

# The Academy Perspective

## COURTSHIP THROUGH THE AGES\*

by Vada Lee Barkley

"School Days, School Days." What memories Valentine's Day! Giggling girls primping. Romanticizing over silly verses on all kinds and shapes of cards. Drooling over a juicy message like "Be My Valentine" printed on an onion-shaped card. At least "he" remembered. Of course, EVERY child HAD to send a valentine. But "he" really felt like sneering, "GIRLS! BANISH THE THOUGHT!"

Mystified that boys their age notice only frogs, marbles, or kites, little girls await their own discovery. Gradually flying kites gives way to pulling braids. Male-dominated sports make room for coeds. Eventually girls are tolerated.

In his COME YE APART devotional for January 22, Prof. Jim Wilcox writes of his return from walking his first girlfriend home in sixth grade. His twin brother, "in his disgust and dismay, had constructed a barbed wire fence to protect his half of the room from my romantically-infested half."

"Roses are red, violets are blue" followed by various messages circulate sheepishly. Kids tease other shy puppy lovers--hoping to be teased themselves. "Mary's got a feller" songs announce Mary's latest romance. Mary--or whoever--responds with a silly grin and pretends to object.

The walk home. A telephone call. That first date. "I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen." that trek home! Whether walking, horseback riding, bicycling, or automobile cruising--everyone knows that the longest way 'round is the sweetest way home.

Boy carrying girl's books. Who would ever have thought it? Two sets of initials carved on a tree or footlog. Class rings exchanged.

Matching shirts or sweaters. Those were the daze.

If "Puppy love is the beginning of a dog's life," most of us escaped the latter. But I daresay this trek down memory lane brings most of us a chuckle on this Valentine's Day.

\*Apologies to James Thurber

## TO THE ACADEMY MEMBERSHIP

by Elbert Overholt, Director

May I take this opportunity to express my thanks to all of you for your support and friendship during the last few months. Even before that, your cooperation and faithfulness from the Academy's inception to the present have been outstanding.

I am regularly amazed to see how the Academy has grown and the impact you are making on SNU, its clientele and the community. I am grateful for each of you and the fine leadership of Vada Lee and the Administrative Council.

It was very gratifying for you to accept the Council's recommendation that Esther's Memorial Scholarship fund be the main project for this year. I realize that many of you already have given to this fund and will be rewarded for it.

This scholarship fund has been established with the SNU Foundation. Your president signed the agreement as your representative along with members of the family and the University. The ASP Administrative Council will be approving the scholarships as they are recommended by the SNU Scholarship Committee.

The awards will be made to individuals who are returning to an educational program after an earlier interruption as Esther did. The purpose of the fund is to provide educational funds for students who meet the first five criteria and at least two of the last three criteria.

In order to qualify for this scholarship the student will:

1. Exemplify traits of stable Christian character, i.e., integrity, self-discipline, compassion, spirit of servanthood, etc.

2. Be returning to school after an earlier interruption.

3. Have established clear written educational goals.

4. Exhibit in writing a willingness to reach high levels of achievement in areas of stated goals.

5. Be recommended by the SNU Scholarship Committee.

6. Need financial assistance to reach educational goals and/or provide for their family.

7. Work towards the completion of a program in teacher education, medicine, nursing, or business.

8. Give new evidence of finding their career identity as they more fully realize their responsibility in seeking God's plan for their life.

Interest from this scholarship fund will be available for making an award by January 1997.

## LOOKING AHEAD

For the program on February 12, Don Beaver will sing and Virjeane Bayles will give a book review on the book LINCOLN'S MOTHERS.

At the March 11 meeting, Mr. Robert Parker will be our speaker. Mr. Parker, an SNU alum, is in charge of the Senior Housing project the Academy has promoted since our beginning. Maybe this is the news we've been waiting for.

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Most people can't stand prosperity.  
But then most people don't have to.  
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**WHERE ARE OUR LOYALTIES?**

By James R. (Bob) Emmel

February takes us into the month of President's Birthdays. We especially honor Washington and Lincoln, men to whom we attribute as having unusual character traits. Perhaps the trait they exhibited that is most admired was their loyalty--loyalty to self, loyalty to country and loyalty to God. It has been cited that Churchill made a statement to Britain's troops during World War II, "Tell me what your loyalties are and I can predict this war." Not all of us demonstrate our loyalties in the same manner, but they do show through.

