



PERSPECTIVE

Vol. 9 No. 7

April 2000

Annual Report, Business Action, Music on Tap for April Luncheon Meeting



Following the luncheon in the Heritage Room of the Webster Commons at SNU, 11:30 a.m., April 10, the ASP Annual Assembly will be held. All members are urged to attend and participate. Guests are cordially welcomed as observers.

The agenda for the business session includes:

- Election of ASP President and Secretary for two-year terms.
- President's Annual Report for 1999-2000
- Vote on the proposed ASP Bylaws changes
- Vote on proposed change in Annual Membership Dues.
- New ASP Student Scholarship Endowment concept

As an enhancement to the proceedings of the Business Meeting, Mrs. Mabel Sonnevik, accompanied by Mrs. Evelyn Keeton at the piano, will sing "Seek the Lord, and Ye Shall Live," by Merle Miller, and "The Lord Is My Light," taken from Psalm 27, by Frances Allitsen.



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## Proposed By-law Changes Scheduled for Academy Vote

### Article III

#### Section 2 Standing Committees

The Assembly shall have 5 (replacing 4) committees designated as follows:

(e) (to be added) Committee on Publications

#### Section 4 Powers and Duties

(e) (to be added) Committee on Publications: The Committee on Publications shall be responsible for guiding the development and publication of the Academy publication *The Academy Perspective*. (Note: These responsibilities could be expanded as the need becomes apparent.)

## Second Memoir Writing Workshop to be Directed by Vada Lee Barkley

Preceding the April ASP Luncheon and Assembly, all members and guests are invited to observe or participate in the second memoir Writing Workshop (MWW) from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. in the SNU Faculty Lounge of the Webster Commons. ASP past president, Vada Lee Barkley, will serve as the chair for this workshop.

Eight members participated in the first MWW held on March 13: Carol Spencer, Mary Smith, Bob Emmel, Bea Flinner, Marilyn Olson, Vada Lee Barkley, Jack David Arnold, temporary chair, and Anna Belle Laughbaum, resource person.

Carol Spencer and Mary Smith read selections from their memoirs, and the group discussed them following their readings.

"Turning Memories into Memoirs" is the theme of the MWW. It gives writers the chance to share their writings with others and to hear their work discussed in a trusting and friendly atmosphere.

On his visit to the Institute for Retired Professionals at Nova Southeastern University at Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, last January, Arnold met Maxine Jordan who leads the MWW there. The following are her suggestions on how writers and critics should participate in the Workshop:

- Usually manuscripts are requested in advance in order to give writers time to duplicate and distribute them to all participants.
- When you receive your copies, take them home to read, giving each story your full and undivided attention—without a pencil in your hand or criticism in mind.
- After this initial reading writers are encouraged to ask themselves what draws them to the story.
- Try not to leap to immediate or negative judgments.
- Be aware of idiosyncrasies in the writing which may just reflect the author's personal writing style. **Cont. p.6-MWW**



....Your president's point of view:

By Jack David Arnold

## Cartoonist and Coach: A Mystic Bond of Brotherhood

....  
... Cartoonist Charles Schulz and retired Dallas Cowboys' coach, Tom Landry—who died within a day of each other last February had more in common than most people realized.

Their mutual faith in God made them spiritual brothers because of what Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881), the Scottish historian, called "the mystic bond of brotherhood."

Schulz and Landry were stars in the midst of their professions and made a difference for good in their separate worlds because they did not shy away from witnessing to others about their faith in God.

Landry's nickname was "God's coach." Famous to his football fans for his discipline, his impassive "game face" and his trademark fedora, he is remembered as a man of warmth, wit, and wisdom.

While Landry was making public appearances, his message to his hearers was profoundly simple: **Knowing one's priorities is a key to life.** His were God, family, and football—in that order.

He often inscribed the flyleaves of Bibles with a reference to Romans 1:12 "I want to be among you to be myself encouraged by your faith as well as you by mine." (New English Bible).

Schulz revealed his faith in God in more subtle, but no less effective means through his comic strip. The thread of belief ran through "Peanuts" throughout its 50 years. Schulz pointed out, "If you do not say anything in a cartoon, you might as well not draw it at all."

In a 1963 article, "Knowing You Are Not Alone," Schulz wrote: "I am a great believer in holy living. I think life should be lived on as pure a scale as possible. We have to do the best we can, living each day at the point where it begins, but this does not mean that life cannot be lived in a holy way."

In one of his last interviews, Schulz recalled that there was one time when he insisted on the inclusion of his Christian beliefs. As the "Peanuts" television special, A Charlie Brown Christmas, was being prepared, CBS-TV executives were nervous about a scene in which Linus recites a passage from the Nativity story in the Gospel of Luke. Schulz was adamant in his response to them, "You simply cannot have the Christmas story without the Scripture." So they left it in.

