
The College of William & Mary
Interdepartmental Communication

To: Mr. Clifford Currie

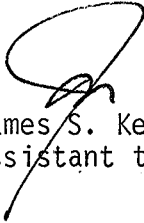
Date: May 21, 1984

From: James S. Kelly

Subject:

Good morning Clifford:

Enclosed is a copy of the talk I gave on the occasion of the College's memorial service for Miss Applebee. It was Good Friday, 1982.


James S. Kelly
Assistant to the President

JSK/rdg
Enclosure

I have been asked to say a few words about Miss Applebee's several gifts to the College of William and Mary.

I really must smile at the faith that would deliver me to this beautiful occasion--for I too can remember Miss Applebee when I was a student and more recently as an administrator. I remember well her annual visits to the College and the preparation that proceeded her arrival. Miss Applebee's visit required no clearning--and no mending--just sharpening ones skills--and more than once a player was reminded--no, no she would never permit that.

We were a sheltered lot that came to William and Mary just after World War II--I don't believe that I had ever seen an honest to goodness Englishwoman--outside the movies--now suddenly cruising the women's playing field was a real live one--she wore a short skirt with a constantly deceiving sash, high top tennis shoes, and gave no quarter. Miss Applebee--oh no--H.M.S. Applebee.

She drove her "Virginia Crippers" and terrified many a loafing mother's daughter with the very explicit suggestion as to what she should be doing with her behind.

And when the engagement or skirmage was terminated she called them together to praise them, to cheer them, because she loved them.

What did Miss Applebee give to William and Mary? My family and I spent an afternoon not long ago with Miss Wynne-Roberts--one of the College's first women coaches. We asked her that question and she had some beautiful insights. She told us of the hockey camp in the Poconos, the rigorous activities of the day, and Miss Wynne-Roberts added almost with a sigh, and then in the evening there was folk dancing. She considered every moment an opportunity to be filled with a meaningful activity.

Finally MissWynne-Roberts said to us smiling in warm remembrance--we had such fun.

Miss Applebee was a coaches' coach. And her philosophy of individual development inspired generations of coaches to encourage their players to be all they could be--and for the first three quarters of this century she reminded all of us that women could do, that women should do, and would enjoy doing for the rest of their lives.

The London Times carried Miss Applebee's full obituary on January 28, 1981. One sentence I would like to share.

"She had a strong belief in Christian day to day living and
the lesson of give and take, working with others,
initiative - concentration
endurance - sportsmanship
friendship - fun and fitness

In the little church at Burley in Hampshire friends gathered from England and the United States. On her coffin were three wreaths. One from Bryn Mawr, the Red, White and Blue from the United States Field Hockey Association, and the Green and Gold of William and Mary. Her last little gift to the College was remembrance.

"The Apple had chosen her own funeral service. 23rd Psalm and three hymns, "Oh God, our Helper in Ages Past," "America", and a rousing course of "Stand up for Jesus."

The scripture was from the 13th Chapter of First Corinthians--the love chapter--but Miss Applebee did an interesting thing, she asked that the last verse of the 12th chapter be read - hear this

"But earnestly desire the greater gifts and I show you a still more excellent way."

And that is a beautiful thought on this most Holy weekend. (Easter)

Miss Applebee gave William and Mary everything she had--not unusual for she withheld nothing from those she served. She did contribute generously

to the Barksdale Fund and in her estate was a most handsome settlement for her College in Virginia and its endowed scholarship funds. She also directed that the elegant Schwartz portrait be sent to the College.

We are indeed grateful for these gifts but we know that as the Apostle wrote in the 13th Chapter of Corinthians, her greatest gift was love.

There was another gift to the College and to those who know her, a legacy of dedication that has passed thoughtfully from Wynne-Robert to Barksdale, to Joy, to Nancy, to Jean and most certainly to others for these good coaches know that in excellence there is satisfaction, but there can be much more.

When the game is over and the practice ended and you leave the playing fields to the evening and catch the sun's last teasing of Oliver and you feel the warm red bricks of the College around you, look back and say like Miss Wynne-Roberts, didn't we have fun.

And I promise you this you young ladies in the gold sweaters, when the years have passed you will not remember the scores, the names and the faces of team mates will be blurred, but if you can say, didn't we have fun, then you and this old College will still have Miss Applebee's best gift--didn't we have fun.

Thank you Miss Applebee.

God bless you Miss Applebee.