

and tourists are popping up everywhere. Considering the situation, there's not much else to talk about, so let's move on to the mail bag...

From the Mail Bag

Floyd Houston (HoustonFD@hqmc.usmc.mil) and the rest of the 36th Company "Rat Packers" decided that they wanted to get together during the Dark Ages this year if at all possible, and since no one date was acceptable for everyone, they scheduled two social events (both of which were captured on film). The first gathering was a steak dinner in Crystal City, VA, on 7 March 2001 that was attended by Floyd, **Jim Lochry** (jlochry@east.delfin.com), **Dempsey Butler** (fourheads@erols.com), **Arch McKinlay**, **Chuck August**, and **Fred Vogt**.

Shortly after that outing, Floyd, Fred, and Dempsey attended the Navy-Rutgers lacrosse game on 17 March 2001 (which Navy won 11-9), with **Mike Reed** (ifego@theinstitute.com), **Bobby Kennedy** (rckennedy@iname.com), **Mike Trueblood** (Trueblood.ms@mellon.com), **Steve Adair** and **Tom White**; after which they held a Saint Patrick's Day "Green Alert" at the Houston home in Burke, VA.

According to Floyd, the Rat Packers had a great time and are looking forward to the 25th Reunion (more on that event later). During their get-togethers, they caught-up with the following information about each other: Floyd Houston is in a "personalized 12-step program for recovering Marines, working at HQMC as a retiree;" Jim Lochry makes black boxes near Washington, DC; Dempsey Butler works for Perot Data Systems in Virginia; Arch McKinlay is building railroads in the mid-west (among other things); Chuck August is a defense contractor in Crystal City, VA; Fred Vogt works for Army environmental systems in Maryland (someone has to clean up after that crowd); Mike Reed runs the nation-wide branch offices of United Airlines Credit Union from the Chicago hub (Floyd's son says Mike's diamond earring and Navy Goat tattoo are "cool"); Mike Trueblood and Bobby Kennedy are working ADP systems for big banks in Pittsburgh, PA, and Winston Salem, NC, respectively; Steve Adair has two kids at USNA (!); and Tom White is in business in New Jersey. In addition, they traded the following tidbits about other Rat Pack Classmates: **Juno Jamison** is the XO at SIG; **Craig Turley** (loriturley@aol.com) has FCTCPAC at Coronado; Rita and **Jim Warren** are getting ready for a tour in Japan; **Frank Cerabino** is a columnist at the *Palm Beach Post* (and was a ground-zero witness to the history-making events during last November's Florida recount); **Clark Handy** is in business in Pennsylvania; Janene and **Steve Paramore** are just back from a long tour with Rockwell in Shanghai, China, and are now setting-up house near Cedar Rapids, IA; **Eric "Doc" Shewbridge** (eeshewbr@dukeengineering.com) recently made a career move into communications near Atlanta, GA; **Mark Kirk** is flying 777s for United Airlines; **Pete Finley** works on Wall Street for Chase Manhattan Bank; they believe **Paul Hollich** (NINJAIR4D@AOL.COM) is teaching down in Florida; **Jay Casey** (73544.3132@COMPUSERVE.COM) may be working JSTARS down in Florida; and **Steve Perris** is most likely "designing stuff" near Philadelphia.

In other news, CAPT **Gregory C. Gray**, MC, USN (gray1@san.rr.com) is retiring from the Navy and his position as director of the DoD Center for Deployment Health at the Naval Health Research Center, San Diego, CA. On 1 July 2001, he'll assume a new position as professor, Department of

Epidemiology, College of Public Health, University of Iowa in Iowa City, IA. His research focus will be on the epidemiology of emerging infectious diseases.

Janice and **Dave Ziembra** (co@blue-ridge.navy.mil) are heading back to the Washington, D.C. area this summer and will be moving back into their house in Annandale, VA. Dave has orders to be director, Navy Center for Cost Analysis (an Ops Analysis (2nd) payback, working for the Navy Comptroller). Dave, Janice, and their children, Emily (14) and Graham (11), really enjoyed living in Japan and taking advantage of all of the wonderful travel opportunities. Not only did they travel a great deal throughout Japan, but they also rode elephants in Thailand, climbed the Great Wall of China near Beijing, and toured the DMZ near Seoul. Janice and the kids also met Dave's ship in Singapore, Sydney, and Saipan.

