

Capt. Bill Busik '43 reminds us that the Honor Chair program in Alumni Hall has received enthusiastic support from Alumni, parents and friends. It offers a visible, tangible and permanent tribute to honor and memorialize friends, Classmates and family members. Honor Chairs have been given as birthday, anniversary and graduation gifts or as memorials for fallen Classmates.

Our Class has a total of 60 seats allotted in Alumni Hall. Of that total, four have been reserved. Those interested in more details should contact Mrs. Bosworth, 410 268-2558 for more detailed information.

In closing I would like to bid good luck and a sincere Thank-you to our Class President **Chuck Gorum**. He and Nancy have selflessly given of themselves to promote the Class of 1976 throughout the Yard in Annapolis. We could not ask for finer representation. Should you find yourselves in the Greater Baltimore-Washington, D.C., area this fall, make time for a Navy football game and perhaps a leisurely pre-game tailgate reception. What better way to say thanks to the Gorum's or perhaps rekindle some old USNA friendships and memories.

My best to you all. **Dennis** and **Audrey Beth Dilucente**.

President's notes:

Hi Folks, I wanted to take a minute to recognize Dennis' efforts for the entire Class. We all appreciate his keeping track of everyone and passing on the gouge via *Shipmate*. Some of those months the mail box was pretty lonely but Dennis managed to "beat the bushes" to get the news anyway. **Dennis, from all of us, "Thanks!"** **Tim Traaen** is going to take over as Class Secretary and begin writing as of the next issue of *Shipmate*. Tim volunteered a long time ago to pitch in and help and Dennis' upcoming deployment is the perfect turnover point. Pass on any news to Tim starting immediately. I'm sure he'll be glad to get it! With Tim here in D.C., you West Coasters please go out of your way to make sure he hears of your happenings. Tim and I are both available by phone, U.S. Mail or on the **Over the Wall!** BBS.

While I've got your attention, I would like to remind everyone that the D.C. crew is having Class luncheons every odd month (Jan., Mar., May, July, etc.) on the second Thursday of the month in the Pentagon Executive Dining Room. We start gathering about 1115. Contact me (410) 263-3337 (H) or maybe Ray Putt (703) 821-7739 (W) if you need help getting past Security, we'll meet you at the Metro and escort you in. These are very informal get togethers, no reservations required and we just order off the menu. So show up! Travelers please drop in, we've had a number of folks on their reserve active duty time join us too! Make it a point to check with someone if you're headed this way to see if we'll be meeting during your visit, it would be great to see you. The May luncheon found the following Classmates in attendance: Keith Champion, Jack Suter, Bob Butt, Dave Rossetti, Mark Nesselrode, Tom Bosse, Tom Kennedy, Mark Schweer, Bob Peterman, Ed Gilmore, Ray Putt, Dave Papak, Mike Hughes, Buddy Hingle, Bruce Petit, Gary Sharp, Pat Brady, Pat Tracy and yours truly.

Take care folks and keep your eyes open for Homecoming info. (PS. We really gotta get working on the 20th! Any volunteers??) **Chuck**

77

Membership: 79%

Pres., Maj. **Keith Tibbits USMC**
Sec'y, Cdr. **Bill Millward USN**
5013 Stone Haven Dr., Annandale, Va. 22003

Shipmates, off and sprinting with another monthly account of the Class of '77. Many of you have already looked at your calendars, wiped the perspiration from your brow and, perhaps, even shaken your head in disbelief. Yes, it has been 20 years since we started

this journey together as we celebrate, or for others—acknowledge, our 8 July I-Day. A son of one of the members in my Pentagon carpool just finished Plebe year. Throughout this past year I heard the accounts of this young man and all that he had to go through—there were some great stories! In the end, he and his Class managed to remove the dixie cup from the top of Herndon and replace it, in that time honored tradition, with a mid's hat. Some of the rules and requirements have changed, but for the most part, life at the Academy has not.

From I-Day to command at sea, we salute **Dan Hansen**, for taking command of HC-16 on 9 July, and **Dave Jones**, for taking command of HONOLULU (SSN-718) on 27 July. Congratulations, Dan and Dave!

Owen Thorp called with some excellent news concerning our Class gift. As of the beginning of June, half the Class had been contacted with over \$50,000 donated. This is truly a significant accomplishment and you all should be proud of your effort. Way to go '77!

It's time again for Class elections. Previous columns have announced plans for this effort but apparently to no avail. Inputs are due by the end of August. Please send your nominations to: Mr. **J. S. Caesar**, 4737 Longmont Road, Virginia Beach, Va. 23456.

