

flow of Classmates swelled the tent and adjacent beer truck to nearly 800 people. With these numbers, I cannot start to chronicle everybody that I encountered; but let me try to mention some names that have not appeared in these pages recently.

I would be remiss not to first mention my former roommate, **Rich Coan** and his wife Karen who left their five boys scattered across north Texas in order to attend. Rich looks just like his *Lucky Bag* photo, especially if you apply some white-out where most of the hair used to live. He is flying as a Captain for American Airlines out of Dallas/Ft Worth in F100s. **Peiter Velzeboer** is also in the airline game with United and looks great. By the way Peiter, your name causes almost as much trouble with my spellchecker as Sobczak does. I didn't get a chance to speak much with **Marc Troiani**, but he had the healthy look of just stepping off the golf course. Good to see you Marc. **Dave Bullard** was in from the coast for the festivities. Dave had sent me a letter update just prior to the reunion, and I promise to get to that next month. In the meantime, he flies for United and lives in San Diego. **Everett McNair** and his wife were up from North Carolina where he works with **Brad Tilgner**, who was unable to attend. Everett looks great with a salt and pepper beard and a hearty laugh. Speaking of the salt and pepper look, (or is it salt and salt), **Sam Locklear** was making the rounds talking with everyone. Sam is currently the Commodore of a Destroyer squadron and on his way to bigger and better things. Also a member of the Phil Donahue hairstyle crowd was **Harry Meyers**. Harry is still a surgeon at Bethesda and recently took over as the head of the department of surgery from Classmate **Dave Wade**, who moved on to Director of Clinical Services. I saw Dave from across the throng of people several times but was unable to speak with him for any more information. Stephanie and **Floyd Houston** are living in Burke, VA; and Floyd is still on active duty in the Marine Corps. I had been in touch with them over the past several years, but it sure was good to have a little face to face time and see them both doing well. **Dave Aland** and I rubbed shoulders in the food line. He's still CO of a destroyer in Mississippi.

Several Classmates took the opportunity to bust me for incomplete information in past columns. First in line was **Jeff Gorman**. Jeff actually didn't even wait for the reunion to inform me that I had missed his name on the O-6 list, he sent me an email the week prior to the reunion to make his point. As I said at the time, I apologize for any and all administrative mix-ups. Jeff said his Admiral told him he was on the list and that's good enough for me. I only got my list from the BUPERS homepage (leave it to a staff corps guy like me to mess up the line list). Speaking of the staff corps, I promised to review the staff corps O-6 list and never got to it. This fact was brought to my attention by **Al** (my spellchecker still wants to say Velzeboer) **Verhofstadt** and he's right. I'll do this after the first of the year. Just too much happening with the reunion; the fact that my name was not on the Medical Corps list had nothing to do with this oversight. Something tells me that we may see Al's name on one of those lists. And speaking of poorly treated staff corps types, **Rich Kuehne** reminded me that I continue to exclude him in my mentions of the Medical Corps. Once again, pure oversight; but thanks for the update. Rich is a Captain at the Navy Environmental Health Center here in Norfolk. Given the fact that these folks do an annual inspection of my medical linear accelerators, plan to see Rich's name often in this column from now on.

I can't mention everyone that was at the tailgater with nearly 800 in attendance, but I'm relying on you as Classmates to fill me on the gouge that you got over the weekend. I hope that this one weekend event will fill this column for most of the coming year. I cannot, however, fail to mention the company mates of mine from 35th Co. that were at the reunion. **Roger Seldon** is living in New Jersey and works in Manhattan for NYNEX or Bell Atlantic, or whatever it is at press time. As he has for as long as I've known him, Roger still seems to drink deep at the cup of life. **Kelvin Graham** left the Navy many years ago and has worked in various manufacturing areas. He initially made Pringles potato chips, then beer with Annheiser Busch. From chips to beer, it seems he was living every Mids fantasy life...until now. He is currently the plant manager for the Science Diet line of pet food, but he assures me that you could eat it in a pinch (probably best with a beer chaser). He recommends staying away from the cat food though. I told him that with his production career mirroring our stage in life he's sure to be making Ensure Dietary Supplements or Centrum Silver before too long. **Dave Pyle** is on staff at USNA and lives on the Eastern Shore. Also in the Annapolis region is **Carl Fisher**. I'm not sure what Carl does for a living, but he seems to be having fun. A blast from the past was the presence of **Guy Cofield** and his son. Guy is still on active duty and is stationed in the Norfolk area. Here we live only miles apart, and I've not seen the guy for decades. **Stratton Hicky** made the trip out from northern Virginia. He is still active duty Supply Corps and seems to be stuck in the DC area. He was accompanied by his lovely wife, Bonnie, and their child. The scariest Classmate encounter though was **Jim Lare**. Jim himself is fine; but there, next to and several inches above him, was this Plebe who looked very much like him and wore a nametag that read "LARE 01". We can't be that old. To make a perfect day even better, the Middies dominated the football game 42-7.