Class Communication

We held our first 25th Reunion Planning Meeting on 1 April 2001, and here's what we now know about it. The Class of '77 25th Reunion will be held on the weekend of 20-22 September 2002, which is one week *before* Homecoming weekend (for those of you who may be interested, Navy will be playing the Northwestern Wildcats on Saturday, 21 September 2002). Just for your information, many Classes, including ours, have decided to hold their major reunions on a weekend other than Homecoming Weekend for the following reasons: more hotel rooms are available at lower rates, it's easier to reserve the more desirable banquet facilities (also at lower rates), and you "Own the Town" since you don't have to compete with other Classes at the various establishments throughout Annapolis.

Soup has reserved a block of 200 rooms for Friday and Saturday nights (125 rooms at the Annapolis Marriott Waterfront; 410-268-7555 and 75 rooms at the Sheraton Barcelo Annapolis; 410-266-3131, which is just outside of town in Parole). The room rates have not yet been determined, and reservations can be made starting on 19 September 2001 (no earlier than one year in advance). The Marriott is also the site of the Dinner Dance, which is scheduled from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Friday, 20 September 2002, and includes cocktails, dinner, and dancing (to the music of a DJ). Finally (if you still have enough energy left after Friday night), the tailgate party will start at 10 a.m. on Saturday, 21 September 2002, and continue until approximately 6 p.m. It will be catered by O'Leary's, and include both a small morning brunch and a full afternoon lunch (with drinks appropriate to each occasion, of course).

In order to more effectively plan and execute all of the necessary reunion tasks, we've created the following committees and assigned committee chairmen to each one: Golf Outing—**Thom McKee** (Magoo1310@aol.com; 410-489-5080), Thom will be arranging an optional golf outing for our Class on Friday morning; Dinner Dance and Music—**Tom "Soup" Campbell** (Tom.Campbell@longandfoster.com; 703-293-6368); Tailgate Party—**Carl Moore** (cmoore7354@aol.com); Memorabilia—**Dave Harding** (dph@arinc.com; 410-266-2249), Dave will focus on higher quality, lower quantity standard memorabilia, which will be shipped directly to your home address before the reunion rather than being picked up at the reunion; and Transportation—**Leon Jackson** (leon.jackson@dc.gov or actioned@aol.com; h: 703-830-6962, w: 202-727-7664). These chairmen are the primary points of contact for each of these areas, so if anyone has any specific inputs or suggestions, please send an email directly to the appropriate chairman. Please take note that you'll only

be allowed to complain about the reunion if you provide these guys with some input, so don't expect to grumble if you don't get involved!

We'll continue to provide additional information about the reunion as it becomes available, so stay tuned to this column in the coming months for the latest and greatest reunion news. One last reunion-related item; based on the targeted budget and everything that's been planned so far, the estimated cost is about \$192 per person for the Dinner Dance, Tailgate Party, and Standard Memorabilia package. Knowing how "financially challenged" the Class of '77 has proven to be over the years, you might want to consider the following easy payment plan to help you finance the reunion with the least amount of pain: simply set aside two dollars a day for the next year, and before you know it you should have enough saved to have a great reunion weekend!

Closing Remarks

That's all I have for this month; remember to keep me posted with any new developments in your world. **Bob Sanderson**

78

Annual Membership: 18%
Life Membership: 70%

Pres: **Arch Griffin**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

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Hey, I tried something new over my son's spring break from high school. Get this—it's called *vacation*. In my case I tried it out in Myrtle Beach, SC. I have to say that vacation stuff is a really relaxing concept! You wake up in the morning, whenever you want. No alarm clocks. You don't have to go to work. You can hit the beach, hit the golf course (miniature golf that is) or just stay "home" and veg-etate with a good book (not a report or analysis—but a novel). There were no phone calls, faxes, meetings, emails or Internet access (that was a little rough) or duties. Geez, it sort of reminded me of when I first reported to flight school and had a few months of pool time before ground school began. Now after all these years I understand what Elizabeth has been beating me up for. (I had thought she did it just for GP—general purpose.) I've come to realize that I'll have to try taking vacations more often! You're probably wondering what caused this epiphany. Well, it's because of a couple of reasons. The first reason is because I'm in the midst of a personal slow down at work. That's due to the fact that my program is now deader than a wooden man-of-war. Yup, after several months spent in Turkey and years of effort, the busted Turkish economy just couldn't support the program. (If you thought our stock market has been shaky lately—you ought to have put your money in the Turkish economy. You'd have seen your dollar shrink faster than Raquel Welch in *Fantastic Voyage*. Hmmm, Raquel Welch...