Because Schulz defended his faith and the authenticity of his art, the viewer of this TV special, which has run each Christmas season for 30 years, hears the childlike voice of Linus proclaim with utter conviction, "For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11) Continued p. 6 - Arnold



## "Sharing a Continuous Flight"

### The Academy Perspective

#### ---Publication Board---

|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Chair & Production Editor | Don Beaver, Ph.D.           |
| Copy Editor               | Anna Belle Laughbaum, Ph.D. |
| Managing Editor           | Elbert Overholt, Ed.D.      |

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|                    |                          |
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| President's Column | Jack David Arnold, Ph.D. |
| Obituaries         | Glendena and Gene Adams  |
| Feature Writer     | Vada Lee Barkley, M.A.   |
| Book Reviews       | Wini Howard, M.T.        |
| Library Resources  | Shirley Pelley, M.L.Sc.  |

#### ---Staff Reporters---

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#### ---Communications Policy---

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Annual subscription cost for *The Academy Perspective*:

Non-members—\$10.00 per year

Members—Included in membership

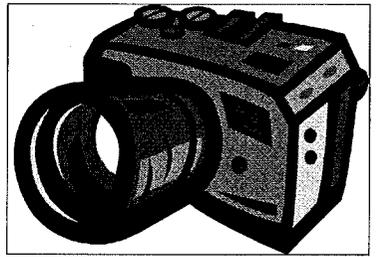


### Art's Chuckles

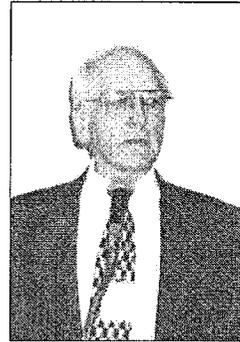
- Jumping at conclusions is not nearly as good a mental exercise as digging for facts.
- One way to live happily ever after is not to be after too much.
- Early to bed and early to rise, till you make enough to do otherwise.
- Distance lends enchantment but not when you're out of gas.

# ASP PICS

PICTURES BY EDITH SONNEVIK PAYNE



Long-time Bethany residents, Carson and Nita Snow were visiting the March Academy meeting. Encourage them to consider ASP membership.



George Miller, retired director of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, shared information and experiences from his years as a public servant with the Academy at the March ASP luncheon.



We welcome Ramona Marsh to membership in the Academy of Senior Professionals. Her husband, William Marsh is a prior member. They are long-time alums of Southern Nazarene University.



Virjeane Bayles introduces the March Academy speaker, Mr. George Miller. Virjeane is a member of the Program Committee which has done an outstanding job of planning programs this year.

## Learning from the Polls

By Elbert Overholt

Opinion poll results are often given as a basis for holding a particular position or defending a particular action. Can a reasoning person rely on these opinion polls and use them for holding a firm position? Perhaps so; but only if careful analysis is made of the poll and its interpreted results.

Some polls are reliable and can be used effectively as a basis for sound judgment. Other polls are no more than useless propaganda. Some polls are "scientific" and the results will provide reliable information. Others are unscientific and perhaps interesting and even entertaining but meaningless.

An illustration of diverse information from a poll is given in a recent issue of a Capitol Hill newspaper, *Roll Call*. The article gives data on a poll by the Democratic firm, Greensberg-Quinlan, stating that Congressman Forbes (D-NY) was leading each of his GOP challengers. A poll taken for the National Republican Congressional Committee showed "Forbes trails all potential GOP candidates." The article did not provide the necessary data for an informed reader to properly evaluate the two polls. Consequently, there was no reliable information that could be used from either poll.

The National Council on Public Polls (NCPP) (1) is an association of polling organizations whose mission is setting the highest professional standards for public opinion pollsters and advancing the understanding of how polls are conducted and how to interpret poll results. The NCPP, founded in 1969, is interested in promoting good survey research and has been actively attempting to warn the media and the public concerning poor research and political activity that is disguised as legitimate survey polls.

In 1995 the NCPP issued a warning about an unethical political campaign technique, commonly called "Push Polls", masquerading as legitimate political polling. A "Push Poll" is a telemarketing technique in which a vast number of potential voters are fed false "information" about a candidate under the guise of taking a poll to see how this "information" affects voter preferences. The intent is to "push" voters away from one candidate and toward the opposing candidate. There is no intent to conduct legitimate research but to conduct political telemarketing.

