

Shipmates on your promotion!

Ann Pickard, wife of **Dan Smith**, recently sent a news clipping from the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle concerning **Pete Ozimek**. Why, might one ask, did Ann—wife of Dan—send an article about Pete? Simple enough. Ann is from Wyoming, and Pete is the Commanding Officer of the recently commissioned, **CHEYENNE**—a fast attack submarine named after Wyoming's state capital. The article mentioned plans for the city council to attend the ceremony, but further explained how the ship was named. They attribute the naming of **CHEYENNE** to a 1989 letter written by Jim Francis ('76) to the Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce suggesting that it would be nice to have the last of the Los Angeles class submarines named after their city. Not too tough a task from a state that has more Senators than Congressmen, because when the ship was named, the Secretary of Defense was none other than the Honorable Dick Cheney—former Congressman from Wyoming! Terrific news Ann!

This closes out another month. Keep those cards and letters coming! Until next month, happy trails...**Bill** (I was dropped from the Naval War College Internet account. As soon as I am able to get back online, I'll let you know my new cyber address).

## 78

Membership: 85%

Pres., **John Rudder**  
Sec'y, **Vince Balderrama**  
45 Little Fawn Dr., Shelton, CT 06484

This is going to be another rapid gun column. There appear to be a lot more of them lately. Get used to it. Until I get through this masters program next year, it looks to be the order of the day. Between the extra workload in the office, class cases, tests and projects I can't tell whether I am coming or going. Despite what **Gary Lovgren** had claimed—it's only a lot of reading, if you do it—it still is a lot. Selective scanning and bagging it altogether, still hasn't significantly diminished the load. Consequently, the days all seem like Mondays and the clock and calendar much too short for my purposes. Fortunately, I had a Plebe Summer and will try my best to pass muster. Besides, I am blessed with a very understanding Editorial staff (but they still have their limits—which I seem to keep pressing.) Anyway, on to the news.

Allow me a little (okay a LOT) Class business for this column, if you will. (I mean, you really have to, don't you? It's not like you can say no right now and erase this stuff.) By now those of you who get this Mag should have received a letter from our Class President, **John Rudder**, (that's the guy whose name appears above mine, and whose address it is not!). Anyway, John wrote informing you of our Class project kickoff and fund drive push. Yes, those of you who are quicker on the ball can see it was a solicitation—but it is a good one and for a good cause. For those of you who haven't read the letter yet. We have begun to posture our Class to be able to fund a variety of projects in the future for the benefit of the Naval Academy, Midshipmen and our Class and Class objectives. These projects take seed and watering monies and that's where John's letter—and your positive response comes in! Our first undertaking is a Sculpture Garden which will be prominently featured in front of the new Visitors Center. (I know **Craig Diffie** was the creator and proponent of lighting the Chapel Dome, but it didn't make the initial cut. Sorry, Diff, in spite of what Rudder may claim I still am an advocate of your idea. I'll have to do a better marketing pitch next time. Don't worry

though,—the bovine diva ain't sung on that project yet!) Additionally, the Class of 78 has taken the lead in contributing to the formation of an Unrestricted Endowment. This endowment will serve to support the Superintendent and services of the Alumni Association in the years to come. It will provide annual funds and flexibility for Superintendent's priority projects as they arise.

In John's letter he asked you to try and pledge \$97.50 per quarter, for two years. That would mean a total pledge of \$780.00 (Get it—\$780.00?). Its a lot less than some folks give to their civilian post-graduate alma maters on an annual basis. For some of you, its less than your O'Club Tab or greens fees.

Concurrent with John's letter, a professional phone solicitation, authorized by the Class, is underway—It's not pushy and it just serves as a reminder and to gently coax your giving nature. Hey, it works! They even got me to quit procrastinating and break into my piggy-bank. Besides, they're also courteous, good and a heck-of-a-lot better than those yahoos who call you up at dinner time to sell insurance or Place Mat of the Month Club memberships. The proof is in the results and your responses.

As of the end of April, 300 classmates have been contacted by phone. Pledges have totaled \$43,000 and the average pledge is about \$400 total for the two years! There are 960 of us who graduated. At this rate we could bust the \$100,00 mark with ease! We actually only have a tally on 830 of our graduates (at least we think we do) and that's all that are on the phone list. If you know of someone who might not have been contacted (like yourself) call the Alumni House to get on board.

