

# Editor's Note

by Katie Thomas

One of the problems that often plagues an editor of a newspaper when it comes time to write an editorial is the much dreaded "writer's block." I think this is a disease that inflicts every student who has to write papers in any class. Just at the moment that you have to compose a wonderful piece of literature your mind draws a horrible blank and panic sets in. I have just discovered that I have been afflicted with this condition.

At some time in our young lives, we have to learn the lesson that even if we don't feel like doing something we still have to do it. So I am going to take the advice of a very wise

English professor and write about something that I know.

Through my many years of schooling I have learned that "writers block" is often caused by stress. And what is the relief of stress? I am sure that college students ask themselves this question about a million times. I have tried to learn many techniques to avoid or relieve stress. Unfortunately, all of them turn out to be either illegal or bad for me (usually a combination of the two). During my first three years at Salem I resorted to either driving on the highway listening to very loud music on my car stereo or walking furiously until all of my tension was gone. However, life has dealt me an unusual twist when

I crashed my car into a telephone poll and broke my leg taking away, among other things, both of my stress relieving plans.

This year I have had to learn to deal with stress in a different, productive way (although my friends may not agree). I would love to say that I have turned all that pent up stress-related energy to positive power. Although I am not sure this will ever happen. When five people tell me an hour and a half after the deadline that they can not get their articles in to me, I cannot say that I don't want to massacre the entire human race. I have learned not to scream at my roommate, or to call my mother crying, or to

take it out on the flies in *The Salemite* office (although this solution does not seem too horrible), but to deal with it and learn that "this too shall pass." I now know that nothing is ever as bad as it seems; even the worst of situations pass. These ideas scare me because I realize all the things my mother ever said are actually true. Maybe I am getting a little too old. But when I look at my syllabus and realize that I have three mid-terms in one day, I take a deep breath and keep my hands from pulling out my hair and think about two weeks from now. It just won't matter then. After realizing this, my stress has been lifted, my writer's block is gone and I can write an editorial.

## To The Editor

Dear Editor,

On October 3, Dean Johnson and Miriam Farmer met with the residents of Babcock and Gramley dormitories concerning the new infirmary hours. The intentions of this meeting were to become more aware of the concerns of the students; however, it appeared to me that they were only there in appearance as opposed to listening to what and how we truly felt about the situation. Although they did support the closing of the infirmary with several reasons, they did not directly answer several very important questions, such as: Why can't the infirmary remain open until 8 pm Monday through Thursday?, Why can't we have a nurse on call during the hours the infirmary are closed Monday through Thursday?, Where does a sick person go at night, when she needs supervision throughout the night and does not live close enough to go home?, And do they believe these "Tel-Med" sheets, which we have been provided with, will enable us to know what to do in case of illness? May I point out some facts about their facts, the statistics they presented to us were misrepresented. It is interesting to note that the year the night use of the infirmary declined so drastically so did the enrollment, especially of the present senior class. It stands to reason that there would be less illness, because there are less people to become ill!

Another very intriguing concern raised was where the money appropriated to the infirmary will now be allocated. This question was not addressed in a satisfactory manner. Where does our money go? Or more importantly where should our sick students go in the middle of the night? And, please, do not compare us to any other colleges!

We sincerely hope you will choose to print this in this issue of *The Salemite*! We sincerely thank you for all your hard work this year with *The Salemite*!

Concerned in Babcock and Gramley

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