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY 31 AUGUST 1993

A ballot will be formulated 1 September and mailed out by the Alumni Association. The election will close out 31 October and the results printed in the January 1994 column. As you might recall, there is a six week lead time between writing the column and it being printed (it used to be nearly twice that long!) As a result, a relatively significant delay occurs in collecting names and distributing/counting ballots. There are some significant issues these officers will have to deal with including the Class gift and our 20th year Class reunion. We need your help and dedication.

Keep the cards and letters coming! Until next month, happy trails . . . **Bill**.

78

Membership: 85%

Pres., **Steve Maloney**
Sec'y, **Vince Balderrama**
45 Little Fawn Dr., Shelton, Conn. 06484

Well this month's column is going to be a bit short but sweet. You may agree that, coming from me, short is suitable—but the sweetness part may be a debatable issue. I have just finished my few weeks of active duty in beautiful Fort Pickett and Fort Lee, Va. Suffice to say that I am (as usual) against the deadline stops and also cured of my "Why did I leave the active service blues?" Funny how a couple of weeks of dealing with un-airconditioned World War II buildings, military bureaucracy and Bravo Sierra can provide an antidote, isn't it? Anyway . . .

By now, you should have received an information package on next month's reunion and a ballot for the Class elections. If you haven't, then the Alumni Association still doesn't have an update on your new address and some stranger is probably reading this along with his Lillian Vernon Catalog, Publishers Clearing House notice and other "Occupant" mail. [Psst, hey buddy. If you happen to know the whereabouts of this magazine's addressee, please forward it! If you happen to know a USNA grad, preferably from Class of '78, give it to him. If you're a Woop or a HAH VAHD grad—get your grubby paws off of this magazine!] With that, here's another pitch to contact the Alumni Association and give them your new address. It only takes a phone call, so in between those 976 numbers dial (410) 263-4448 and tell them where you now live. Please do, you'll get your *Shipmate* on time and lots of other good Alumni stuff and

make **John O'Neil** a very happy guy in the process. (He's been like the 1-800 number for Alumni and Reunion News these past few months. So give the guy some rest!)

Before I tell you about the reunion, let me first publicly offer a bigtime Bravo Zulu to the Reunion Committee (**John O'Neil**, **John Rudder** and **Craig Diffie**) who put a lot of long hours and hard work into the preparations. Make sure you give them a few kudos when you write, phone (No, that's right, don't call **John O'Neil**.) write or see them. Their best thanks, however, will be your attendance in the fun, the foam, the fraternity of the Reunion Weekend! Here's the GOUGE:

When: September 24 and 25th, 1993 (Homecoming Weekend '93).

Where: USNA (Where else?!)

Hotel Accommodations: 150 rooms at the Holiday Inn, Annapolis, have been reserved for Class of '78. The cost is \$85.00 per room per day. 100 have already been claimed, as of the end May, so reserve yours ASAP. Reservations must be completed by 3 September. Call the hotel at 410 224-3150 and be sure to mention the special rate. For other hotel info, ask for Ms. Laurie Brenner.

Football Tickets: Order from NAAA. (Like you're REALLY going to leave the marathon tailgater?!)

Travel Arrangements: Flyers were provided with the reunion packets. Contact Omni Travel, the official travel agency for the Naval Academy Alumni Association.

Reunion Costs: \$84.00 per person. The primary consideration of the Reunion Committee was to put together an enjoyable weekend at a minimum cost. Taking guidance from the great 10 year blowout—they've kept the format the same and the cost down. Consider it one of the few economic bennies of the year.

Reunion Activities: A detailed listing of Class activities (BB games, Saturday evening dance times, etc.) will be provided on Reunion Weekend at the Alumni House or at the Holiday Inn front desk. But what do you get for your bucks? Well—a '78 Class Suite reserved at the Holiday Inn for informal gatherings; a catered tailgater (under a tent with an abundance of suds, soft drinks, wine, buds and food); Saturday evening reception/dance in the hotel ballroom, featuring that famous German food great, Horst Doover (or something like that), drinks and a Dee Jay. (Dress will be casually elegant. Which means **John Rudder** and **Schmerm** will be wearing ties with their boxers and USNA PT gear.) Further included are bus transportation between the Holiday Inn and the Yard on Friday night, and to and from the stadium on Saturday and Class of '78 memorabilia (that's trinkets and goodies, don'tcha-know). That's a lotta bang for the buck so "COME ON DOWN!" To date 400 or so Classmates, spouses and guests are already saying they'll be there, so don't be among the stay-at-homes if you can help it. (Afterall, **Jim Shulson** made it via MAC air all the way from Okinawa last time!!)