If the results of these unscientific "polls" are released, and they will be, particularly by media services, the net effect is unreliable and often false information. An additional factor affecting legitimate polls is the many media sound bytes that are nothing more than political propaganda. The public generally does not have time to research important issues so they form their opinions based on television sound bytes and misleading political advertisements.

Public opinion is not static. Opinions relative to an issue vary from unstable, strong emotional feelings to solid and stable convictions based upon well-balanced knowledge of an issue that has been clarified and carefully analyzed.

The *Public Agenda On-line* (2) lists seven stages of public opinion as given by Daniel Yankelovich (3), author, public opinion analyst, and co-founder of the Public Agenda.

Stage 1: Dawning Awareness—The public is aware of the problem, may not understand fully, but does not feel a sense of urgency.

Stage 2: Greater Urgency—The dominant sentiment is an urgency to "do something."

Stage 3: Reaching for solutions—The public looks for alternatives for treating issues. This state is marked by changing public opinion as the public becomes fully aware of the alternatives and understands the various implications.

Stage 4: Wishful Thinking—Initial thinking may be an assumption of a right; e.g., universal health care but withdrawal of a position one the full cost and implications are considered.

Stage 5: Weighing the Choices—Considering the pros and cons of the alternatives concerning a particular issue.

Stage 6: Taking a Stand Intellectually and

Emotionally—These two stages are linked but people are quicker to change in their mind than in their heart.

In order to gain maximum value from the results of survey polls, the individual interpreter must be aware of the stage in which public thinking is progressing. Not only do survey results vary depending on what questions are asked, who is asked, and how the questions are asked; when you ask is also very important. Up-and-down trend numbers may be reflecting poor research rather than changing public opinion.

The NCPP is committed "to standards of disclosure designed to insure that consumers of survey results that enter the public domain, have an adequate basis for judging the reliability and validity of the results reported." (4)

All member organizations of the NCPP reporting survey results intended for public release should include reference to the following (5)

- Sponsorship of the survey
- Dates of interviewing
- Method of obtaining the data (in person, telephone or mail)
- Population that was sampled
- Size and description of the sub-sample (If the report relies primarily on less than the total sample)
- Complete working of questions upon which the release is based
- The percentages on which conclusions are based.

This same Council lists a total of twenty questions (6) that a journalist should ask about the poll before deciding whether or not the poll results are worthy of publicity as a scientific poll.

For the purpose of this article we will propose ten basic questions that an individual should consider before blindly accepting the results of reported polls. Basic questions to consider to determine the legitimacy of survey information.

1. Was it a telephone survey? in person? call in?

2. How many people were interviewed? (Sample size) A large number is not necessarily good if they were improperly chosen for the sample.

3. How were the people chosen for the poll?

4. From what total group was the sample chosen?

(Population for the study) The major distinguishing difference between a scientific and an unscientific poll is who and how the respondents in a poll are chosen. In a scientific poll the pollster identifies a group (population) from which he uses a scientific method (preferable random selection) to choose a sample of respondents.

**Part two of the two parts of "Learning from the Polls" will be printed in the May issue of *The Academy Perspective*.**



**"If you ask me"**  
By Vada Lee Barkley

*After a year in an assisted living facility, I am qualified to describe a typical day.—VLB*

At midnight I hear someone trying to break into our apartment. Peeking through the keyhole, I see our neighbor. He insists that he must get to the bathroom fast.

I tell him to go back across the hall to his own bathroom. No luck. I pull the emergency cord. An aide comes and gets him back to his apartment. He has Alzheimers; his wife is in the hospital. A few weeks later they're in a nursing home.

About 3 a.m. Art heads for the bathroom. I hear a thud. He has fallen again. I pull a cord. Two aides dash to our room and get him back to bed.

The fire alarm wakes me at 5 a.m. I grab a robe, house shoes, wig, teeth, and purse. In the hall I learn it was a false alarm. I go back to bed but not to sleep.

At 6:15 I crawl out of bed and get ready for breakfast. I turn the TV on so I can answer my friend, who invariably asks, "What day is this? And "What's the weather supposed to do today?"

With pillbox in hand, I open the door and join the parade to the dining hall.

A Little Rascal passes me at top speed. A lady backs her wheelchair down the hall, a third neighbor appears with her walker, several with canes, and one without her "marbles."

We arrive at our tables and wait for someone to take our orders. Able-bodied residents don't wait long patiently. Kitchen help is inevitably shorthanded. Somehow we all get served.

Back in our apartment, we go back to bed. Later we go for a walk in the lovely courtyard. I go to the living room and play the piano; several come to listen and applaud.

After lunch we gather in the living room for entertainment. Some of it is fun. Some play a lot of "Golden Oldies." When they start on waltzes, one lady walks over to a divan, grabs a sofa pillow, clasps it to her breast, and waltzes with it until the music stops.

