

6-1-2009

## Reader reactions

Furman University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine>

---

### Recommended Citation

University, Furman (2009) "Reader reactions," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 52 : Iss. 2 , Article 39.  
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol52/iss2/39>

This Article is made available online by Journals, part of the Furman University Scholar Exchange (FUSE). It has been accepted for inclusion in Furman Magazine by an authorized FUSE administrator. For terms of use, please refer to the [FUSE Institutional Repository Guidelines](#). For more information, please contact [scholarexchange@furman.edu](mailto:scholarexchange@furman.edu).

# THE LAST WORD

## Reader reactions

*We welcome your letters, and this issue we decided to give a few readers the last word.*

*As for our letter policy, we ask only that you limit the length to 350 words and include your name, address and class year (if applicable). We do not print unsigned letters, and we reserve the right to edit for length or clarity.*

*Letters may be sent to Furman magazine, Office of Marketing and Public Relations, Furman University, Greenville, S.C. 29613, or e-mailed to jim.stewart@furman.edu.*

### PRAISE AND IRRITATION

I thoroughly enjoyed the article in the spring issue about NPR reporter Eleanor Beardsley. She expressed beautifully the differences in European living.

Having lived five years in the United Kingdom in the '70s, I always have trouble expressing to Americans the differences I felt living there. Her last paragraph summed it up! "People eat well, take a lot of time off and really seem to enjoy life and family. And it doesn't seem to be linked to money."

So true. I miss the European mindset.

I take issue with the not-so-subtle jab in the article on Furman's golden anniversary about the class entering Furman in 1958. SAT scores of 992 back then meant LOTS more than the inflated SATs of today.

You will recall that not too many years ago the SAT added 200 points to everyone's scores. I have yet to get a plausible explanation for that ridiculous action. But schools immediately began boasting about the marvelous increase in student scores!

My husband was a professor for 30 years, both in the UK and in the United States. He had to "dumb down" everything he taught here, as the students here were so behind the students in the UK. He knew in 1976 that education was floundering here, but nobody seemed interested. And we still don't "get it," as the first places budgets are cut are in education.

Did you guess the article hit a nerve?

— **BETTY JAMESON DONALDSON '67**

*Raleigh, N.C.*

### NO MORE

Please take me off your mailing list.

The spring *Furman* magazine is disappointing.

- A Buddhist chiropractor — perfect. Do you teach science?

- Celebrate an NPR reporter — I'm sure her reports are as fair and balanced as NPR USA is!

- Promote "social justice?" A code word for "I'll use your money for my justice." Note: Compassion isn't compassion if you use (force) other people's money — e.g., Obama/Biden.

I guess just like America "isn't a Christian nation," Furman isn't a Christian school. Disappointing.

— **CARTER F. MILLER, JR., M.D.**

*Sunset, S.C.*

### REMEMBERING MISS FRANKS

I was saddened to read about the death of Sadie Franks in the winter issue of the magazine.

Miss Franks was my mother's roommate at Greenville Woman's College and then my mentor and French teacher when I was at Furman. She made a major difference for me when I was in her class. I made mostly A's on the assignments, but got a B+ in the class because, she told me, I hadn't done my best.

The next year, I got a 4.0 and later graduated with high honors. I took her words to heart, for she knew that, if professors have high expectations for their students, they will respond. That B+ is, in truth, the best grade that I've ever gotten.

— **KAREN RAMSAY JOHNSON '73**

*The writer is an English professor at Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis.*

