

Prof. gains professional respect with love-hate class relations

Professor Profile

By KIMBERLY TURNER
Staff Writer

Sometimes it's either all or no thing, and for some professors, there is no middle ground.

"Students either enjoy my class and come back for different classes I teach or they tell everyone within ear shot, 'Don't take Salomon,'" Dr. Hilel Salomon, associate professor of history, said. "Students rate me either the best or the worst teacher they have, never in the middle," he says.

Growing up in Bolivia, Salomon held Spanish as his native language. His parents traveled extensively, allowing Salomon to acquire eight other languages: English, Chinese, French, Hebrew, Polish, Portuguese, Mongolian and Japanese.

"I am fluent in four of these languages — English, of course; Spanish, because it's my native language; Chinese and Hebrew, which I learned in Hebrew school. The others I am relatively fluent, especially in the readings," Salomon said.

Throughout his life, Salomon has traveled throughout the world. "I have always had a kind of wonderlust," he explains. "I lost count of which countries and how many long ago."

Salomon estimates that he has visited between 85 and 90 coun-

tries from Western Europe and Eastern Europe to Asia and Australia.

Salomon's jobs early in life reflect his zest for living. Along with the usual teenage jobs, Salomon worked on a ship going to Africa, was briefly a teamster working on a loading dock, and was a salesman and a taxicab driver in Philadelphia.

Salomon, who teaches three classes here at USC this semester (Introduction to Eastern Asia, Modern Eastern Asia and Tradi-



Dr. Hilel Salomon

tional Chinese Political Thought), has been teaching for twenty years. Salomon has also taught Comparative Literature of Eastern Asia and International Relations.

Salomon speaks of his classes with a frankness. "I guess I am a hard instructor," he says, "I give hard exams and I am not a lenient grader. I'm not the hardest I've seen; but on the scale of easy to hard, I am probably closer to the hard end."

Salomon explains that each class he has reacts differently to his teaching style. "Some like me and some don't. I'd rather be disliked and respected than liked a great

deal and disrespected," he said.

In describing himself, Salomon says he has "strong opinions" and sometimes "drifts into sarcasm." Salomon says he pushes his students as well as criticizes. "But I try to tease and criticize myself, and that warrants my criticism of others," he said.

"In the last few years, my pet peeve has been people taking themselves too seriously," he says, "me included. When people take themselves seriously, whether in a religious, economic or political mood, nothing good comes of it. Large, organized bodies take liberties away."

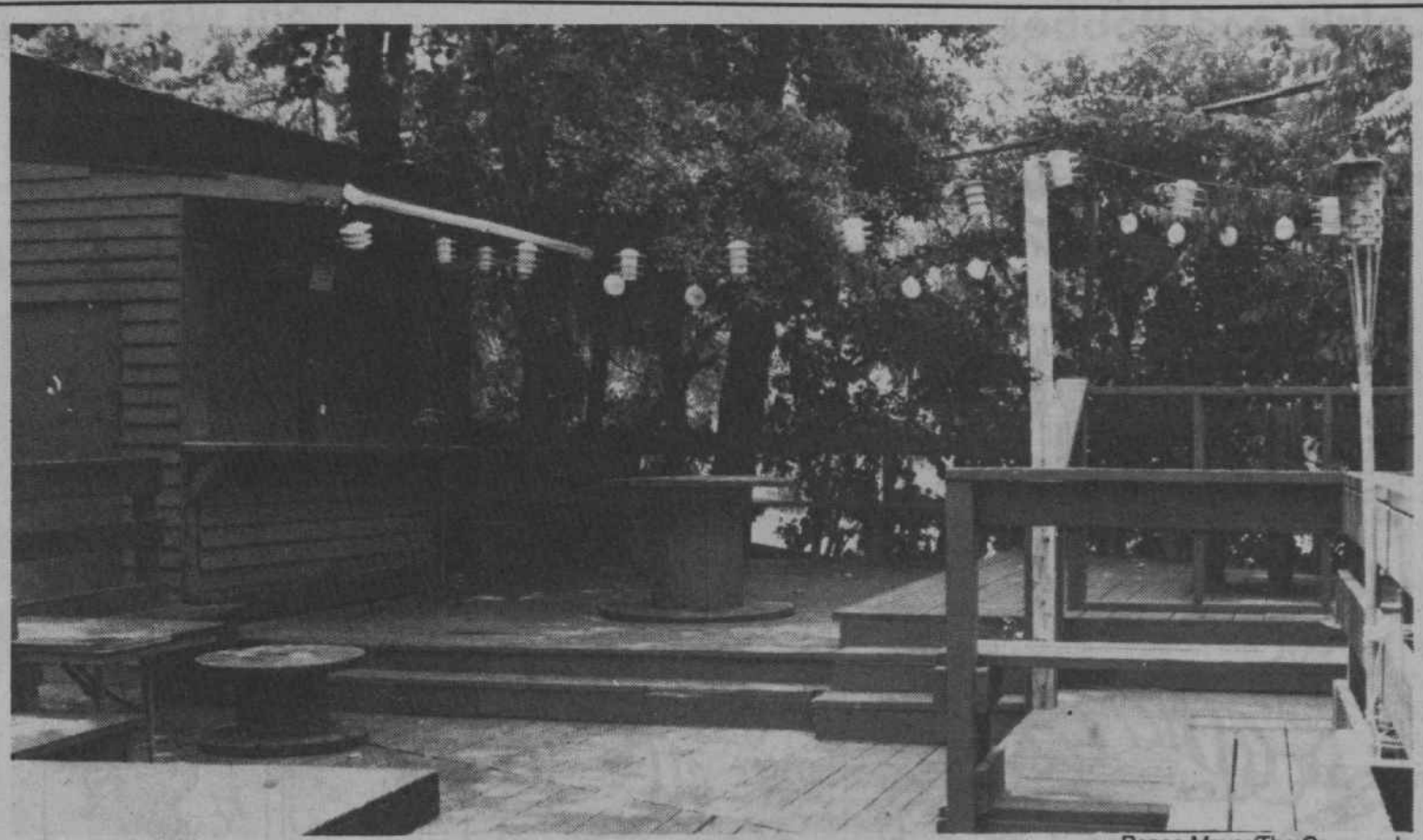
"I guess I could call myself anti-establishment, a theoretical anarchist," Salomon goes on by saying, "I believe that to exercise intellect is to question, to criticize. I am critical, over-critical sometimes. I want my students to question and to criticize. I want them to question their texts, their learning facilities and positions of authority."

