



Olga and Alfredo

The picture is of Alfredo and Olga at Windsor Castle.

**JB Parrett** passed along this photo of **Dick Spencer**, **JB**, and **Zeek Zimmerman** along with the pithey comment:

I've enclosed a picture of Spence, Zeek, and myself from last fall. As you can see, we are also where **Nick Flacco** predicted we would be 30 years ago... in a bar.



Dick, JB, and Zeek

Finally, **Nick Flacco** was cleaning out his sock drawer and ran across this photo from the 8-3 head around Halloween Plebe Year.

Poor quality, but can make out 11 of us: **Lew Thompson** in utilities and carrying a basket, **Alfredo Bequillard** as some kind of Latino martial arts artist, **John Allen** and **Mark Nesselrode** as greasers (?), **John McEwan** as something, **Ken Goodrow** as another one of those guys swilling beer from a stein with shaving cream on his face, **JB Parrett** and **Zeek Zimmerman** as stewards, **Nick Nunn** as a bushman, you can just see the top half of **Steve Holibonich's** face (next to Alfredo's machete), and as I recall that's **Scott Goodson** under the pumpkin head.



Halloween Plebe Year

A final Club 34 observation from **Al Turk**:

I did notice one thing peculiar from the photos that were sent thus far—it appears that somehow **JB**, **Alfredo**, **Coss**, and me all are using the same barber.

Finally: **Bruce Montgomery**, **Skip Zobel** ([william100@cox.net](mailto:william100@cox.net)) is trying to get in touch with you!

# 77

Annual Membership: 9%  
Life Membership: 63%

Pres: **CAPT Richard "Rick" White, USN**  
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w: 202-781-0938; h: 410-295-0089  
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### From the Yard

First of all, I want to correct an error in my last column. I had mentioned something about the "periodic snowfalls" this past winter and indicated that we had received at least "18 inches of it." Well, that column was a little premature, because one week later we experienced the great "Non-Blizzard of 2003," and the total winter snowfall amount should really have been 56 inches. The snowfall was so bad that the Academy was closed for two days and the two Midshipmen who were spending the long President's Day weekend at our house (**Curt Prentice '05**, whom we sponsor, and his friend) couldn't leave, since our street was impassable for several days after the snow stopped. With two extra (Midshipmen) mouths to feed, our food supplies were running critically low, but the crisis was narrowly averted when they were able to walk to the end of our street on Tuesday and catch a ride with one of their four-wheel-driving friends. Piles of snow still remain in our yard (on St. Patrick's Day!), and I'm not sure if they'll ever go away. In any event, I apologize for misleading you into thinking that we had a mild winter in Annapolis this year.

### From the Mail Bag

I want to thank everyone for *not* sending any letters or emails to me this month. It seems that the Alumni Association Donor Report, is being included in this issue, and we've been asked to keep our columns to a minimum. Fortunately, you gave me your full cooperation without me even having to request it, so I'd like to personally congratulate each of you for a job well done. Keep up the good work (and pretty soon I may be out of a job)!

### Closing Remarks

I don't think any more can be said at this point, so until next month, "Go Navy!" —**Bob Sanderson**

# 78

Annual Membership: 3%  
Life Membership: 73%

Pres: **Arch Griffin**  
Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**  
45 Little Fawn Drive, Shelton, CT 06484  
e: [VBalderrama@SIKORSKY.com](mailto:VBalderrama@SIKORSKY.com)  
web site: <http://usna1978.org>

I sincerely apologize for the empty space in last month's *Shipmate* pages. The fault is all mine. While I thought I had everything set to submit and prepared myself to do so, the weeks before were filled with great preoccupations during which my sense of time of the short month of February lapsed. (I write these about five weeks before you read them.) The date came and went. Principal among my preoccupations was the illness, and eventual death of our Class President, Classmate, and friend, **Arch Griffin**. After a months-long and valiant fight with cancer, Arch finally succumbed late in the evening of 25 January 2003. As his night came to close, he was surrounded by family, his wife, Erin, their children, Jeff and Jenna, and, as he had been throughout the ordeal, **Jim Degree**. His remains were cremated and a memorial ceremony was held at the Academy on 25 February. The service was originally planned for the week before, but the great blizzard that hit the East Coast disrupted all travel and shut down much area and for the first time in a long time—closed down the Academy. Even then, there are stories of people who desperately tried to make the travel and those few who were lucky enough to successfully make it before the word got out that the service was cancelled.