On Sunday the storm clouds moved in with a steady, cold rain; and the Class began to head out. Sunday played host to what well may have been the highlight of the weekend, the dedication of the Class sponsored Midshipmen Weight Training Facility in MacDonough Hall. For those of you that have not had the opportunity to visit the facility, let me tell you, we done good. The Midshipmen Weight Training Facility sits on the third floor of MacDonough Hall facing the Severn River, the Crown Sailing Center, and the Chesapeake Bay. It is filled with top-of-the-line free weights, benches, and aerobic equipment. I am told that on an average day between 650 and 800 Mids utilize the facility. Let's see 800 Midshipmen sit on a bench in the yard or crowd into a gazebo.

Our Class president, **Owen Thorp**, presided at the ceremony. He spoke to the sixty assembled members of the Class and their families about the challenges that the Class has met in the last two decades and of those that lie ahead. Naval Academy Strength coach and professor, Phil Emery, then spoke of the intimate association of mental, moral, and physical fitness. He praised our Class for making this sort of facility available to all Midshipmen not only those involved with varsity level athletics. The Brigade Commander also addressed the assembled Classmates and spoke of the bonding that is built among Midshipmen as they utilize our facility. On behalf of the entire brigade, he thanked us for our unique contribution.

The dedication continued with two extremely moving events, the unveiling of the Class plaque

and a reading of the list of Classmates that had gone before us. **Michael Brown's** widow performed the unveiling duties and **Bill Millward** performed a stirring reading of the last call list while "Eternal Father Strong To Save" played in the background. There was not a dry eye in the crowd. I am going to close this column with that same list: Stephen P. Barnett, Robert D. Bender, Anthony J. Bilotti, Michael F. Brown, Stephen J. Burley, Paul J. Cappellino, Patrick J. Conroy, Gerald V. Cook, Hugh T. Cornett, Dennis M. Franich, Richard E. Galvin, Stephen A. Garcia, Terry S. Hopkins, Edward F. King, Aaron Long IV, Eugene T. McCarthy Jr., Michael N. Musser, Michael J. Ohler, Peter R. Olsen, William H. Readman, Stephen D. Scott, John W. Smith, William A. Stuver, James F. Surch, Andrew B. Tamayo, Rodney A. Vessels, James D. Watkins. Until next month...be well.

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Membership: 13%
Life Membership: 71%

Pres: **John Rudder**
Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**
45 Little Fawn Drive, Shelton, CT 06484
e: CanoeU78@aol.com

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Membership: 3%
Life Membership: 90%

Pres: **Mike Finley**
Sec'y: **Ken Russell**
210 South Main Street
P.O. Box 380, Arlington, SD 57212
w: 605-983-3312; e: gone2pot@iw.net

Well this month I just can't get this thing going (yeah, like that's never happened before). I've tried to start it off about a dozen times but man the waking streams of consciousness comedy keeps hitting a brick wall. An example of what I'm talking about is when your wife hands you a greeting card for your mother-in-law and she says, "Here, write something nice to my mom." You know what happens. Your mind goes blank, you can't think of one thing to say except maybe something like, "I don't know why Vicky handed me this card but Happy Holidays just the same." Your wife gives you no way out along with her laser eye death stare so you come up with, "The kids miss you. Merry Christmas." Dorky, very dorky but you feel a great sense of accomplishment handing the card back to your wife. She of course, makes a disapproving comment like, "Is that all you can say?" I *could* tell you about one of the greatest thrills of my life that happened last month when I got a personal phone call from Senator Jesse Helms but naw. That would require more filler than the Ronster could allow. Anyway, that's where I'm at now so without any further adieu, let's get on with it, shall we?

This month is gonna be mainly email ploppage because, well, there's no snail mail. By the way, all of yun's who sent email and got no reply from me, it's not because I'm too cool for school (now THAT would be a laughable stretch, huh?). It's mainly because I'm swamped now and am getting the Christmas orders made. Nice problem, but I would like to reply to your email with something more than "Got it. Ken." I'd also like to reply to help and care for The Children and for strong family values.