When visiting the Lincoln memorial in Washington, D.C., I stood galvanized at the feet of Mr. Lincoln's statue and whispered to myself, "Oh that I could demonstrate my loyalty to my country as he did." Then in an instant I realized that my loyalty to my country is demonstrated in another manner. Those of us who pay taxes, demonstrate good citizenship and are honorable people are showing our loyalties in as great a measure as the greats heretofore mentioned. Without the loyalty of the mass of citizens of integrity, those we consider great would have never become the notables they are.

A number of years back my government used my services as a communications consultant for our armed forces in Europe. My loyalty was again tested as my professional abilities and training were used to resolve problems related to communication in the educational processes for the military. While headquartered in Germany for two years as a civilian employee of the government, I attempted to demonstrate my American loyalty by being the very best Christian gentleman possible.

While the presidents cited above demonstrated their loyalties in a differing type of job, questions might be asked, "Is one person's loyalty any more demanding than another's." "Is a president's loyalty demonstrated more fully than the men and women fighting in a fox-hole or attempting to keep the peace in Bosnia or in some other area of the armed forces?" Perhaps

the answer to these questions is, "No it is just a difference in the jobs at hand, and our deepest loyalty is demanded in whatever status of life we find ourselves." It is LOYALTY to SELF, to COUNTRY and to GOD that makes all of us the bearer of greatness.

**A LOOK AT HINDU WEDDINGS IN INDIA**

by Bronell and Paula Greer and Leslie Fritzlan

Hindu marriages take much longer than Christian marriages. They are regarded to be for life. The bond between children and their mother and father is very strong. Divorces are rare, and by law very hard to get. Christian divorces are almost impossible, for there are different laws for different religions. Muslim practice allows divorce to the husband by the mere clap of his hands, and the words: "I divorce you", but this is not legal in India. Often several days are required to tie the knot--or, in their language, to tie the sari (bride's colorful 6 to 9 yard wrap-around seamless cloth) to the lugadi (husband's 5 or 6 yard wrap-around seamless and usually white pants). It is common to have processions which accompany the bride and groom through the town or village, usually at night. A special carriage, highly decorated, and with torch or electric lights from an accompanying portable generator, moves slowly to the loud beat of drums, singing, and chanting of best wishes. See the wedding Psalm, number 45. Throwing of rice on the bride and groom, and requiring the groom to hand-feed the bride with sweets is common.

Weddings for the upper classes, and some times for the poor, are unimaginably expensive. Sometimes the bride's family is put in debt for years, for often this family has to pay a dowry to the husband's family. In the capital city of Delhi, and elsewhere, there has been considerable "bride burning" leading to death. This takes place because the bride's family is accused of giving insufficient dowry. This is both against the law and hard to control. Because of Christian influence Sati (burning the widow of a deceased

husband on his funeral pyre) is illegal now, but sometimes takes place.

We should be careful of criticism of those who made the cast system and Sati, etc., for they are the blood brothers of the Aryans in America who made American Indians and Blacks second class citizens and lower.

**DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASS**

Last month 19 or 20 of us signed up for a defensive driving class. We thought it cost \$8 per person.

Marvin Peterson has learned that AAA has a new policy. They have a group rate of \$300 per class. If we had 20 people, it could cost \$15 each. At that rate, it would hardly be cost-effective.

HOWEVER, Baptist Medical Center's Third Age Life Center sponsors a class for \$8 per person almost, if not, every month. The next class will be March 7 & 8; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 949-4140. Their class is called AARP Defensive Driving Class.

If Marvin gets further information about a class here, he will update us at the February 12 meeting. But that will probably be too late to schedule anything for March.

**MOST RECENT MEMBERS**

- Shirley Pelley
- Dale and Gerri McClaffin
- Margene Walker
- Jay and Rita Foster
- James and Lora Lee Dunkin
- Neta (Brummet) Jones

**ID CARDS**

At the Annual Meeting in April--when dues are due--and again at the October meeting, ID cards are issued for new members and updated for others upon payment of annual dues. If you fail to get your card at one of those sessions, you may take a receipt for fees or dues to the Student Development office (downstairs, Commons bldg.) to get your card.