

The Salemite

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Revolutionary War Disrupts Salem Life...Again

By Mo Broering and Alaina Giesbrecht

Throughout most of November our campus was the location for a CBS movie entitled "Taking Liberties" with such stars as Sophie Ward and David Ogden Stynes (of M.A.S.H. fame) playing the lead roles.

Salem's own were even selected as extras. Art professor Geoffrey Bates played a British soldier, Gramley RHD Southerland and Dolores Clarke, President's Thrift's secretary, were cast as townswomen.

Southerland commented about the film. "The crew was very professional and very gracious in allowing students and Old Salem residents to hang around."

Before filming, the production company Liberty Productions, part of Technology Productions, gave a makeover to the streets surrounding Salem Square. They deposited tons of sand and leaves on the streets in order to give the area an authentic look of the Revolutionary period.

Salem is to represent the city of Boston in this film about the American

Revolution. This location was chosen over Williamsburg, Virginia and two other cities. The production company chose Old Salem because most of the buildings have remained authentic in appearance without the influences of technology.

Southerland thinks that Salem's exposure in the film will be excellent in revitalizing the community and the college.

The majority of the filming took place in areas surrounding Salem Square. The crew filmed several scenes within the lobby of South dormitory, Sisters dormitory, the Old Tavern and in the barn adjacent to the tavern. Two rooms within the Academy were also used in the filming.

The film crew tried not to disturb the everyday academic lifestyle of the students and faculty of the college and academy. Despite parking inconveniences in the FAC parking lot for several days, there have been few complaints of the crew and the filming.

It appears as if the production of the film here has been a pleasant



Cast and crew members of "Taking Liberties" watch as British Soldiers march on Salem Square for the second time in history. Photo by Anna Mansfield.

experience for all involved. Public Safety Officer Andi Merciersaid, "We had a good time with this."

The film is a pilot movie and CBS is hoping to create a weekly series from it if national response to the film

is good. When the film will be aired is not definite, but it is said to be some time next year.

Ambassador Speaks on Eurasian Religion, Government

By Staff Writer

On a recent visit to Salem, former Ambassador to Bangladesh, Jane Abell Coon, advised women interested in careers in the foreign service to "go for it."

Coon, who was Ambassador to Bangladesh from 1981 to 1984, visited classes and spoke at a Fireside Chat hosted by the Salem Lecture Series.

The number of women in the foreign service has increased dramatically since Ambassador Coon entered in the early fifties. She said that women were a "tiny minority," but today at least one third of every entering class is women.

The rules are more fair to women in the foreign service now than in years past. Ambassador Coon was required to leave the foreign service because of her marriage to another foreign service officer. During this time she raised her new family of six children. Fortunately, because she married a foreign service officer, she continued to travel. However, she missed working.

Ambassador Coon said that a good liberal arts education and the ability to write clearly, coherently, quickly, and analytically are critical for a career in the foreign service. She said, "Being at a women's college is an advantage in that it gives you greater confidence in yourself and greater opportunity for leadership."

During the time that Ambassador Coon served as Ambassador to Bangladesh, she and her husband had a commuter marriage. He had been assigned Ambassador to Nepal.

She carried the traditional duties of an ambassador — the representative of the President of the United States and leader of the American community in Bangladesh. Specifically, she dealt with issues concerning food, agriculture and population.

During Coon's Fireside Chat in the Library Assembly Room, she spoke on religion and nationalism in the New World Order.

She has spent a great portion of her adult life in Muslim countries, Hindu countries, and one partly Buddhist country. She says, "In most of these countries, strong nationalist movements led the way to independence from some form of colonial rule."

Five observations were made about religion and nationalism in the Eurasian land mass, the area in which the world's great religions originated.

The first observation was that "all these religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity) are trans-national extending beyond the boundaries of one nation."

"Religion is seldom the basis for any modern state," was her second observation.

Ambassador Coon pointed out that on the map of Asia she could find only two countries founded explicitly as land for a particular religious group. Israel was founded for the Jewish Diaspora and Pakistan for Muslims not wishing to be a part of India. Life in these two nations has not been without religious strife. Orthodox and secular Jews have come in conflict over religious practices. and, within 25 years of Pakistan's formation, the east wing became the independent

nation of Bangladesh.

Observation three was that "religion can help define or reinforce national identity without being explicit of the state." Poland, for example, gives no legal authority to the church; however, it has aided in preserving nationalism during times of unrest.

This summer Ambassador Coon made visits to soviet countries that did not exist until the collapse of the Soviet Union. These countries are in the process of searching for national

identity. Some countries feel threatened by the fact that these central Asian countries are adopting their Islamic heritage. However, the alarm that the new nations will be "swept by militant Islam," may be unnecessary, according to Ambassador Coon.

Observation four dealt with religion in resistance movements. Few nations are founded on the basis of religion, however, religion coupled with nationalism "can fuel bitter

and sustained resistance to an invader or to perceived colonial domination," said Ambassador Coon.

She dealt with Afghan affairs during the time of Soviet-Afghan conflict and has a great deal of knowledge on the Afghan issue. The guerrillas of Afghanistan fought the Soviet army for almost a decade under the banner of nationalism and Islam.

Her final observation was one concerning states not founded on the basis of religion, but which have come

to be identified with a particular religious majority in the country. In such cases, religious enthusiasm combined with nationalism may cause minority rights to be endangered.

Ambassador Coon closed by saying that Americans owe a debt of gratitude to the founding fathers "who had the wisdom to enshrine in our constitution the separation of church and state. Too often religion and politics don't mix very well."

Dansalem Performance



Amy White, Katrina Cowley and Gretchen Williams perform in the Dansalems' joint presentation with Wake Forest of medieval dance and music. Photo by Wendy Jane Garrett.