Now I know there are some of you have questioned and computed that if everyone gave the minimum pledge we would have nearly \$749 grand in donations (rounded up). Well, we would love nothing more than for that to happen because first of all it would establish us as the true fat cats of the Alumni House, (not that we aren't already) and secondly it would enable the Class to most strongly and actively promote and support programs to benefit the Academy, the mids most particularly, fellow alumni, our own Class projects and events, and a slew of things we haven't even begun to dream about! But the reality is that we won't hit that three quarter million dollar mark, because not everyone can be located and not everyone gives. In the previous years of alumni fund drives, 690 in our Class have contributed! That means only 30% have been regular donors. The fact is that graduates are more likely to give to their Postgraduate degree school than to the Academy; largely because of the misunderstanding that it's all taken up by the taxpayer—It isn't!

But that is all changing—between John's letter and the phone-a-thon were turning it around. So far, 44% of those who were [ed. note: At this point Vince's transmission via Over-the-Wall was cut off. I attempted to contact him, but you '78ers know what a slippery devil he is. The Shipmate staff is truly grateful for his efforts to utilize electronic means to get his column to us and apologize for not being able to include it in its entirety.]

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**Don't forget to update your  
address in order to continue  
receiving Shipmate.  
Call 410-263-4448 to give us  
your new address.**

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## 79

Membership: 94%

Pres., **Mike Finley**  
Sec'y, **Ken Russell**  
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Ever have that feeling that you're running down a hallway and it keeps getting longer no matter how fast you run? Or you're back at Navy and you go into a final without even knowing you had that class? Man, I been there, done that lately. Next winter I'm throwing four tons of clay before May 1st so that I feel a little ahead of the game for the summer art shows. It's a nice problem to have but I feel a bit rushed for a new age nineties sensitive guy like me. Being as how that first bit of filler is basic whining and none of you have a clue as to what I'm talking about, let's dispense with any further attempt at startin' this thing off with a courtesy chuckle and move along smartly, shall we?

One administrative note: this is coming to you via a new and VERY fast Word Processor of Love, courtesy of computer techno-genius **Sam Hull**. Being totally disgusted with my mewing about my old and slow machine on *Over The Wall*, Sam built and sent me a 486 that is much quicker than the old WPOL. Sam, thanks a bunch for the machine and long laborious phone calls to help a brain dead guy like yours truly make it work.

**FRANK**, I screwed up last month and forgot to put in your new number for the '79 Washington Metropolitan Classmates Club. Sorry Frank. It's all part of the new business startup, glazed eye fog I've been in the past few months. I think after the Brookings Summer Arts Festival in July, I'll have a better idea of how to find my six o'clock with both hands. In the mean time, I need lots of mirrors and maps. **KIDS!!** The new phone number for **Frank Dombrowski** is (MaryAnn could you please make Vince put the article down right now, just long enough for him not to forget to write it down? Thanks) 703-341-7889. If you're in the DC area, try to stay in touch with each other. It's a good thing. Also, mucho thanks to the Frankmeister for doing the Class picture stuff and getting them to all of us. (By the way Frank, the guy who wrote the article about our shop put it on the AP Wire. We were all over the midwest.)

Next out of the hopper o' info is an action packed phone call I got from **Stan Clark**. Stan's a pilot for Atlas Air and flies that no-name picante sauce all over the world in 747's out of New York City. He flew F-14's, did the 15 year retirement deal and is now making the monthly big bucks. Stan, wife Michelle and kid units, Jessica and Ryan live in VA Beach directly behind the house that **Dan Cloyd** built. Dan's the fleet up XO for VF-84 and should be taking over here real shortly. A few other guys who have screened are **Jim Hillan** and famous 48 Hours star, **Drew Brugal**. **Harvey Lyons** is stationed at TI on the CARGRU 3 admiral's staff. Stan thanks for the phone call.

Another phone con was with **Blaine Brandon**, Ocean Master of the Universe. He called to correct the name of one of the Niner's he talked about from the Philippines. Unfortunately, I forgot to write it down so the misnamed Leon-Guererra, send the hate mail to me. It's my fault as of March 10th when I talked to Blaine. Blaine sent word that **Gary Fresquez** is back home in Raton, NM counseling repeat offenders in the criminal justice system. I'd have a real tough time with that job. Yeah, I'd probably get fired after a week for saying something like, "Mister Bullet is gonna make a BIG hole in your forehead if you break the law again." **Chuck Kuzma** took the retirement check after 16 and is now the VP