

## Editorials

As you read this edition of *The Salemite* you might notice a few overall themes. The editors, writers, and staff of this paper have made a strong, conscious commitment to focus on the positive aspects of the Salem community. Fortunately for us, this is not difficult. There are always interesting things going on.

It always amazes me, however, at the amount of diversity and character the students, faculty, and staff contribute. Education is more than having 'book learning'; a true education includes social and personal learning. Every day I learn something new about myself and the people around me. One of my many revelations is the human need for laughter and fun. Especially in a highly stressed environment, i.e. college! Sometimes it is hard for me to put down my work and to realize that an hour of goofing off and interacting with my friends does more for my spirit than a year of studying will ever do.

You may notice that this issue contains a rather large amount of photos. These photos contain the essence of Salem: smiles, laughter, students, faculty, good times, disappointing times, and, always, a sense of anticipation and hope. If you look closely enough at these pictures, which are memories frozen in time, you will see yourself. And the students of Salem's past and future.

A comment recently voiced about Fall Fest was that it was childish.

Where is your sense of youthful gusto? If there wasn't time to run out and play students would complain about it or skip classes just to "go play."

Well, the college gives us a day-free of classes- to go out and have a ball playing games, being with friends and, this year, stretching our creativity with decorations, skits and songs.

Though it was tedious to juggle homework and upcoming tests around the unknown day Salem worked its way into the perfect day out of classes, even in the rain. It was a time to act a little "childish."

This Fall Fest also had a few special twists. There was a large number of faculty participants, Go Fossils! And Salem made the newspaper, again.

What a wonderful way, however, to be noticed all-most- of Salem out having fun. What better way to show that Salem is not stoppable and that the community is bouncing back from a number of "devastating blows."

Bravo to all of those who took the time to be a childish, and to those who made the day possible.

For those who missed out you have another chance to unleash the child inside of you. On Sunday at 7:45 instructions will be given for a campus-wide game of "kick the can." If this brings back no instant rushes of childhood memories come and create some new ones. If this reminds you of summertime in your neighborhood then come and see how we play in this neighborhood. Meet on the front steps of Main Hall and be prepared for fun.

## The Salemite

The Uncensored Voice of the Salem Community

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## The Oracle

by James W. Edwards, Ph.D., Professor of Biology

Since its establishment in 1888, the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., has welcomed an array of distinguished professors and students of the biological sciences that has clearly established the MBL as a mecca for scientists and marine biology.

And, thus, it was with conspicuous enthusiasm that I received a Summer Sabatical from Salem to enroll in the new course in "Molecular Evolution" which was held from August 19 through August 31, and was established with a budget of more than \$100,000 and a student/faculty ration of 64/22, i.e., 2.9:1 (!). At breakfast every morning as I watched the sun rise majestically over "Eel Pond" I reflected on the very special history of this Laboratory and of those who had gone before.

Interestingly, however, Molecular Evolution has no uniqueness associated with marine biology specifically and, thus, only one faculty member of the 22 who lectured was affiliated with a marine institute--and this was the Director of our course, Dr. Mitch Sogin. Even more striking was the view upon entering the laboratory assigned to the course: the running sea water wasn't; and the lab was filled with computers--Macs, PCs, Suns, Unix. And as we summoned data bases from banks hundreds of miles away and compared amino acid and nucleic acid sequences in all kinds of species, I continued to smile as the "family trees" generated could be rooted or non-rooted, and I reflected on my inability to philosophically conceptualize the evolutionary significance of non-rooted trees.

Much of the MBL is as it always was; I hope that you may find an opportunity in the future to stroll down Albatross Street or reflect quietly at Eel Pond. I submit that the heart and soul of the MBL have survived, but in many ways the specifics of its mission have changed. Indeed, it seems that the MBL has sought to define--even with our course--a realism that is cognizant of both its great history and of its commitment to responsibly and significantly open biological horizons for the future, and it has, therefore, defined its mission with a breadth that makes such possible.

The Mission of the MBL is both historically rooted and contemporarily germane. Salem College's historical perspective has even greater depth in the time dimension, and our niche is defined externally with comparable majesty. May we harmoniously cooperate as the Salem Community in defining our future mission and in decreasing necessarily our needs for sea water and rooted trees.

Dear Salem Students,

I want to take this opportunity to publicly commend you for the responsible manner in which you handled the first 24 hour male visitation weekend on September 21-23.

From personal observation, reports from residence hall staff and hall monitors, and student evaluations the weekend was a superb example of the kind of responsible behavior that Salem women are capable of.

I appreciate the fact that everyone who chose to use the male visitation privilege took seriously her personal responsibility to make it work well, and I applaud each of you for demonstrating that the confidence the Board of Trustees showed in granting this privilege to Salem women was well deserved.

I also want to thank each of you who attended that dance on Saturday night. Not only did CAC do a terrific job sponsoring the weekend but you demonstrated vividly that Salem students can party, dance, and have a great time without causing damage or undue mess to the facility and without causing the problems that in recent

years have sometimes made sponsoring events of that type a major headache for the group in charge.

In six years of attending Salem functions I have never witnessed a weekend event that went so well overall and I thank each of you for the part you played in making it such a stellar success.

My hope is that this will be just the beginning of a long history of excellent dance weekends. If, when Interclub and IRS arrive you will use this weekend as a model to strive for I will be able to continue to report to the Board of Trustees that I think that granting 24 hour visitation was one of the best decisions they have made on behalf of students in a long time.

It was great to see you having so much fun and have all parts of the weekend go as well. If any of you have any suggestions of how we can continue to improve activities at Salem please let me know. MY HAT IS OFF TO YOU!!!

Debbie Cates