

The Salemite

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Arriving On Scene Of Attack

by April Edmondson

(The names in this article have been changed to protect their identities).

How many times, in the last few months, have you walked from the pit or FAC parking lot to your dorm alone? Like most of us we have thought little about walking across campus late at night by ourselves. However, on February 3 our attitudes changed drastically! At approximately 1:05 am a shrill, desperate scream echoed the campus. No doubt a scream for help!

As someone stalked the campus, waiting for an opportunity to attack, Jill Jones was returning from the pit. As she walked behind Gramley, a tall black man grabbed her from behind. Jones knew she had to attract attention.

Fortunately, Kate Smith immediately reacted to the terrifying scream. Smith ran to the

window, and yelled, "I see you! Leave her alone!" No one knows what might have happened to Jones if the "Salem attacker" had not immediately decided to flee the area. As the residents of Babcock and Gramley Dorms sought to find out what was happening, public safety was being summoned.

Within two minutes of the scream for help two officers were there and in pursuit of the "Salem attacker." For over two hours the officers searched the campus and Old Salem area for the assailant. Unfortunately, he escaped without any trace.

During the next forty-eight hours campus awareness was at its peak. Many were talking of the previous night's events and Public Safety was making trip after trip to and from the pit and FAC parking lot. Most of the dorms called special meetings to alert the students of the possible danger and to offer some safety tips. Some of these tips

included carrying a pen or pencil (to use as a weapon), positioning your keys between your fingers, and calling for an escort.

Although the "Salem attacker" escaped there was another assailant on Salem's campus that was not so lucky. This man was caught at approximately 11:00 pm on February 4 peeping into windows at the Academy. Following questioning, this man was arrested for trespassing. It is unclear as to whether or not this man is the criminal offender.

As student awareness rises on campus about our security people have begun asking themselves if our system works. Obviously the ability for Salem security officers to arrive immediately in an emergency situation was proven on February 3. But how does our phone system equal to other campuses? Right now we have three phones located at the Alumnae House, the

FAC parking lot, and the pit. Currently, when you pick up one of these phones it rings into the Public Safety Office, where the officer in the office calls to alert the patrolling officer. If, for some unforeseen reason, there is no one in the office then the call is not received. Presently, someone is usually in the office. However, if that person steps away from the office the call from an emergency phone is not acknowledged.

The North Carolina School of the Arts uses a system that seems to be effective. Their emergency phone rings directly to all of the monitors, which an officer carries while patrolling.

Public Safety has advised all students to utilize the phone systems that we do have on campus to call for escorts at night. They stress that if they are not there right away to wait until they arrive before attempting to walk back alone.

Car Causes Controversy

by Sarah Mahoney

On Thursday, February 9, a car was brought on campus to emphasize the effects of driving under the influence of alcohol. The car was demolished as the result of a drinking and driving accident.

Sonya Cobb, the student who instigated the project, felt that

awareness needed to be brought to Salem College. Ms. Cobb spoke with Ty Rice, who was able to lead her through the proper channels. Mr. Rice had executed this program on several other campuses and advised her to first contact area insurance companies. After explaining her intent to the Integon Insurance Corporation, Ms. Cobb was able to secure a car. There were



four people in the car when the accident occurred in November of 1988. All of the passengers were in their early twenties, and the front seat passenger was killed. The others were seriously injured. No other details of the accident were available.

As a standard procedure, the car was purchased by the insurance company and therefore was able to give Ms. Cobb permission to display it on campus. Ms. Cobb was then able to have the Greensboro

Salvage Disposal Company tow it here at no expense.

While administrators expressed their immediate support, several student organizations opted not to. Controversy arose when there was a miscommunication over the proper procedure. Student protest was represented by signs in the Refectory and around campus. There were also flyers passed out stating that if students were "offended by the action" to call Dr. Litzenburg and Ty Rice.

