

The Academy Perspective

Vol. 2, No. 3

December 1992

Vada Lee Barkley, Editor

CHRISTMAS PERSPECTIVE

"Twas three weeks before Christmas
And all through my head,
Not a brain cell was stirring;
Creativity played dead.

'Twas then I remembered
The big task I must face,
Find two sheets of paper
And fill all that blank space.

The Academy Perspective
Was due out the next week.
I challenged my brain cells
To play hide-and-seek.

To my utter amazement,
Wheels started to turn,
Arousing my brain cells,
Relieving concern.

As I dashed to my office,
Words started to flow;
Now my paper's no longer
As white as fresh snow.

To end this dull poem,
With a shout of delight--
"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
AND TO ALL, A GOODNIGHT!"

U.S.A. FLIGHT 1992

"In fourteen hundred ninety-two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue."

Someone said when Columbus started out, he didn't know where he was going, when he got there he didn't know where he was, and when he got back he didn't know where he'd been. And he did it all on someone else's money. If you think he and his motley crew, with their flimsy vessels, had smooth sailing, think again.

The five hundredth anniversary of that historical voyage brought this country a year of stormy weather. From take-off to landing approach, U.S.A. Flight 1992 wrestled against storms Columbus never dreamed of when he crossed the Atlantic.

Flight 1992 took off into the eye of Desert Storm. Shaken but intact, the craft sailed ahead. Disintegration of the Soviet Union provided relief from the most ominous storms of recent flights. And, after one

troops are coming home because storms have subsided in the Pacific. Nevertheless, the "Please-Fasten-Seat-Belt" sign is still on.

Arms build-up in Iraq and Iran, Fidel Castro's power in spite of a U.S. embargo, Yugoslavia's bloody civil war, Somalia's starving millions and warring gangs--all continue to make waves as Flight 1992 descends. Yet military turbulence represents only one pocket of resistance.

Natural disasters of record-breaking proportions struck Flight 1992 repeatedly. Floods in Texas and Utah, fires in Idaho and Oregon, earthquakes in California, blizzards in Oklahoma and Kansas, tornadoes in Georgia and the Carolinas, and hurricanes in Florida and Louisiana--all threatened to tear the plane apart.

U.S.A. Flight 1992 (Continued)

pocket, it hit another, then another. The enormous toll in businesses demolished, homes destroyed, people injured, and lives lost left its ugly scar on Flight 1992. But the craft sailed on.

Smoke from the flames of civil unrest in Los Angeles engulfed Flight 1992, threatening disaster. Lesser, yet serious, pockets of resistance flared in scores of inner cities. Efforts to rise above the storm of civil unrest proved futile. Yet the ship sailed on.

Few of us passengers on Flight '92 escaped vibrations of financial turbulence. Whether your company pension was cut, your son lost his job, your stocks decreased in value, your bank failed, or your neighborhood shopping mall became a virtual ghost town, you felt the jolt of economic chaos. None of us will forget the picture of President-elect Bill Clinton hanging onto his campaign motto: "It's the economy, Stupid!" as the ship sailed on.

Hot winds of political upheaval surfaced early over New Hampshire. Soon innocent whirlwinds became fierce crosswinds that buffeted the craft unmercifully. From time to time a strong gust from the southwest made ominous waves. On November 3, the combined tornadic power of these storms forced a change in our flight pattern. But the plane sails on.

Despite the turbulence of 1992, we remain optimistic. Waiting to board Flight '93, we look forward to our journey. Our divine Pilot who brought us through '92 is now entering the cockpit of Flight '93. We can board with perfect confidence.

BON VOYAGE!

LOOKING AHEAD

At our January 18 luncheon, Marilyn Olson will present the new Endow fund plan the Alumni Association is initiating.

Early next year we hope to organize a Travel Interest Group and possibly a Performing Arts Group (Chorus).

LOST, BUT NOT FOUND

What?	Gray felt hat.
When?	November 16, between 11:45 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
Where?	From a peg in the hallway just outside the Heritage room.
Whose?	Art Barkley's. His name or initials are inside. If you find it, please return it. No questions asked.

Senior Housing Report

Dr. Gresham continues planning on the Senior Housing project for S.N.U. With the assistance of several consultants he is considering zoning, location, and plans for financing the project. He should be making a more specific progress report in the near future.