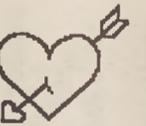


Confessions of a Soap Opera Addict



Will Duke and Lian be blown to bits? Is Josh falling for Harley? Can a bone marrow donor be found in time for Molly? These are just a few of the dilemmas that many Salem students face every afternoon. After lunch there is a general migration back to the dorms where we sit before a television set, a color one if we are lucky, in anticipation of entering the wonderful world of soap operas. Oh, sure! Those of you who have never been hooked on a daytime drama have a scornful attitude towards those of us who, supposedly, 'waste' our precious time on such idiotic dribble. Go ahead and laugh about the fact some of us wore black to mourn the death of the infamous Patch! I believe that soap operas must serve some beneficial purpose or they could not have existed as long as they have.

Soap operas are defined, in my 20 pound Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, as a daytime television serial drama of a highly melodramatic, sentimental nature. They are called 'soap' operas because many of the original sponsors were soap companies.

Generations of Americans have enjoyed the addictive qualities of soap operas. They are extremely habit-forming. At one point I watched three—all back-to-back. By making a conscious effort I have, over the last year, reduced my daily intake to only two. I am rather embarrassed to admit that during my freshmen and sophomore years I actually planned my *class* schedule around my *soap opera* schedule. Please do not mention that little piece of trivia to my parents this weekend!

During one of my classes, two years ago, my professor, in response to our complaints about having class in the afternoon, replied, "What else are you going to do? Read your Soap Opera Digest." Little did he know that I had received the first issue of my subscription that very day!!

I have come to the rather provocative conclusion that Salem students, along with other college students across America, become obsessed with the lives of the fictional soap characters because **we have no life!!** That daily fix of story line is absolutely necessary in order to maintain what little sanity we have left. Go ahead and laugh if you must but I believe in the stress relieving qualities of soap operas. I'm an expert at stress; ask anyone. Soap operas are 'no intelligence required' programs. A little bubble gum for the brain never hurt anyone. So if you need me at 2 p.m. you can find me watching *As The World Turns*. At 3 p.m. I'll be engrossed in *Guiding Light*. But I feel compelled to warn you that anyone who disturbs me (like I'm not disturbed enough!) during the sacred hours must do so at their own risk.

The *Salemite* staff would like to invite you to express your opinions through letters to the editors. Since we didn't get any for this issue, we are assuming that life here at Salem is totally hunky-dunky and that no one has any complaints at all. We are extremely pleased that everything is going so well. Thank you for your support.

The Salemite

The Uncensored Voice of the Salem Community

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Playboy Searches For 'Real Women'

Editors of any paper are sent endless amounts of mail, but I was surprised when two of the recent letters *The Salemite* received were news releases for *Playboy's* April issue.

I, at first, found humor in the fact that *The Salemite* had received mail from *Playboy*. More amazed at their audacity than anything else, I read on.

Playboy's idea is to have students and alumnae pose as representatives of their colleges in an issue to be entitled "The Women of Women's College's."

This is a sales strategy - much like the "Women of the ACC" issue. However, the consequences are a good bit different.

Women's colleges are visibly under great strain to stay solely for women - Mill's College, for example.

With the fate of female education under fire, I cannot think of a worse incident than pictures of Salem's [or any other woman's college] women in *Playboy*.

We fight enough for the continuation of single-sexed education. Why then should we have to rearrange our battle for equality to establish that we are not "airheaded females" who like to ride horses all day and read *Harlequins* in the moonlight?

The April issue of *Playboy* is probably one of the most timely they have ever planned. There is no better place to find a large number of eligible women than at the nation's women's colleges.

Our first amendment right to freedom of speech and personal expression and our right to freedom of choice are two of the most important rights allowed by our Constitution. However,

why any woman would want to use her freedom of expression to be exploited in the pages of *Playboy* is beyond my comprehension.

Playboy does offer large amounts of money for posing which would give financial incentive to many of us on tight budgets. But, the past has not shown posing for *Playboy* as conducive to post-college success.

Consider the situation of Vanessa Williams, 1984 Miss America who was disqualified after two months. The public thought she had hit the top until it was exposed that she had posed for the magazine. It probably seemed like the perfect idea at the time. However, it is doubtful that she still feels that way.

Many college women who have posed for *Playboy's* special editions or the regular monthly editions say that they have no problem posing for the magazine because they are as sure of their minds as well as their bodies. However, reality will hit when the reply from the business world comes back - all bust - no brain - no job. Traditionally, women who pose for magazines such as *Playboy* are not known as the brightest women around. Take Vanna White for instance. She does make good money, but in order to do so she dresses in tight clothes and turns letters for Pat Sajak.

I hope there is enough college pride at Salem to keep our students off the cover of *Playboy*.

Salem, and many other women's colleges, need national exposure, but we certainly do not need to obtain it by over-exposing our bodies.