

The Academy Perspective

Vol. 4, No. 5

February 1995

Vada Lee Barkley, Editor

MR. PRESIDENT

by Vada Lee Barkley

A cartoon features a baby and his parents in a maternity ward. Admiring this perfect specimen of humanity, the mother bursts into uncontrollable sobs. The father takes her in his arms and says, "Don't cry, Honey, he doesn't have to be President if he doesn't want to be."

Surely these parents had been watching the news. Foreign wars, natural disasters, crime, poverty, moral issues, civil rights concerns, economic insecurity, budget woes, political rivalry, media criticism, ad nauseam--all harass the President on a daily basis. Why anyone craves the office boggles the mind. Yet a laundry list of men considering running in '96 has already made national news.

This month we celebrate President's Day. Our calendar designates Valentine's Day and Groundhog Day. Some southern Towns observe Mule Day. And Shakespear's Hamlet said, "The cat will mew and dog will have his day." Yet, out of forty-two U.S. Presidents, only George Washington and Abraham Lincoln are so honored.

What did these two men have in common? Two things: a desire to serve the country and a faith that God would direct them in that endeavor.

George Washington accepted the challenge of shaping a new nation into a model of democracy. According to Dr. James Kennedy--scholar, author, pastor--the Father of our country was a man of integrity and prayer.

Surely God directed and strengthened him as he launched this great adventure.

After decades of poverty, rejection, and defeat, "Honest Abe" Lincoln assumed the Presidency during the most crucial period in U.S. history. As President of this crumbling nation, he realized his dependence on God. When foreign leaders scheduled a conference with Lincoln, he insisted that they come as early as 5 a.m. for prayer before the meeting.

Triumph over the Confederate army and the Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves. But it cost the President his life.

Of course nobody has to be President if he doesn't want to be. But let's hope and pray that God moves upon this country and inspires us to elect one more President who puts God and our country before selfish or partisan interests. Then, maybe, future generations can celebrate the birthday of another GREAT President.

CAMPUS COLLEAGUES

Members assisting with registration this semester include Joyce and Lloyd Ellis, Harold and Juanita Knippers, and Lois Brasher. Perhaps there were others of whom I'm not aware.

ART'S CHUCKLES

Money may talk, but today's dollar doesn't have cents enough to say very much.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

A WORLD "CHURCH" IS PLANNED FOR 2000 A.D. by Rev. Edgar C. Carlisle is now available. Rev. Carlisle, former SNU student and pastor of a Baptist church in Yukon, spoke at our November '93 meeting. He reported on his experiences at the Parliament of World Religions Conference which he attended in late August. He shared with us the proposed Constitution for a world "church." And he shocked us with the momentum of that movement. He left us with assurance that those religious leaders expressed determination to unite by the year 2000 A.D. That's less than 5 years from today.

Since I edited the book, I know it's highly readable. And the print is easy on eyes. I predict you will read it at one sitting--100 pages, with charts. The price is \$7.50. I can get the book for anyone interested.

NEWEST MEMBERS

Ken and Geneva DeLozier

Gene Chambers

They bring our total to 106.

PROGRAM FOR FEB. 13

Lyle Flinner will be in charge of the program. He represents the Continuing Education interest group on the Plans and Programs committee.

A neck is something if you don't stick it out, you won't get into trouble up to.

ACADEMY READING GROUP
by Elbert Overholt

The Reading Discussion Group will be discussing William J. Bennett's The De-Valuing of America at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 27 in RB 105. You are welcome to join us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE MEETING:

Chapter 4--The Battle to Save Our kids From Drugs.

1. Is substance abuse an illness? Should it be treated as such?

2. Should the military play an active part in the fight against drugs?

3. Is the federal government taking an aggressive enough posture in the battle against drugs?

4. Do you agree with the last statement in Chapter 4?

Chapter 5--We Can Win the Drug War

5. Is there a moral case for punishment?

6. What part should education play in the battle against drugs?

7. Evaluate the rehabilitation program directed by Allan Bray in Detroit.(pp. 136-7)

You may obtain your copy of the book at the SNU Bookstore. Identify yourself as an Academy member to receive a discount.

If, in the last few years you have not discarded a major opinion or acquired a new one, check your pulse, you may be dead.

-----**LOOKING AHEAD**-----

Bob Griffin, chairman of our Plans and Programs committee, has prepared the following questionnaires for your input into programs for March 13 and May 8:

I. For our March 13th meeting, we are planning a members only talent program: singing, instrumentals, readings, etc. Please respond to these questions.

1. Your Name _____

2. Would you be willing to participate in the program March 13? [] Yes, [] No.

3. What talent would you perform (five minute time limit)?

[] Singing; [] Instrument; [] Reading; [] Other?

4. Is there some other member you would like to see perform? [] Yes, [] No.

Who is that person? _____

What is her/her talent? _____

(If we have more names than we can use March 13, we will use the others in a subsequent program, perhaps next year).

II. Questionnaire for May 8th program:

We have several members of the Academy who have published books on a variety of subjects. We are planning a program for our May meeting to highlight these authors.

If you have written a book for publication and would be willing to present a 5-10 minute presentation, please respond below.

1. Your name _____

2. Publication _____

(If we have more authors that we can use this year, we will feature the rest next year).

Please complete these two questionnaires and return them to Bob Griffin at the February 13th meeting.