After supper a group of Nazarenes have a prayer meeting. Again, there's a parade of wheelchairs, walkers, and canes. But such appurtenances, along with deafness and blindness, fade into insignificance as we lift our squeaky voices in praise to the One we have walked and talked with throughout our long lives.



**Rig Offers Workshop on Genealogical research**  
By Bea Flinner

On April 10 the Research Interest Group (RIG) will conduct its last meeting until fall. During that time there will be an effort to finalize old business, or perhaps table some of it until the first meeting of next year. As one of the main items, Dr.

Overholt will be reading his paper entitled "Learning From The Polls."

At the March meeting, business was dispensed with in order to have our special guest, Glorene Brown, present a mini session on Genealogy. Because of the interest expressed, RIG invited Glorene back to present a workshop on that topic. An open invitation is extended to those who are already in the process of searching for the history of their ancestors, or are interested in the methodology for pursuing genealogical research.

NOTE 1: The final RIG meeting will be Monday, April 10, 9:00—10:20 a.m. in Royce Brown 135. Please note the time change. YOU are invited to attend! At our last meeting we welcomed Richard (Dick) and Carol Spencer as new members.

NOTE 2: The Genealogy Workshop will follow the ASP (Academy of Senior Professionals) luncheon, and will take place in the SNU Library across the street in Room 201 (second floor), at 1:15 p.m. Our presenter will have handouts available, which will carefully and clearly explain her methods of conducting ancestral research. You will enjoy her presentation, and it will be worth your time to attend! **There will be no charge for the workshop!**



**A look at a book**  
By Wini Howard

***I Dared to Call Him Father***  
by Bilquis Sheikh with Richard Schneider\*

*I Dared to Call Him Father* was another gift book. How grateful I am! It is a fascinating, true story by Bilquis Sheikh, who grew up in a strict Muslim family and country. She is telling us how she came to know God and how finally she was able to call Him "Father."

I have heard stories of people from religions other than Christianity, who have become Christians. This is a compelling account of someone who had no appreciation or acceptance of the few Christians that she knew in her community. They were poor and underprivileged.

But God got Bilquis' attention through some rather unusual means. They are somewhat mystical and difficult to describe. Realizing how her family would react, she nevertheless ordered her chauffeur (a Christian) to bring her a Bible. He was, of course, very frightened to be caught doing such a thing.

Bilquis now began to study the Bible along with the Koran. The Bible began to answer her questions. She very cautiously went to see the missionary couple whom she had held in such disdain. They eventually became close friends. But it was mainly as she read the Bible that she opened her heart to God.

This is a thrilling account of one intelligent lady's journey to salvation—mainly through reading the Word. A great inspiration!

\* *I Dared to Call Him Father* can be ordered through the SNU bookstore.

**Arnold** (Continued from p. 2)

In their lifetimes, Cartoonist Schulz and Coach Landry, bonded as brothers in their faith in God and love for His creatures, gave us sterling examples of Jesus' teaching that His followers are to be the "leaven in the lump" of human life.

May we honor their memories and their faith by living as similar "leaven"—an influence which lightens and enlivens the whole.

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**MWW** (Cont. from p. 1)

- After taking a few moments to think about the effect that the work creates, look for the positives.
- Each author deserves a detailed, thoughtful analysis of his or her manuscript.
- Elements to consider are: character, point of view, voice, language, detail, dialogue, content, theme, and title.
- Reread the manuscript, marking places and phrases that worked for you and ones that didn't.
- Focus on concept and how the story succeeds.
- Write commentary in the margins and emphasize what you think the writer has done that works well.
- Write your overall impression at the end.
- Apply the Golden Rule in the Workshop.
- Make comments that add something new rather than repeating a suggestion that has been offered before.
- Avoid the consensus syndrome.
- And, at no time, "Maxine Jordan writes, "will the critiquing become harsh or critical—It's a no-no!

For more suggestions—plan to attend the MWW April 10.



**Mark  
Your  
Calendar**

**March 13**

- 9:00-10:20 a.m. Research Interest Group, Royce Brown 135
- 10:30-11:15 a.m. Memoir Writing Workshop,  
Faculty Lounge, SNU Commons
- 11:00 a.m. Shuttle
- 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. ASP Luncheon, SNU Commons\***
- 1:00 p.m. Shuttle
- 1:15-2:30 p.m. Genealogy Workshop, SNU Library 201

\*For reservations, call 405/789-2036 or 405/942-5305

**Remaining ASP luncheon dates for 1999-2000:**

April 10, 2000      May 8, 2000

**ASP Members Communicate via E-Mail**

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