



Impolitic

Whoever suggested avoiding discussions of politics in polite company may have been on to something. Readers continue to react to the political content of our Fall issue and the subsequent letters published in the Winter issue, celebrating *Focus*' 40th anniversary. The reactions were almost always charged and visceral. And mostly polite. For better or worse, the letters in this issue will be the last word on the recent political season. . . . **Other notes:** Readers also shared their memories of Dr. C. Warren Becker ("Life Stories") and William Shadel ("In Focus"), adding to the tributes contained in the last issue. And as we've recently observed around campus, at least a couple AU staff have framed or displayed our 40th anniversary centerfold, commemorating all the covers in the magazine's history. This is a trend we're hoping will catch on.

Becker Tribute

My memories of C. Warren Becker continue to stimulate my appreciation of the pipe organ, even though one of my first opportunities to experience his virtuosity was personally embarrassing.

One Sabbath evening soon after my arrival on campus, Dr. Becker played the Toccata from Boellmann's Suite Gothique. Unfamiliar as I was with that composition, and coming from a more participatory church background, I gave a rather vociferous "Amen" during the momentary pause before the last four chords. I truly wished I could have disappeared at that instant.

Friday evening vespers usually concluded with one of those rafter-shaking improvisations on a hymn tune for which Dr. Becker was well known. And who can forget the way he "played the congregation" during worship? His gift for delivering brief talks on certain hymns, illustrated by pointing out the icons of specific windows in PMC, was priceless. But the two surprises he presented to me are treasures I will always cherish.

Even though I sang with the University Chorale and the University Singers, and studied piano and organ (neither with Dr. Becker), I was not enrolled as a student of music. My suspicion is that Dr. Becker observed me practicing in the Music building, a fact of which I was unaware. So when he asked me to be one of the student organists during a Week of Spiritual Emphasis, it was something I never envisioned. Later, during a summer lay-over on campus, he invited me to supervise the musical content for Sabbath School in PMC for the duration.

One cannot pay tribute to Dr. Becker without echoing the testimonials of others. My life has been immeasurably blessed as a result of having been influ-

enced by such a fine human being whose life, as was the music of Johann Sebastian Bach (which he treasured), was dedicated to the glory of God.

Thomas Cathcart (BA '69)

The grass is always greener?

I have read the most recent *Focus*. While at Andrews, taking classes at the Seminary, we were often admonished to endeavor to "feed the sheep" and "care for the flock". Perhaps it is with this in mind that you included in the Class Notes that Doru Tarita "is currently pasturing both the English- and Romanian-speaking churches in Vienna."!!

Keep up the good work, which encourages all of us to share Jesus with the world!

Edwin K. Gibbons (MDiv '70)

(More or) less politics

Shouldn't it be better for *Focus* to cover Andrews University and its alumni than to try to put an Andrews perspective on national events? Publishing the liberal views of current faculty and students only reinforces the hinterland's view that Andrews is too liberal—even questioning whether you're fulfilling the church's mission as one of its "schools of the prophets."

You don't care how I vote (unless I vote your way). Conversely, I would just as soon not have to read how you voted, and why you voted that way. I've yet to see a candidate offering a clear choice of all good. Instead we're all forced to choose between candidates with both

good and bad—hoping we choose the one who will do more good than bad.

No one but you cares what you think about President George W. Bush. But, we who take the time to read the *FOCUS* are interested to know what's happening at AU with our fellow alumni and our professors. That's your writing assignment for every future edition of *FOCUS*!

Rick Nudd (BS '69)

I am thoroughly distressed, disgusted, and sickened at the ultra-liberal bias of the editorial staff.

I don't believe that Adventism is to consist of president bashing, trashing, and slashing. It would be well if you would stick with the principles and instruction found in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. They are rarely if ever quoted, mentioned, or referred to in your letters section. There are volumes on politics and our relation to it. I just see ramblings of over-inflated egos trying to impress those who like to read such trash.

I don't know anybody that wants war. God certainly didn't want it in heaven, but it came nonetheless, and He dealt with it. And guess what? He was charged with some of the same things you allow your readers to accuse our president of. When you're a leader, no one wants to come up to your level; they always want to pull you down to theirs. And when readers compare the liberal stand on killing unborn babies with soldiers dying in war, well, I am left speechless.

No one agrees with everything any president or administration does, but is *FOCUS* to be a political/social review, or should it be an avenue to bring readers closer to the Lord and prepare us for His kingdom? May God help you, your

staff, your sponsors, and your faculty to cultivate true Godliness, respect authority, give honor to whom honor is due, be more responsible and balanced, and humble yourselves in the sight of a holy God.

Randy Warkentin (MDiv '97)

I hope you will add to your priorities seeing that *FOCUS* does not publish articles that are clearly espousing political party lines as has been the case lately. I want to hear from my University without partisan colors.

We respect everyone's right to believe in the party politics they prefer, but *FOCUS* should not be used to further their leanings.

Daniel A. Chaij (BS '55)

Just received the current *FOCUS*. [Regarding Glenn Saunders' letter, "Liberal Agenda"], I know of no liberals who "ridicule the concept of moral values," nor any who "are anti-Christian."