"I would rather them be upset with my opinions and form their own, than to just accept what I say because I am the instructor," Salomon says.

Salomon lives in the suburban Columbia area and has three children in Ivy League universities. The oldest son graduated from Princeton and is currently enrolled in medical school. The youngest son is enrolled in Harvard. His only daughter is enrolled in the University of Pennsylvania.

"After seeing the grading systems of these schools," Salomon said, "I know I am not the hardest."

Renee Meyer/The Gamecock



Renee Meyer/The Gamecock

It may look empty now, but Rockafella's patio is usually jammed packed with local music lovers.

Local nightclub faces very uncertain future

By DAVID BOWDEN
Assistant Carolina Life Editor

A twenty-year-old local bar could soon be shut down.

The bar, located at 2112 Devine St., went under many name changes, from Oliver's, The Blarney Stone, Top of the Five and most recently, in 1984, Rockafella's.

The club went out of business in early 1988, but was reopened in June of that year under new management: Art Boerke, Derek Chiarenza and Jack Jakubs. According to Jakubs, many fans of the club volunteered to help restore the interior when it reopened.

Since the reopening, Rockafella's has hosted many popular rock bands, including Faith No More, Bonnie Raitt, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Skid Row, Soundgarden and Warrant. Boerke says, "We're doing the live music thing better than anyone ever in this town."

Billboard magazine named Rockafella's as one of the top small venues in the country two years in a row.

The management estimates they get 150 to 300 people a night. When the controversy with the Bohemian started last June (see page 1), over 1,600 people signed petitions to keep the club open.

"Rockafella's is a really fun place to play. If they close, there will be a big void of original music in Columbia," Frank Robinson, lead singer/guitarist for the local band Channel Zero, said. "They gave us a break."

Other band members are fond of the club also. "I love Rockafella's," Darius Rucker, lead singer of Hootie and the Blowfish, said. "I love the people. I love to play there. I hope they find someplace new because I'll miss them."

Boerke and Jakubs are now scouting alternate locations for the club as a precaution, but Jakubs said, "We don't have enough money to move."

Library

Continued from page 6

resources are great. "They have tremendous resources here, a very good collection," Price said, recommending that genealogists do thorough research at home with a family Bible and birth certificates.

Price is no amateur — she's been tracing family histories since she graduated from college 18 years ago. Currently compiling a book on Barnwell County marriages, Price began doing the work because of the Mormon religion's emphasis on genealogy.

