

## Payback is Swell



How does one sufficiently repay a friend and confidant? One tenders goodwill and fellowship sufficient to that friend's wants. How does one adequately appreciate a counselor and mentor? The gracious receipt of sensible advice allows prosperity; therein is one's greatest testimonial. What best conveys gratitude for selfless charity, and what requites grace, kindness, respect, tenacity, and the multitude of other benevolent considerations? Recompense these acts with similar manner and measure.

Considering the above, of what values are words? I defend words; presented truthfully, they serve well. Words illuminate recesses of a soul. Adorned by actions, words reveal sincerities. To some, words are comforts; words guide, and words nurture. Words are essential to consummate communication. Some words mislead, but these are without substance -- these words are of the mind and not the soul.

Our souls sing joyously to many of you. You spoke many kind words; they gave us insight. You embraced us; that encouraged us. You advised us; we flourished. You ministered to our needs; our pains diminished. You blessed us with friendship; we became rich beyond measure. Supportive words and deeds blessed us and added to the intimacy of our matrimonial moment. We borrow from Robert Browning and say: Our hearts rise "up and bless your name in pride and thankfulness!"

Kathron & Woody Woodside

## Happy Valentine's Day

## The Editors Speaks

### Failure Helps Define Success

Failure and success only seem to be opposites. They are really just two sides of the same coin. Failure is usually a necessary *prelude* to one's success *suite*.

Olympic diver Pat McCormack, winner of four gold medals, assures her students, "You will never become champion until you learn how to fail."

"If you've never failed, you haven't set your goals high enough," says Motivation Corporation founder Joe C. Hearn. "Fear of failure is the reason people don't establish goals."

Fear can be a barrier to accomplishing your plans and fulfilling your purpose. Discouragement is another.

There wasn't much John Pierpont didn't fail at doing - teaching, law, business, poetry, ministry, politics. When he died in 1866, he had achieved none of his ambitions.

But where he saw only failure, others found a kind and honest man who stood against slavery and for social reform. And he left the world a remarkable legacy - the song *Jingle Bells*. Its simple, happy words still echo from one winter holiday season to the next.

Or take Abraham Lincoln, and the oft-told tale of his business failures and many failures at the polls. But eventually he became president of the U.S. One could argue that without those failures behind him, he would not have been a great president - perhaps not even president at all. And we still honor his Emancipation Proclamation, his sense of humor, the healing words of his Gettysburg address, and more. Hardly a failure, he.

The important thing, then, is to have short-term and long-term goals or purposes in life. So thought Godfrey Kobets when he opened the DeLaSalle MO. He wanted to help the "failures," so he set forth an unusual admissions policy: "If anybody else will take you, we don't want you." The center teaches troubled teens with learning disabilities, behavior problems and drug dependency to succeed by finding and developing their individual talents. Student Aaron Cann, a one-time crack dealer, says he's discovered self-respect. "Now I see a chance that I can amount to something."

We can all amount to something. But first we'll probably have to experience the *failure prelude* before finishing the *success suite*.

## SACS Delegates Attend Meeting

Wilkes Community College sent two representatives to the 98th Annual Meeting of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) that took place in Atlanta, Georgia, December 14 through 17.

Cliff LeCornu, self study director for WCC's SACS Self-Study and Karen Griggs, assistant self study director were among the more than 3,000 delegates who attended workshops and seminars on more than 100 topics. The group took action on accreditation issues, and set policy for the regional accrediting agency.

Accreditation is a process of helping institutions improve through a systematic program of evaluation. It assures that an institution meets minimum standards and that it demonstrates a commitment to providing quality education programs. The Association is a non-governmental agency, and membership is voluntary.

WCC is one of five colleges and universities that has been chosen to utilize an alternative model for accreditation. WCC as well as Brazosport College in Lake Jackson, Texas; Rice University in Houston, Texas; Baylor University Medical School in Waco, Texas; and the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi are all schools that qualified for the alternate method because they have all demonstrated that they meet high standards exhibited in previous accreditation procedures.

These five schools have a history of strong compliance with SACS criteria, of financial stability and an ongoing institutional effectiveness plan. The new method is a two phase approach that includes the traditional method; a retrospective look at what the college has accomplished, and a strategic planning phase, which is a projection of the school's expectations for the future.

Delegates attending the annual meeting in Atlanta included faculty, administrators and educational professionals representing the more than 12,000 accredited public and private schools and colleges, universities, occupational institutions, military schools, industry schools, high schools, junior high schools, middle schools, elementary schools, and early childhood centers and kindergartens in the Southern region.

Founded in 1895 and headquartered in Decatur, GA, the Southern Association is one of six regional accrediting bodies in the United States and covers eleven Southern states from Virginia through Texas, as well as American schools in Latin America.

## SGA News

The Student Government Association conducts meetings every Thursday afternoon at 12:30 on behalf of the entire student body. Meetings of the SGA are not intentionally secret; in fact, students with concerns are welcome in room 209 (Thompson Hall). Observe your student government in action. When properly recognized by the SGA president, any student is allowed to present issues for evaluation.

Many issues are covered in SGA meetings. A small sampling of SGA issues are listed here:

Winterfest Dance, Spring Fling, Cultural Diversity, Merle Watson Festival, Intramurals, Valentine's Dance, Computer Dating, Martin Luther King Event, The Coming Student Center, Student needs, The Quiz Bowl, N4CSGA Conference, Spring Elections, Workshops, Student Unity, Activity hour evaluation, Easter Egg Hunts, The rain forest, Scholarships, Balloon messages, Talent Show, The Weight Room, Ping Pong Tournaments, New Clubs, Movies on the lawn, Child care, Activities for night students, Black history informs...and the list goes on and on...

Keep in mind, the SGA is elected to represent your best interests. As these representatives learn of your needs and desires they begin to bring about reforms.

This year, many changes have been initiated; many changes have been questioned. These changes attempt to meet the needs of our diverse campus. Does something concern you? Do you suggest an improved student life? Would you be involved? The SGA welcomes your suggestions; the SGA welcomes your evaluations; the SGA welcomes your presence in their meetings (limited by safe occupancy limits -- votes are restricted to SGA representatives).

Woody  
(SGA Public Information Officer)

## Do Not Make Good Sense

Do not contradict people, even if you are sure you are right.

Do not be inquisitive about the affairs of even your most intimate friends.

Do not underrate anything because you do not possess it. Do not believe all the evil you hear.

Do not repeat gossip, even if it does interest a crowd.

Do not jeer at anybody's beliefs.

Do not voice your aches and pains, for few care whether you have an earache, headache, or stomach ache.

Do not try to be anything else but a sensitive human being; and that means one who has consideration for everyone.