

Editorials

September 31, 1993

Letters to the Editor

by Amy Woodard

Well, here it is, my last chance to get a word in about my disappointments, concerns and gripes about good ole' Salem College. I figured I should use my "connection" to the paper while I had a chance. And, since I have heard some of the very complaints that scream in my head from several other people, I thought I would go ahead and put my butt on the line and voice opinions.

I find it quite ironic that Communications is one of the largest, if not the largest majors on this campus, yet communication, or lack of it, I should say, could be the very downfall of this school. For example: (and I could go on and on and on with examples, but I will just pick a couple that stick in my mind) When we had the "brownout" during formal weekend and into the next week, were the students told anything? From my position on third floor South, I never truly got word of what was happening, why it was happening and when it would stop happening. Sure Dean Farris did her duty by coming up and attempting to let us in on the details, but that was a two minute conversation and nothing was really revealed. So, being the bitchy one that I am, I proceeded to march over to public safety officers and bless them out for not getting anything done. I had to laugh when they informed me that they were as clueless as I. Well, we lived with flashlights for the next 24 hours and we all got through it, but I never heard an apology, an offer to refund money for hotels, postponment of tests or a good explanation for why the entire fiasco happened in the first place. Seems to me that priorities lie in the wrong place here. Speaking of priorities, that leads me to my next example of the lack of communication that I find so very irritating at Salem. This past weekend, my roommate went to sign her boyfriend up for a room in male housing. Well, unbenounced to her, or anyone else, admissions had decided it was their right to block up all the rooms in male housing for prospective students and their parents for the weekend. I guess the folks in admissions hadn't bothered to take notice of the fact that it was furniture market weekend and all of the hotels in Winston and nearby cities had been booked for months. I don't know what gave them the right to use our facilities in the first place, and in the second place, how does anyone explain the lack of phone calls, memos or posters telling us that male housing would be unavailable? Must be that lack of communication thing again that we seem to be so damn good at.

I guess it would be understandable at a large university for students to not know what important things were taking place at all times around campus, but at Salem, come on, there is absolutely no excuse. I am sick and tired of telling people outside of our little world what a wonderful place Salem is and how you can do so much here, and get so much accomplished, and if something is going wrong, well, you can just get right in there and change it. In fact, if things don't start changing, I'm going to stop telling people all of those things and tell them how I really feel about this place. Yes, I love all the friends I have made here and those friendships will last a lifetime. I heard Elizabeth Barrett make a great analogy of Salem. It was about a trampoline that you can use to bounce as high as you choose, but you know it is always under you to catch you and bring you back up. That's the way I used to feel about Salem. But... if you are in a club, especially the head of a club, don't expect much help with anything. There is low participation in everything around campus, people gripe and bitch all the time about not having anything to do, but no one ever comes to anything and no one seems willing to get involved and to stay involved. We have 50 percent continuing education students at Salem, therefore we are forced to take night classes, and sometimes we are the only traditional-aged student in certain classes. Sometimes, I have the fear of Salem turning into a community college, and I would hate for that to happen.

I am so tired of complaining about things around here. I have tried to talk to the "right people" about my complaint, I have written endless comments on endless surveys but I never hear anything about the results or what can be done about my complaints. I guess the purpose of this letter is to hear what you have to say, to get you riled up either in favor of what I have said, or totally against it all. I do love Salem and I used to be proud and honored to say I attend such a great school, but now I am doubting many things and I need to be convinced that she is the wonderful school I once thought she was. If anyone would like to write a rebuttal against what I have said, I would love to print it and love to see what you have to say. Others who agree with me, well, we should get together and devise a plan of action to get our beloved school back to the way we want it. I will spend my last year of college here next year and I plan to make it great, with or without the help of the school itself.

The purpose of college

by J.D. Lennox

College. To most of us it symbolizes the key to open the doors of our promising future. Is college education what you want? Of course, only you can decide. Upon arriving at Salem this August, we all made a choice...higher education. Every woman at Salem is here because she made a decision to seek her desired level of intellectual and/or social fulfillment. Whether you came here to make the Dean's list, get an education, meet interesting people, or to introduce yourself to new things, you are the final factor in deciding whether or not you get what you came for. It's all what you make out of it.