Putting the puzzle together and

even getting it started takes patience. "I've heard people say, 'Oh, I just found such-and-such that I've been looking for for six years.' And they're just happy as a clam," she said. "It takes patience and a lot of digging, but you can find some real plums here."

Richardson says most of the people tracing their roots are older, probably because they have more free time, but they come from all over. "Some husbands and wives come through doing a little family

research. People from Wyoming come here because they know their roots began in South Carolina. I received a letter yesterday from someone in Canada interested in our materials," she said.

The library's visitors usually come from 20 or more different states. Stokes says because the library is often the only part of the university these people have contact with, the library plays a unique role in the USC's national reputation.

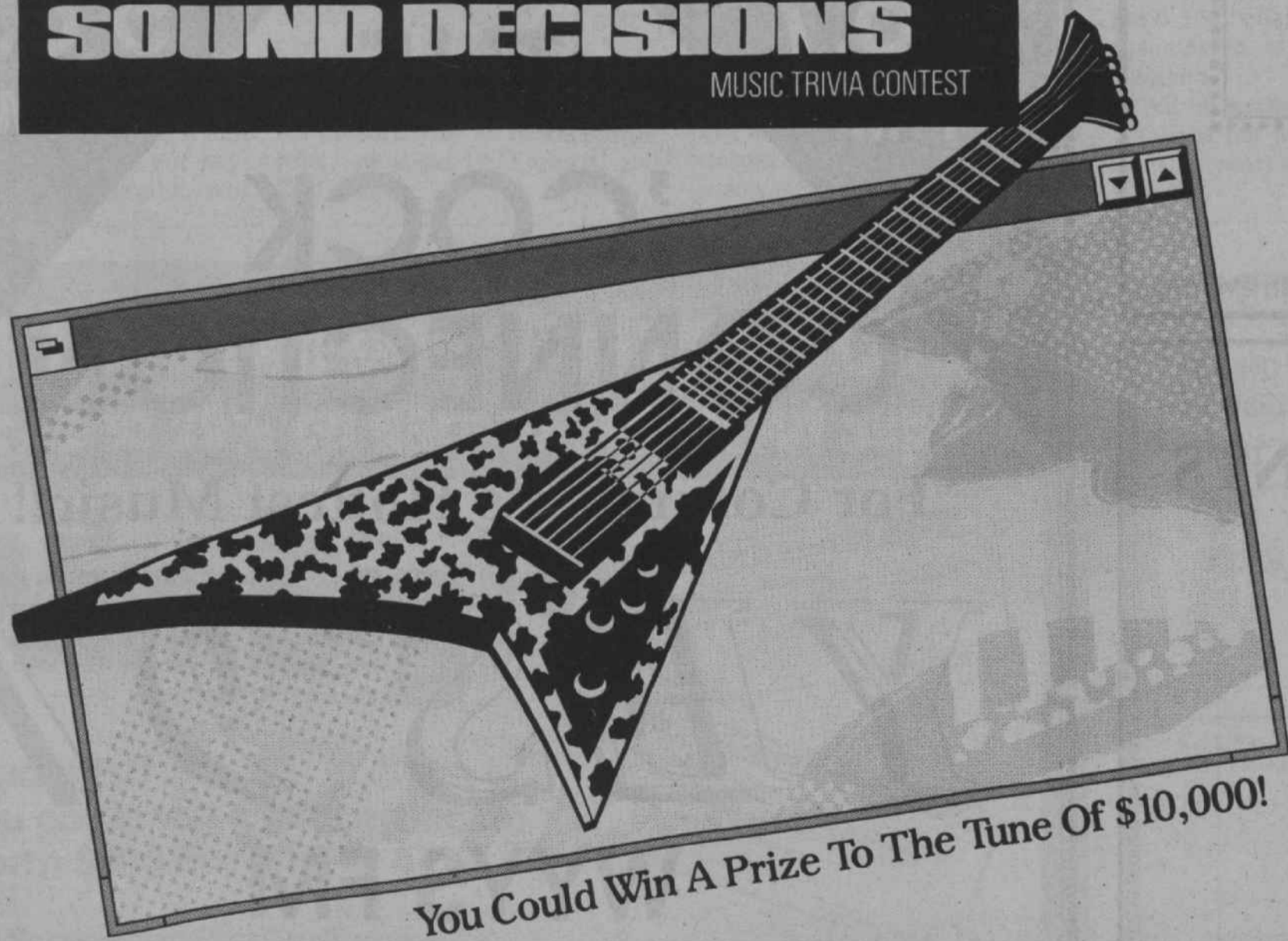
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