Election Ballots are also out. Cast your vote and mail them out to **Jock Maloney**. For the coming term, (that's the next five years) the following Classmates have completed the requirements of the Class Charter for filing for candidacy and have indicated a desire to be a Class officer for the positions shown:

President: **John Rudder**, **Kevin Lynch**; Vice President: Open
Treasurer: Open; Secretary: **Vince Balderrama**
Members at Large: **Kevin Liddy** and 4 open slots.

Those are the candidates. Several other Classmates have expressed interest in Class Officer positions but did not meet the filing deadlines. These Classmates may be elected, but only as write-in votes. They are:

President: **Maurice Tose** Vice President: **John O'Neil**, **Dennis Reilly**
Treasurer: **Kevin Liddy**

Those who met the filing deadlines are listed on the ballots. Space is also available by each Class office for a write-in candidate, if you prefer. You may vote for those eligible candidates listed or among those who expressed a desire to be a write-in candidate, or write-in someone else. (Just so you know, Msrs. Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck have stated that if nominated—they will not run, if elected—they will not serve. Philo McGuffin's comments are not printable, even in as salty a mag as this one!) Whatever you decide, vote and mail out your ballots. We'll have the results in time to be announced at the Reunion.

Well, I've time for one letter. It'll be **Scott Provow's** lengthy epistle (so much for my being brief). Here goes—

Norman Lowe called from near Cleveland, Ohio. He said that after leaving the Academy in March 1976 that he entered Ohio State University and graduated with a degree in Physics. He joined the Marine Corps as an enlisted man for four years and served with the Marine F-4 squadrons over in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. I assume naturally that his MOS was as an enlisted physicist... NOT! After four years of ground pounding he reentered Ohio State University to prove that if he took off his shoes he could actually count to twenty. A year later he graduated again with a degree in Mathematics! He is married, has a 17 month old son and is currently a Corporate trust officer for Society National Bank in Cleveland, Ohio. He plans on attending the 15th year reunion and I personally can't wait to hear some of his sea stories—right Jeff? I got a call from **Charlie Love** who said that **Mark Broome** is now the head of the F.B.I. for the entire western portion of Kansas. It helps that he is the only agent in the entire state West of Garden City, where he lives! As for Charlie, he's procurement officer on a "black" program involving the acquisition of a new weapon system at Texas International. Sons Brac (9) and Ty (5) keep him and Shelly busy. Charlie also said that **Dave McCain**, 22nd Co., works directly for him. [Talk about having to write peer evals all over again!] Other Classmates that work at TI include **Larry Harper**, **Jim Cheevers**, **Phil Benoit**, and **Dave Dailey**.

Jim Schlagheck is finishing up his tour at the war college in Rhode Island. He has orders to be a professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He reported in June and should be gearing up for the Academic Year and preparing his air defense against the strikes leveled his way by the Zoomies. We are all invited to the USAFA vs Navy game and can stay at his house. Green Alert—thanks Shoe. [Below in headwork!] Scott recently talked to **Bob Fallon**. Bob is now a DC-10 copilot for American Airlines flying out of LAX. He is also flying with VC-13 but will soon get the boot as he is too senior. They won't keep the old guy around to make the F-18 transition as a Commander. Bob had an update on a few Classmates and said he already has his room reserved at the Holiday Inn for the reunion. **Scott McKee** is living with **Ray Defour** out of Detroit, Mich. He still flies for Northwest and was last known to be flying as a 747 copilot out of New York. A Christmas card from **Otto Bulich** showed his palatial palace in Louisiana where he now works for some Electric company. Bob also said that PAZ is an XO of an EF/A-18 outfit, VAQ-34, until their decommissioning. He'll then move on to be XO of VFA-94 in Lemoore, Calif. Benz has fallen off the earth not to be found—Springfield, Va., command screened, returning to San Diego, for his XO squadron tour.

From the East Coast, **Jeff Carpenter** checked in from VR-48, based at Andrews AFB, where he is flying the Navy's new C-130 transports. He did a department head tour at VQ-4, went to the War College, then got assigned another flying tour with VR-48. His son Jordan is 7 now and daughter Rachel Kathryn is 2. His wife, Wendy still flies the C-12 in the Reserve out of Andrews.