Oh, sorry! For a minute I was caught up in a "moment." If you saw the movie, you'd understand why. Anyway, the demise of my program gave cause to the second reason for relaxed outlook on life and love of vacation. That is the realization (once again) that despite all your best efforts sometimes, like the bumper sticker says, *Shtuff Happens*. You can't let it get to you. Sometimes you need to make the best out of the situations and recharge the old batteries, make lemonade out of lemons, smell the roses, seize the day, don't worry be happy—you fill in the

saying of your choice. With that mindset, I think I'll be taking things a little easier. I'll use those vacation days instead of losing them. Go home at regular hours. Leave work at the office. I know, you're thinking—r-r-right! You know how long that resolution will last, don't you? After all, we're all alike and our wives and kids live with it. That being said, it's time to leave Fantasy Island and see what the mailbag has for us. Oooh, look dee plane, dee plane!

Lloyd Prince (lprince@aol.com) told me that one of my fellow former "Boys of Anchor Lane" at flight school, **Ken "Sox" Bowersox**, is scheduled to go up in space one more time. Sox will command the "Expedition Six" crew that includes astronaut Donald Thomas (Ph.D.) and a Russian cosmonaut. This will be Ken's fifth trip to space. Previously he flew on STS-50 in 1992, STS-61 in 1993, STS-73 in 1995, and STS-82 in 1997. Sox also trained as a backup crewmember to Bill Shepherd on the first "Expedition" crew. Good luck on the mission, Sox. And take something up for '78 (besides yourself).

Rob Clouthier (robert.clouthier@verizon.net) sent in a long awaited update. Rob left Boeing a few years ago to work for Omicron Consulting. He'd been there for just over two years before getting caught up in a downsizing. The folks at Lockheed Martin had made an offer but it wasn't as attractive as he would've preferred (Aren't they all?). He was still mulling over their offer so he just might still be job hunting as you read this issue. That being said I'm sure he won't mind my telling you if anyone needs a good man with program management, MIS and systems skills he's your man! I have his resume on hand. Rob's also been teaching business and MIS for Eastern College (both on the undergrad and graduate level). When he emailed me he was in the midst of preparing for one of his classes—an M.B.A. course on quantitative decision making—linear programming, integer programming, pert, cpm, etc. Whew, sorry Rob but that subject matter goes well beyond my USNA "Certificate of Attendance."

Susan and **Chip Walston** (cswalston@email.msn.com) packed up their computer in April and were EMCON at home for a while. They were scheduled to depart the sunny beaches of Hawaii in May for the foggy mornings of San Diego. Chip's change of command was scheduled for 1 p.m. on 11 June at Naval Air Station North Island, CA. It's a daytime affair so there should be no worries about power blackouts. (But, just in case the festivities go well into the night, you still might just want to pack the chem sticks and flashlights.) Depending on when this issue is delivered you still might be able to make the ceremony; see Chip take his new flag; and partake in free pupu's and drink afterward. To recap other recent Changes of Command: **Dan "Tex" Kuehlin** was relieved as the commander of the Airborne Early Warning Wing, Atlantic, by **Brian Roby**. Dan was to hang around in Norfolk on a staff, but then move on to the Space Command out in Colorado. **Glen Ives** took command of VX-1 in Pax River. **Andy Karakos** assumed command of Amphibious Group Eleven in Sasebo, Japan, in April.

Mike Durnan (michael.durnan@js.pentagon.mil) wrote to say that his roommate for the four years at Mother B), **John Henry** is a published writer! John's got two fictional books in print and is working on a third. You really ought to check out John's Web site and read the reviews. You also can read the first 18 pages of each of his novels. The Web site link is <http://www.sff.net/people/john-g-henry>. John's works *Stark's War* and *Stark's Command* are

science fiction and call to mind such works as *Starship Trooper*. I was surprised that a 20-year black shoe such as John could actually write some pretty good stories of space age "grunts" especially in his lead character Sgt. Stark. As the *San Francisco Chronicle* wrote:

...He also managed to create an intriguing character, a man who performs his duties even though he has some reservations about his government.

Now *where* do you think John got that attitude for his character? Pretty good stuff, John. I'm sure my First Class roommate, 11th Company Wardroom "Czar," and Sci Fi aficionado, **Ted Plautz**, would certainly enjoy the books. Here's wishing you continued success. Just invite us to the premiers when Spielberg, Lucas or Cameron turn them into movies!

