

The Salemite

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The Uncensored Voice Of The Salem Community

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Everyone Plays Waiting Game

by Patricia Earnhardt

The Salemite Co-Editor April Edmondson and Staff Reporter Elizabeth Fennell also contributed to this article.

The "refugees" of Strong dorm have been busy holding regular dorm meetings and working together in order to endure their present living arrangements. For these women the privilege of moving into a small dorm will be an even greater pleasure than some may realize.

The Strong residents decided to give the student body the chance to decide when the dorm would be open. For three days during lunch the residents sold guesses on when the dorm would open.

Habitat for Humanity will be the only group to benefit from the slow progress on Strong. The residents decided to raffle the dorm to raise money for Habitat as a way to bring some comic relief to what has become a very confusing situation. Advertisements have been placed in *The Salemite* and around campus bringing a humorous light to the subject of the now darkened Strong dorm.

After an eighteen month survey, completed last year, it was decided that Strong dorm would be closed for the summer in order to rewire it. "The work on our buildings has been ranked by the experts in order of priority. That is to say that matters of more immediate concern have been ranked higher. The experts considered the wiring in Strong to require immediate attention," said Dr. Litzenburg.

Dr. Litzenburg also stated that the primary delays on Strong were caused by the storm and contractual problems.

The company contracted to repair the roof had to wait fifteen days for the arrival of the slate tiles necessary to restore the roof. The tiles are hand made by a company in North Carolina, and take a great deal of time to make.

After the electrical contractor was chosen, the administration found that the company was not certified to do the rewiring job necessary. This problem caused the administration to rewrite the contract and then take bids on the project.

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photo by Lesley Stokes

Strong Dorm awaits repairs and improvements while its residents temporarily live separated across campus.

Communication Breakdown

by Patricia Earnhardt

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In the movie *Cool Hand Luke* the head sheriff "Boss" constantly told the prisoners that what they had was "a failure to communicate." Though "Boss", Strother Martin, was only a character in a Paul Newman movie, he could have very well been at Salem last week accessing the Strong dorm situation.

Salem students have often discussed the feeling that the administration has kept them in the dark about important administrative decisions involving student welfare. This same discussion has come up once again behind many closed doors on campus as students pass in front of the not-yet-repaired Strong dorm.

In an effort to find answers to the questions continuously asked by students, we began to dig through the political issues which typically would hinder the informational processes. Our investigation exposed a large gap in communication not only between administration and students, but also within the administration itself.

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Lights Out!

by Mary Bradley Thompson

On Wednesday evening, September 6, much of Salem College was literally in the dark. A transformer located under the infirmary which supplies power to the infirmary, Lehman Hall, Gramley, and Clewell dorms was faulty, causing partial power loss in these buildings. Pike Electric (with Duke Power) was called and arrived on the scene at 9 p.m., however, they were unable to restore power. The age of the transformer was the main cause of the breakdown. It was soon determined that a new one would have to be installed.

According to Bill Todd, Maintenance Director, temporary lights for halls and bathrooms of the two dorms were quickly set up. A spare transformer from South Dorm was used to generate power during this time.

At approximately 12 a.m. all of the power to buildings on front campus was turned off for two hours to disconnect the old transformer and replace it. All other buildings on the college and academy campuses maintained power due to their connection to different transformers. The fence between Babcock Dorm and the Infirmary was torn down in order to lay roads for the Pike maintenance crew to move the new transformer in and connect it.

Many Thursday afternoon classes and soap opera watchers were burdened by the power outage as it encompassed the entire campus. By 6 p.m. Thursday, all power was restored and the roads were cleared by maintenance crews.

In addition, the fire alarms, which are operated by battery power, had to have new batteries. The old batteries were left weak and ineffective after the tornado hit campus last May.

Steve Wright, Director of Public Safety was "very pleased with the cooperation and understanding of the students."