Now for the shocker. I couldn't find anyone who

knew where **John Wissier** was. So I called his Dad in Brooklyn Park, Minn., whom I had met at John and Sue's wedding back in 1978. He gave me the details on John. Seems John has been in the White House as President Bush's aide representing the Marine Corps. Yes, his office is in the White House, so if any of you are visiting Clinton anytime soon go say hi to John. His four kids are Becky 13, Thomas 11, Andrew 9 and Laura 5, so we don't need to ask what Sue does while John is probably gone 300 days a year. I'm sure an aide job is glamorous, but now you know why we haven't heard from him—he has been busting his butt for Bush. I don't know if I'd want to say that concerning the present administration. So what do you think about homosexuals in the USMC, John? Alas—if anyone would like a copy of the *Scum of the Earth* Newsletter that **Chris Burgin**, **Eddie Reid** and **Steve Sutton** published from Beantown in 1978, in response to **Scott McKee** and **Jim Schlagheck's** Key West Crabwrapper—drop me a note—I'll xerox you a copy. I found it in my old scrapbook and it contains a lot of nostalgic humor concerning what we were all doing as stash Ensigns. If anyone would like to take over as the 21st Co. representative I'll gladly give you the conn. The past four years that I've tried to keep in touch has been great and it would be nice to continue but for all the long distance phone calls, postage, time and effort over four years it has netted a total of eight letters/updates. Think about it and maybe ya'll will have some ideas at our 15th reunion. I'm looking forward to seeing all you old farts there:

Four years together by the Bay
Where Severn joins the tide.
Then by the Service called away.
We're scattered far and wide;
But still when two or three shall meet,
And old tales be retold,
From low to highest in the Fleet
Will pledge the Blue and gold

BEAT ARMY!!!

I called **Jerry Swartz's** former squadron, VP-5; they said as a result of Tailhook '91 many TacAir Holes were opened at the Air Force Squadron Officer's school in Montgomery, Ala., and P-3 bodies have to fill those holes. Jerry is a hole-filler. He pinned on Cdr. already and screened for command.

Thanks for the newsletter, Scott. I am impressed with your productivity (eight letters over the four years is a good measure) as a Company Rep. Others haven't fared nearly as well as you. I am especially impressed that you knew another verse of *Blue and Gold*! Come on, you dug your old USNA song book, right? Now lets see if you know the words to *Up and At 'Em Navy*. You know, "Up and at 'em, Navy! da da da da da dum..." Well, it's at least got a catchy tune!

That's it for this month sportsfans. Catch me next month in *Shipmate* and see you at the Reunion!! Launchin'. Spot Four.

79

Membership: 93%

Pres., **Mike Finley**
Sec'y, **Ken Russell**
6234 Azalea Dr., Quartz Hill, Calif. 93536
(805) 943-7933

Don't you believe it for a minute; the "King" did not really die the other day from kidney failure. Elvis is still bagging groceries at the Piggly Wiggly there in Nobnoster, Missouri. I too was a little steamed by the false report in *The Weekly World News*. All that, after the true report of the Clintons adopting an infant space alien. If Elvis were dead, how could the Clintons get the alien? And, since Elvis is the only certified grantor, how could the Clintons become Space Cadets and thereby qualify to adopt Martians? Come



The Kiefers on vacation



Returning from FORRESTAL's last cruise

on, follow the logic. It's as easy as following the same logic that comes out of Washington or as easy as breathing; inhale (hold it), exhale. (Of course, if you're in England, you only exhale. See, that way no federal laws are broken.) All right, that'll be just about enough weak attempts at political satire; we have an info bag to fill, so let's get on with it, shall we?

Larry Kihlstedius called up with some personal info. He is the Director of Organizational Development for a home builder there in Hotlanta. As we speak, Ronnie and Larry are probably doing that Pampers thing with their new addition. Since Larry just got back from the Joseph Juran Institute, he's probably also the head of the Homefront Steering Committee of Doodee Removal and no doubt measures the quality of Ronnie doing all the work. Congrats to you two. Larry also made many comments about the preparation for the fifteenth that sorta concerns me too. I'm assuming that Frank has still got the ball even though he's been incognito for about a year. If not, Mike can you grab the ball and run or perhaps someone close to Fun City could belly up. If not, we'll all be sleeping on sewer grates and pushing our families around in shopping carts for our reunion. Larry offered reunion consulting services to anyone who takes the reins. His number is 404-975-0069. Larry's only fee is you have to hang a black velvet portrait of him over your mantle for a year. Larry, thanks for the info and also for the heads up about the fifteenth.

Ever wish that when you fall into a vat of dog droppings that just once you could come out smelling like Chanel No. 5, like some people you know? Me too. Well, this next one has a REAL happy ending but in the process, a prankster or asleep-at-the-wheel rocket scientist from that Brand X class, whose initials are T.M., pushed me into the vat and as usual I've come out smelling like dog droppings; with a healthy adornment of facial eggs. The heroic story last May about **Ken Vanderhorst** and his subsequent death was totally bogus, through no fault of my own nor Brand X's Class Sec., I assure you. Kenny is thankfully very much alive and well in Anaheim with his wife Cheryl and daughters Jillian 6, Lauren 3, and son Jared 9. Although he did have a harrowing experience with a detailer from hell who caused him to depart Navy's pattern, he now safely works for MacDonnell Douglas as an Engineering Manager on