning oil applied, know full well that I am happy to oblige, but my health will be a matter for which you will have to take responsibility!!

One thing I as well had forgotten and appreciate college for, is the need to at times randomly exercise one's lungs, legs, and limbic when the spirit arises. As we get older and stodgier, we often forget that it is the occasional whoop and intermittent skip which provides the necessary tonic to balance the imbalances and keep us sane. I'm happy to see such in healthy helpings as college wouldn't be college without a little craziness. Keep it up girls, you're doing just fine.

In retrospect I would like to say that your college years are important and should be utilized to the best of your abilities. Having gone and come back, I must say that school and learning are privileges that one should respect and appreciate. Speaking from experience, it is often easy to lose your balance and get caught up in the fun of the moment, and forget the overriding purpose and importance of the quieter, more cerebral opportunities that college can afford. Balance is the key.

Without sounding shlocky(sic), it is a truism that the world waits for those that are sincere, caring, and work hard. This is not to say that there aren't times to have fun, but that what you are is often the result of what you know. And in the big, bad world, knowing how to play quarters may give you something to do; it is not, however, a talent that will earn you a six figure salary, (unless you go pro!). I say this as one who knows how to play quarters and has been out in the big bad world, so I hope you take this advice in the right spirit.

Finally I would like to say that as a result of being at Salem I have a new and more complete appreciation of that strange animal known as "woman". You gals seem to have that unique and wholly desirable blend of womanhood and femininity, while at the same time begin able to exert yourselves. I say this because there are but a few, a very few, women in the world who know how to deal with the stark, dare say "man's world", and still maintain their femininity. I say this as a man who'll tell you that there is nothing more unattractive, or tragic, than a woman who has to prove, come hell or high water, that she is a man's equal. While you and I know that you most definitely are, you are still women and please stay that way. It appears that Salem is the type of institution that allows such development. For that you and we men are lucky. Besides, in the immortal words of Jerry G.,

"That's right—the women are smarter, they're smarter than the man in every way."

Salem Today:

By: Noel Lumpkin

How has the recent B-rating affected your opinion of the refectory?



Gigi Stevens, freshman:

"The rating does not really affect me. I will continue to eat in the refectory as I always have. One rating does not change my opinion."



Pat Palumbo, sophomore:

"The B-rating doesn't really bother me; it hasn't affected my eating habits. I'm sorry that our refectory got the rating it did, but my opinion has not changed."



Nanette de Groot

"First of all, I think that there has been a misunderstanding about the B-rating. It is not the refectory in the way the students see it but the kitchen and the basement that received the rating. The equipment used by the kitchen staff has gotten old and out of style and needs to be replaced. Second, I wish people would stop complaining about dirty knives, forks or plates because I am sure that in every household things like that occur once in a while. The kitchen staff is doing the best they can with the means they have. Personally I think that the refectory looks great and so far I have enjoyed my meals there."



Annette McNeely

"Perhaps the rating has forced some long-needed changes and improvements in the refectory. It's too bad that it has taken public awareness of the problems to get changes underway. I do not see Epicure and the rest of the refectory staff responsible for the rating. My appetite is as big as ever and I continue to respect the staff that does so much to please us."