With all the clubs, sports, and community/social events constantly happening on and around campus, it is easy to lose sight of your real goal at Salem. As a transfer student, I can say to our Freshman at Salem, "The first year of your college life is crucial, it lays the ground for your next three years." Enjoy all the tennis, field hockey, clubs, parties, but keep in mind that without obtaining that higher education all you'll be left with is your activities.

These four years of Salem will shape your life and your future. So while you should study hard to reach your potential academic success, do not neglect the opposite side of college social life at Salem. Learn to know your Salem sisters and what

they are about. Explore new interests, aspire to higher dreams, demand complete satisfaction and above all remember it's what you make out of it that counts. If you do not achieve what you've set out to do because of lack of planning and/or discipline on your part you have no one to blame but yourself.

We are all on a mission to explore and discover ourselves, our capabilities, and the changing world around us. Use your time at Salem to enrich your mind and discover who you are. The education you receive at Salem will stay with you for a lifetime, if you know it's purpose. As Malcom S. Forbes said, "Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one." If you leave Salem with an open mind to new ideas and different or unusual things, without being prejudiced or set in your stubborn ways, you have learned the lesson of happiness and life.

Take a few minutes to sit down and ask yourself, "What did I come to Salem for and am I getting it?" If you cannot truthfully answer "Yes," find out what you need to do and "Just do it." I assure you that happiness is bound to follow and to quote Benjamin Franklin, "All the Constitution guarantees is the pursuit of happiness. You have to catch up with it by yourself." Find your happiness in Salem and get what you came to college for. The decision is yours because it all depends on what you make out of it!

Meal cards, extended hours would boast grille business

by Dianne Conley

Wouldn't it be great to go down to the Grille on a Saturday afternoon and charge a burger and fries on your meal card instead of dining in the Refectory? I feel that these ideas of meal cards and extended hours would be great improvements to the Salem Commons Grille. Instead of facing the possibility of closing down, with these new assets the Grille would draw in much more business.

Don't you just hate those days when you walk through the Refectory and absolutely nothing looks pleasing? You had a potato for lunch and the lettuce is a bit too wilted for your tastes. The thought of a good juicy hamburger and curly fries sounds great, but you have no transportation or money to go off campus. (I know that I can perfectly relate to this scenario.) What would be a good solution on a day like this one? The Grille.

Not only could you order a meal you would enjoy, but you wouldn't have to pay for it or hike off campus.

The school has debated for a while with the ideas of meal cards and extended hours in the Grille. I feel that we really need to do something about it. If they keep operating the Grille in the same manner they are now, it will end up shutting its doors due to lack of business and the Commons will be used less than it is now. This would be a disgrace, considering what that it is a great building and our student center!

As students, I believe that we need to keep pushing for these ideas to be put into action. In order to show your support for the Grille and get our ideas rolling, we need to attend functions in the Commons and splurge every once in a while to eat there! If we want to prove to the Administration that we want improvements in the Grille, we must start speaking up now and using it more!

Random thoughts

by Lisa Findlay

First of all, a little intro about "Random Thoughts." This will be a regular column in The Salemite. It is strictly designed to entertain so I hope you enjoy it!

1. Random thoughts concerning Clewell's ghost:
-Sitting in my room on third floor, I often hear our ghost and many pictures enter my head. For example, when furniture is being moved around at three o'clock in the morning, has our little friend just had a creative bout thus causing her to spring from her bed and rearrange the furniture?

-Then there are those times when the adolescent poltergeist is pounding up and down her attic hall. Is she preparing herself the 1994 gymnastic championship?

-Lastly, it seems that my biggest paranoia about seeing the ghost always happens when I am partaking in everyone's favorite activity—going to the bathroom. I sit there in fear that she will pop up from the adjacent stall and look down upon my pleasant duty. Yuck!

2. Why is it that whenever you go out to the store alone at night, you are the only normal one there? The rest are ax murderers or rapists. It never fails!

3. Why is it that when you don't have a boyfriend no guys seem interested in you and you tend to feel more unattractive. But when you do have a boyfriend, guys start noticing you and you are asked out more than ever? It must be a glow we give off or something—geez!

4. Why is it that every time you start to pass a truck on the highway he manages to cross over the middle line just a little so you are afraid to pass him or you have to gun it and go 90mph to make it before he hits you?

5. Lastly, why do we have eyebrows? If anyone knows please tell me!

That's it for stupid things to ponder for now. I'll be back next month with more—See ya!

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