

Editors' Notes

by April Edmondson

Have you ever thought about what people will think about you when you get older and you have wrinkles under your eyes, gray hair, and a cane to help you walk?

Have you ever thought, "What does that elderly person have to offer?"

Elderly people have a great deal to offer others. They have experienced many of the same things you and I experience in our lives. Of course, their experiences may have been somewhat different since they were a part of a different time. However, they have much knowledge to share with society.

Elderly people are an excellent source for learning about history and why things happened the way they did. Many are scholars within their own time. They have been through wars, the Great Depression, medical advancements, the coming of the automobile, space technology, and an array of other societal advancements.

When I was a little girl I used to stay with my grandparents while my parents worked. I can vividly remember my grandmother telling me about how her grandparents lived and some of the experiences they had as mill owners. Many afternoons I would sit and listen to her tell stories of my relatives in the Civil War and of the various activities of Love's Mill. Of course, this knowledge was not first-hand, for she had listened intently to her grandmother many times, also.

I can also remember my granny Sarah telling me stories of how she and her brothers and sisters had to walk three miles to school everyday. I remember her telling stories about the Great Depression, the tobacco market, and World War II.

Because my grandmothers are fifteen years apart in age, they have different knowledge and experiences to relate to me. This is just one prime example of the gifts elderly people have to offer.

These stories and many more have taught me many lessons. I have learned of a way of life that I would have never experienced in the same manner if I had simply read about the events.

I have also found that elderly people have a great deal of wisdom to offer others. They have been participants in life far longer than we have. The knowledge that they have acquired through these years of experience can be taken as a lesson and example for the younger generation.

I have discovered in my recent years, especially since I have come to Salem, that I cherish the time I spend with my elderly friends and grandmothers. Their views on life have allowed me to develop my own mix of traditional, yet somewhat liberal ideas of what life is all about and how to face the challenges that are always present.

Elderly people also have much to offer the community in terms of volunteering their services. The time and effort they exert for the benefit of others saves the taxpayers money. It also allows the elderly individual to spend time doing something that makes them feel worthwhile and needed.

Ernest Beeson, an 83-year-old volunteer, has been working at Baptist Hospital for almost five years. In April he will have accumulated over 6,000 hours of volunteer service. Beeson recently told Susanne Estes in an interview for *The Kernersville News*, "All I want is meet people and to feel like I have helped someone along life's pathway for a little better life."

All too often in our society we push elderly people to the bottom of our priority list because society sees them as being no longer gainfully employed and paying their own way through life. Even though they have given a majority of their lives to the work force, once they retire they are made to feel, many times, as if they are less than worthy of our time.

In today's fast paced society it is easy to disregard the advice and wisdom from our elders, but often the very lessons they try to teach us will last much longer than any of today's present knowledge.

The elderly population have a great deal to offer society. It is the our task to realize their worth and importance.

by Amy Cass

When I first started to write this editorial I knew I wanted to tackle the issue of the upcoming elections. This has certainly been a heated topic lying beneath the cracks of Salem. At least I haven't ran into many people who have been overly eager to volunteer any information about the controversies taking place this week. Everyone seems to be avoiding the issue. Therefore, I decided to voice my opinion on the topic.

I've heard complaints about the deadline for petitioning for the different offices. I've heard problems arise with not enough offices being filled. I've heard remarks about who will be the best leaders for Salem College next year???????

Well, I'm not here to harsh on these topics being whispered about among various groups. But I am here to let you know that you, the students who will make up Salem next year, need to seriously think about who will do the best job leading the students.

Attend SGA next week. Listen clearly to the speeches. Reflect upon these candidates as individuals as well as leaders. Think about who can communicate effectively to the administration. Imagine who will be the best liason between the students and administration. Visualize the future welfare for Salem College during the 1990-91 school year.

I'm thankful that I have the opportunity to vote as a senior. Although I will soon be a 1990 alumnae, I will always care about Salem College. When I prepare to mark my ballot for the future leaders of Salem, I must remember the saying, "actions speak stronger than words." I will reflect upon the words used in the candidates' speeches, but I will especially reflect on the actions they used over the past several years.

Good luck to each candidate and may the best woman win!

Dear Editors,

I have decided to try this one more time since I never received a formal answer from my other letter to *The Salemite* concerning the new trees being planted in the Pit. As I stated before, I am concerned with the safety of the students who park in that lot. The new trees shadow the lot even more at night therefore

making it darker and easier for people to be attacked. The new fur trees also provide a perfect place for some attacker to hide. I am tired of our safety being compromised for the beautification of the parking lot. I would like to see some action or answers.

Irritated,
Libby Brown

The Salemite

Salem College
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27108
(919) 721-2825

Co-Editors-in Chief.....Amy Cass
April Edmondson

Copy Editors.....Kathryn White Susanne Estes	Advertising EditorPatricia Earnhardt
Editorial Editor.....Paige Parker	Headline ManagerDiane Davis
Sports Editor.....Galen Miller	Business Manager.....Laura Brooks
Office Manager.....Jenny Savage	PhotographerLesley Stokes
	Faculty Advisor.....George McKnight

Staff Reporters - Ginny Crable, Catherine Davis, Dawn Darby, Elizabeth Fennel, Tricia Forbes, Laura Franklin, Heather Glasscock, Steffan Hambright, Caroline Horlbeck, Hope Lamm, Katherine Livermon, Jenny Savage, Gaither Smoot, Caroline Swope, Tammy Taylor, Anne Tucker

Contributing Writers - Libby Brown, Sonya Cobb, Catherine Davis, Denise Decker, Michelle Duffie, Mattilde Dumond, Kara Hayes, Jennifer King, Sally Lemmon, Karen Lewis, Katherine Massey, Donna May, Strat Newitt, Sally Pierce, Heather Smith, Kerry Stovall, Lauren Strain, Karen Timmons, Mary Bradley Thompson, Mindy Worrell

Published bi-monthly, excluding examinations, holidays, January term and summer vacations, by students of Salem College. Subscription price \$4.75 yearly.

Printed by Winston-Salem Chronicle.

**THE SALEMITE ENCOURAGES
LETTERS TO THE EDITORS
AND WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT**