

TALLWOOD TIMES



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Marjorie's Farewell Edition, June 20, 2003

DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST

Wed., Aug 20, 10:00. Outreach Committee. Members knowing anyone at *Washington Post* are welcome.

SEPTEMBER

Mon., Sept. 8. Your membership will be cancelled if you do not submit your Fall Registration Form by this day.

Thurs., Sept. 18, 2:00–4:00. Open House, ASAP Building. Sober & AA guests only.

Fri., Sept. 19, 10:00. Board of Directors, Joe's Bar.

Mon, Sept. 22, Fall classes begin, locations available on LRI's Web home page only.

Wed., Sept. 25, 2:00–4:00. Tour of Fairfax City Jail. Be sure to bring a permission slip from your parole officer.

Fri., Sept. 29, 10:00. Program Committee. Bring home movies, Christmas letters, anything remotely "academic."

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hillary tells me she has heard from one of her Democrat friends that the good citizens of Fairfax County have organized a Learning in Retirement Institute for senior citizens. I want to thank the farsighted voters (whoops—citizens) who came up with this wonderful idea to keep older folk busy so that they don't worry about their lack of medical insurance or insufficient Social Security checks. Now, you'all know Hillary and I are trying to get that Republican-controlled Congress to be nicer to good people like you'all and I know you'all will bear that in next year's congressional elections.

But I don't want to dwell just on national issues. It's also important that senior citizens learn about Shakespeare, the Renaissance, Tolstoy, Einstein, our Founding Fathers, quantum mechanics, molecular gynecology (or is it biology?) and all those other wonderful things that educated citizens should know about.

Now, maybe you'all can also help me. I'm looking for a few selected interns to work in the White House, learn about how our country is governed and be close to me (and, of course, Hillary too). Age is not a factor (ahem). I'm just itching to get to know you'all better!

If any of your members are considering moving out of the Northern Virginia area, I recommend North Carolina, but only after Helms leaves the Senate.

Bill Clinton

DOWN MEMORY LANE

At the end of LRI's first term in spring 1991, Kathryn Brooks wrote in our newsletter:

"Here we are at the conclusion of our first set of classes, and, from what I see and hear, this term has been the great success that we expected it would be as a beginning to a growing program. Let us keep up the good work. Come to the Celebration Party prepared to analyze our past, plan our future, and exchange ideas for growth and improvement. Also, please, be prepared to volunteer your services for any job from clerical to teaching. Whatever you can or wish to do is useful and will enhance the program. LRI is established as a member-run organization. So, I am glad to see that the Suggestion Box has

not been ignored, and your suggestions will be incorporated in our future plans.”

When Kathryn wrote the above piece, LRI had just 90 members. Today, six years later, it has 399 members. A recent telephone survey of our membership reveals:

- All LRI members belong to an as-yet-unidentified sub-species of *Homo sapiens*.
- Except for a handful of members who are still illiterate, our members read only large-print editions.
- 99.9% admit they have had at least one sexual experience sometime during their lives. The remaining 0.1% refused to answer on the grounds of self-incrimination (short for “it’s none of your d--n business”).

THAT SUGGESTION BOX

Speaking of the Suggestion Box, here are some recent proposals:

- Don’t serve chocolate cookies; they bring back my acme.
- More chocolate cookies, please; they make me mellow!
- How about a course on transcendental Buddhism?
- No more name badges; I want to be incognito.
- Provide pillows for the hard chair seats.
- Reduce dues by imposing a fee to use the bathrooms.

LRI TO SCREEN MEMBERSHIP

Speaking of bathrooms, your LRI Board has addressed the problems of long lines at bathrooms between classes and overcrowding in some classrooms. It has decided that bold steps are needed to solve both these pressing problems. Beginning with the next semester, LRI members will be required to pass bladder function tests to remain members in good standing, or sitting, as required. Board spokesman M. T. Bladdar explained that the new membership qualification tests will lead to shorter lines at the bathrooms and fewer disruptions when members get up during class for personal reasons. (Note: Some members have compounded this interruption problem by asking the instructors for permission to go. This caused great confusion in a classroom recently when a visiting professor responded to the question by asking “Go where?” The class liaison reported excessive laughter in the classroom. The membership will be asked to bring in an appropriate sample for urinalysis along with their Registration Forms. Carol Ferrara will collect the samples for processing. (Note: No cheating allowed! Certified samples only.)

MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING

Noting that a quorum was present, the Chair called for approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. One Board member asked that the previous minutes be read because he could not remember that meeting. A second member objected that it would take too long to read the previous minutes. An extended debate

ensued on the policy for reading previous Board minutes. Several members spoke for or against the policy, with one member speaking both for and against.

The Board finally voted eight to six to read the minutes, with one abstention and one member sleeping.

The Secretary then indicated that the previous meeting had been consumed with extended debate on the policy of reading Board minutes before acting to approve them. Because of time constraints, the Board had voted to carry that debate into the next meeting for resolution.

Following the reading of the previous minutes, the Chair noted that it was almost noon and that a quorum was no longer present. The meeting closed with agreement to postpone all issues until the following meeting. One member objected that the meeting could not be closed because the Board lacked a quorum to take a decision, but everyone left the room anyway.

LRI NEWS EDITOR REVEALED

Editors of publications usually include their names prominently in the publication. Not the editor of *Tallwood Times* or the catalog. However, after extensive undercover work by former CIA members, the true identity of the editor has been discovered. When this information was brought to the attention of the Board of Directors, it decided that, privacy acts and the fifth amendment notwithstanding, the editor should no longer be permitted to hide behind a mask of anonymity.



She is none other than Marjorie White! who joined LRI in spring 1992 and almost immediately volunteered her anonymous services as editor of both the newsletter and catalog. Her offer was accepted based on her claims that she had served as editor of Kiplinger’s *Changing Times* and was an expert in hyphenization and other grammatical arcana, as well as the fact that no one else volunteered.

Marj now also serves as Secretary on the Board of Directors and chairs the Publications Committee.

When asked if she would continue as editor into the 21st century, Marj said (perhaps practicing for a move to the South?), “You’ all must be out of your cotton-pickin mind.”

MARJ’S LITTLE SECRET

It can also be revealed that Marj intentionally misspells one word in each newsletter and catalog to check if anyone really reads these things carefully enough to spot such errors. There is an error in this newsletter. Spot it, tell Marj, and she will send the winner a dictionary that can be viewed on the Web. Or turn this page upside down!

The misspelled word is: acme. It should be: acme.