If the liberal preachers and churches had not got involved in promoting ethical and moral values, ladies would still be second-class citizens, unable to vote or hold responsible positions in business or politics; children would still be working 10- or 12-hour shifts in factories; those who are black would still be slaves; those who are poor wouldn't be able to read, for lack of education!

George McGovern said, "I challenge my conservative friends to name a single federal program now approved by both of our major parties that was not first pushed by liberals over the opposition of conservatives."

Those "liberal" innovations include the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Reserve, the Food and Drug Administration, the

National Park Service, the Forest Service, the Federal School Lunch Program, Food Stamps for low-income families, the Voting Rights Act, Equal Access to Public Accommodations, Collective Bargaining, the graduated income tax, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, equal rights for women...and one of the greatest accomplishments of all time, the Civil Rights Act, which at last redeemed the promise of our Founding Fathers that "all men (and women) are created equal."

Felix A Lorenz, Jr. (MA '52)

Memories of Bill

I was a student in the 60's when Bill Shadel spoke on campus as part of a University lecture series. I don't remember what he said, but I do remember I was impressed with his credentials. I'm even more impressed now by his discernment. With regard to "idiots deploying, and dangerously, choosing to make war," the student has become the teacher. I could only hope that this discernment was a product of the educational environment at Andrews.

Education should create thinkers, rather than "groupthink"ers. Clearly Shadel was on the path early to become the former. His type of candor will be missed.

Maynard Lowry (BA '68)

It was of real interest to me to read your "Note for Bill." It just happened that I was in the Academy at EMC from 1926-1929, in the tenth and eleventh grades, and I was a member of the college band directed by Bill Shadel. I was not aware at that time that he was only two years

older than I. He passed away this year at the age of 96, and I am 94.

The band rehearsed in the attic of the original ad building. The studio for the WEMC radio station was our rehearsal place. At that time radio studios were not supposed to have any reverberation, so there was carpet on the floor, drapes over windows, and I believe on the walls. Talk about a place as dead as possible to make music and this was it. I played the baritone using a college instrument.

I had not yet decided on a career, but was interested in music among other things. But Bill was an influence. He played piano, marimba, clarinet and saxophone, and also sang in musical organizations.

The band and other groups performed in the old wooden chapel, church, auditorium that stood somewhere in the vicinity of the present church. By the way, it was nearly surrounded by grape vineyards. They had a wonderful flavor!

Another feature of this building was the fact that the academy used the upstairs as a classroom. Just inside the main entrance was a long straight stairway to our classroom in the attic. Dr. Summers, the organist, practiced on the pipe organ in the morning during classes. The competition was sometimes severe.

My father, W. E. Straw, was called to be head of the Department of Theology in 1933. His office was in the new building that stood alongside the original building. (How soon age takes over and is supplanted by something new! When I compare the campus in the 1920s with what it is today, I must say, "what hath God wrought!" My daughter-in-law, Sharon, was employed in the library until just recently, and her mother, Liz Beck, started the Sabbath afternoon Fireside Fellowship in the little building diagonally across from the church.)

I remained at Madison College, where we had moved in 1929, and was in charge of the music department for seven years. During that time, we spent a few weeks of the summer at EMC and I had the chance to visit with Bill a time or two as he was setting up for band rehearsals. My father said Bill had talked with him about entering the news business.

I was glad to hear about Bill. I really had not heard about him since his moderating the presidential debate. I did watch that. I was sorry to learn that he had passed away, but really happy to know that he had made contact with you at Andrews.

I realize this is too long and disorganized, but your "Note for Bill" opened the floodgate of my memories of long-gone days.

Leland Straw (att.)

Clarification

The winter issue of *FOCUS* was wonderful and historically interesting for a 1952 history graduate such as I.

I should point out a needed correction for Dr. Klooster's obituary on p. 35. Judson Klooster was dean of the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry, from 1971-1994, not the dean of academic affairs.

Thor Bakland (BA'52)

Poetry from on high

[Regarding the] quotation [attributed to Ronald Reagan] from [the Campus Cache] *FOCUS*, Vol. 41, No. 1 [p. 36], I am not sure whether you intended to quote this as Reagan's own composition,

which your comment appears to imply. These lines are from a poem [entitled "High Flight"] written by John Magee, one of your own very worthy countrymen, who was stationed in Britain as a member of the Canadian Air Force during the second World War.

The poem and memoir of [Magee's] life is held on permanent record in the parish church of Scopwick, a most lovely village a few miles south of the city of Lincoln, England. It is clear that President Reagan was conversant with this exquisite composition.

Ronald V. Edwards (MA '58)

Season's greetings

Just wanted to say that I enjoy the seasonal issues of *FOCUS*. I receive them at work and it's nice to take a moment to catch up on the happenings at AU and also reminisce about the years I spent there.

Peter Pokryfke (BArch '02, MArch '03)

Letters to Focus are welcome. To ensure a range of viewpoints, we encourage letters of fewer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for content, style and space. Opinions expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the editors, university employees, officers and administrators.

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