

EDITOR'S CORNER

Happy Birthday, Professor

Confucius said "He who has the most birthdays lives longest!" I was born in the year of the Horse. According to Chinese Zodiac Horse people are hard working, loyal, dependable and charming! This fits me fine. Recently I had my fifth Horse birthday- a Big birthday. My students and friends gave me such a fantastic birthday party that I would like to share the experience with my beloved readers. Here is the letter I sent to my sisters soon after the delightful event.

"Dear Yvette, Elaine and Dixie, my beloved sisters:

What a surprise birthday party!!! A long stretch white limousine (about two to three car lengths) arrived at our house at 5:45 p.m. May 15, 2002. The driver did not tell us where we were going. In the limousine there was a case of Heniken, my favorite beer, so Catherine and I opened a bottle each and enjoyed the beer as the limousine started to pull away from our house. We first went to my office to pick up some flowers that my former students sent from California. The limousine went slowly away from Manhattan, KS and along the way I was guessing where we might be going--someone's house, the Country Club, a theater? Nothing seemed to fit my imagination. It started to go on the highway toward the near-by town named Wamego. I thought then that we were going to the Country Club there or a famous theater there. No.

The limousine turned into a lovely estate where a new Bed and Breakfast place has been established. It was a beautiful setting and very moving to see all my students (about 15 of them) whom I interact with daily, and a lot of my great colleagues, including the Dean of the College of Agriculture, the Associate Dean of the Vet School, my Department Head, and a lot of close friends. The limousine driver opened the top of the car and we stood up and with flowers in hands and waved at the line of people greeting us as the limousine slowly stopped. It was quite a sight to see these wonderful people there. It was truly like in a movie of a surprise party.

Then there was the delicious food, vintage wine, beer from many countries, and the swimming pool where Catherine promptly dived in and swam 60 laps in my honor. She had no idea about the party either. I am sure the lovely gathering was organized by my students who wanted it to remain a secret and a surprise!

After the dinner the group gathered in this gorgeously decorated living room in the Bed and Breakfast. A video tape started to appear and lo and behold there was Francis and his family sending greetings from Oregon for my birthday. The party organizers actually offered to fly the family to the party but they could not come due to professional commitments and family activities. It was so good to see our son

so mature and his wife so motherly in handling the three children. The grandchildren were running around and sending greetings in half understandable speeches. How wonderful children are with their lovely innocence and joy in expressions. As Dessi was playing the violin in the tape I had tears in my eyes and realized that there are SO MANY people who love me and cherish my 60th birthday.

Then there was a birthday cake with my edible picture on the cake and 60 candles (count them!). I ran out of breath trying to blow all of them out in one puff. I actually dropped on the floor after the blow. It was quite a sight.

As the evening came to a close Catherine and I hugged every one goodbye and exchanged pleasantries. It was truly one of the most memorable evenings of my life.

The limousine pulled out of the estate and Catherine opened two more Henikens for us to toast as we went home.

How much more can one expect for a birthday party? I am a very happy man.

Love,

Daniel, your little brother at 60"

Wishing you all a very happy birthday, every year, forever.

DANIEL Y.C. FUNG