Kathy Heinz proved once more that our wives are always looking out for us and are our most ardent cheerleaders. In looking over one of my more recent columns she noticed that I had committed the grave sin of omission. In writing of the new Marine Corps colonels in our Class I left out her hubby, **Dave "Duncan" Heinz** (dheinz@early.com). Yup, with that error I wiped out another bunch of "attaboys." You're right, Kathy, I'm a slug, pond scum, lower than whale dung. Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa. Of course, Dave would never have let me know of the slip up (most of you guys don't—which is not necessarily a bad thing in my opinion; given that I do make more than my fair share of mistakes.). Kathy, on the other hand, being the "dutiful wife," felt it was her duty to set the record straight. (By the way that dutiful wife description is a quote of Kathy for any of you card carriers of *NOW* (National Organization for Women) out there. My curly tail is *not* showing!) She goes on to say that Duncan was in the Pentagon as the number two guy in the Marine Corps Aviation Requirements branch (APW-2). With the new eagles he was waiting for orders to a new job. Of course, Kathy couldn't divulge where that job might be—you know, reasons of national security and all that. They were living in Fairfax Station, VA, with two teenage boys, two dogs and a big fat mortgage payment. Depending on those orders, they could still be homesteading there. Thanks for the correction and update, Kathy! (By the way, did you figure out that those errors I make are all part of my intricate scheme to get excited Classmates (and/or their wives) to write me? Or, did you look at my Class ranking and just say to yourself—"naaaaaah"!)

Speaking of corrections—our first admiral is still **Anthony L. Winns**. I referred to him as Tony, but he really goes by Andy. I knew that in my heart but then I know some of you have changed nicknames and call signs over the years. Besides, I also just write 'em as I read 'em. (Though I do admit to once referring to **Jim Harbison** as "Mike" Harbison—That error was brain flutulence caused by a similarly named acquaintance. Hey after all these years there's your correction, Jim!) Of course I guess sometimes that I should just go with my gut feeling and "Feel the force, Luke." By the way, Andy is in the Pentagon and is (I think) Chief, Policy Division on the Joint Staff.

My apologies to **Tim Stark**. The photo of you in all your magic garb didn't make the threshold. Send me another. I've mentioned the *Shipmate* criteria for electronic photos before so here's a recap once more:

They prefer photos be in grayscale (black and white) if possible (if in color, just scan them in as black and whites or send me the image and I'll try it). Resolutions should be 300 dpi (dots per inch). This resolution is higher than photos that are used on the Internet (72 dpi). But *Shipmate* is unable to

use photos that are from the Internet. You can scan photos at the original size (100%), however, if the photo is less than 2.5 inches wide, I'd have to send in the original photo. As a digital image have the file in .tiff or .jpeg format. *Shipmate* does have the capability to "unstuff" and "unzip" any compressed or stuffed files (I'm just learning). Well, that's the basics. If you forget the gouge visit the *Shipmate* Web site at www.usna.com. Go to "News & Pubs" in the menu and you'll find these specs as well as other *Shipmate* news. They have a lot of neat info on the Web. They even have recent issues up online so cheap, non-Alumni Association folks can even read the articles. But you can't read these gems of literary achievement, the Class columns. You have to pay for that privilege. (If you haven't figured out yet, that's another whiny plea to sign up members to the Alumni Association—preferably at the currently better value of a lifetime membership. I mean, we're not getting any younger.)

Well that about wraps up things. For those of you with kids in this year's college graduation pool, I hope they have found gainful employment (to repay mom and dad and all those college loans)—and can move out on their own. Do something for yourself for a change. Take a little bit of that money you used to save for their tuition and throw yourself a bash. Go out to a fine restaurant. If you still have more kids to go, celebrate anyway. Of course that dinner might be at the golden arches rather than a Ruth's Chris steak house. But like that jingle in the McDonald's commercials says—"You deserve a break today." As one living in imminent fear of college tuition (in three more years) I can empathize with you. Well, I've got to go. I saw a bunch of coke bottles along the Merritt Parkway that I have to go collect. Like I said, I live in imminent fear of a college tuition—possibly an Ivy League tuition. Launchin' the recyclable reclamation rotorcraft from Spot Four. Adios!

A postscript—as this column reached the deadline for submission, **Bob Novak's** wife, Mary, had just undergone cancer surgery. I didn't have news on the outcome. I have faith that was a good outcome. Still, keep her in your thoughts and prayers, as well as all the other wonderful and brave people in our lives who are fighting the Big C. Support the fight for a cure.

79

Annual Membership: 4%
Life Membership: 88%

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Greetings, '79!

Welcome to summer! The time of golf, vacations, picnics, and back yard grilling. Here at "Casa del Wiz," we use a black Weber kettle grill with Match-Lite charcoal. Not as convenient as gas grills, but we think beef tastes so much better when it's broiled over briquettes. Besides, there's nothing quite like rushing out from the house with a pitcher of water because the flame from the pile of coals just set fire to a low-hanging branch!

June also officially brings the winter sports seasons to a close. The NBA and NHL playoffs are