When the memorial was finally held, **Fred Butterfield** reported that even with the change there was a larger-than-expected turnout of several hundred people. It caused a last minute from St. Andrew's Chapel up to the Main Chapel. The attendance was a worthy tribute to Arch. Fred estimated that between 25 and 30 USNA '78 Classmates were in attendance, as were a large number of his son, **MIDN Jeff Griffin '04**, Classmates from '04 and high school Classmates of his daughter, Jenna. Countless more were present in spirit and prayer. The memorial service was appropriately entitled "A Celebration of the Life of CDR Arthur Craig "Arch" Griffin, USN (Ret.)." Our own Chaplain **Al "Blues" Baker** gave a moving sermon from the account found in the Gospel of John, chapter 11 of Jesus' compassion, comfort, and the future hope to those who trust in Him to the bereaved sisters, Mary and Martha, at the death of their brother, Lazarus. You can read Al's prayerful sermon for yourself on our Class web site [www.usna1978.org](http://www.usna1978.org). Fred has heard Blues preach a good number of times, but he believed that was his finest hour.

**Bob Schmermund** also did an excellent job standing in for **Jim DeGree**, who was unavoidably unable to be there to deliver it. Schmermund read Jim's extensive personal reflection on the life of Arch and their close friendship with the eloquence befitting them. The words honored both Arch and Jim.

I am humbled and proud to be a member of this Class. The loving friendship and support





Navy '78 at the Schuman wedding



Navy '78 at the Schuman wedding

that has been demonstrated by our Class for Erin and Arch and their family—Jim's weekly commutes from Norfolk, **Ed Reid's** constant presence, and countless others I can't even begin to list (and beg your forgiveness for not listing) who gave time, meals, cards, letters, emails, prayers, and presence—evidence once more the unique bonds we forged in our Academy and military lives. They are bonds unequalled by any college, fraternity, or sorority experience. Our loyalties and friendships are familial and almost mythical, like Damon and Pythias.

Please continue to remember Erin, Jenna, and Jeff not only in your prayers but in your lives. If the inclination is there to drop them a line, give them a call, or stop by while visiting Annapolis, do so. I also encourage you to do the same for the families of those who went before Arch (with whom I'm sure he's already organizing some heavenly golf tournament). You'll find a list of them also on our web site.

Our Webmaster, **Rob Cloutier**, and I are working to update that list and the list of memorial and funds in their honor. We need your help. So let us know whom we may have overlooked. As we were taught, "we will not leave any one behind."

As Arch encouraged us, we are continuing with the business of our Class and moving forward. Our Class Vice President, **Bob Novak**, has assumed Arch's duties and is our acting president. Please read Bob's eloquent letter to our Class on our web site (<http://www.usna1978.org/LetterFmBob.htm>) in which he eulogies Arch and articulates the transition of duties and

affirms that "[the Class officer] will continue to carry out the plan that Arch has laid until we have our elections and announce the new Class officers at our 25th Reunion. I know that I can never replace Arch; however, his vision for the Class of '78 is my vision for the Class of '78." With that, on to the mailbag...

**Andy Cuca** ([acuca@compuserve.com](mailto:acuca@compuserve.com)) wrote to say that he has been living in Dallas for about three and a half years. His youngest daughter graduates from college in May and he's looking forward to retirement. For now he flies Northwest Airlines and will be upgrading to the Airbus 330. He's still doing the Naval Reserve "thing" as CO of a CarGru unit attached to KITTAY HAWK. When he wrote he was not yet recalled; but who knows?

Betty and **Gary Eisenmann** ([eisenmann@konnnect.net](mailto:eisenmann@konnnect.net)) sent another update from the "Rock." His son, Brian, was about to go off into the wild blue yonder. He was accepted to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Institute (for aerospace engineering) and offered an Air Force ROTC scholarship. They are obviously very excited and proud. Brian has worked hard for this and looks forward to college. He was still waiting to hear from a few other schools, including the Coast Guard Academy. With all the other choices, Brian could wind up in Florida and with Karl at USNA. Gary figures he'll need to start getting serious about finding a job somewhere in the Carolinas, just to split the difference. He's still seeking a facilities management position in a college or university and admits that he's not really restricting himself to living in the Carolinas right now...anywhere on the East

Coast...or east of the Mississippi would do. He better hustle as the plan is for retirement from Marine Corps this summer.

**Dave Schuman** ([DSchuman@RHCSpacemaster.com](mailto:DSchuman@RHCSpacemaster.com)) wrote to say there's now a Mrs. Schuman in my life—his wife, Jennifer. He and Jennifer were married on 16 November of last year. Giving witness to the occasions were Classmates and other Navy and Marine types, Fred Butterfield, **Mike Duncan** (best man), **Andy Funke**, and **Rich Holzknecht**, as well as fellow Alum **Larry Piano '76** and a Duke '77 buddy, Rich Prevatt. Fred's spin on the wedding was as follows:

Of special note is that, despite his advancing age, it was the first marriage for both David and the much-younger Mrs. Schuman. Indeed, we will be probably all be retired and living-off of our 401Ks/TSPs when David and Jenn's kids (still forthcoming, of course) hit the late teen years! All kidding aside, it was a joyous wedding ceremony and reception intended to celebrate their mutual faith in Jesus Christ and to honor their friends and family. In this it was completely successful. A little-known secret is that David and Jennifer are both accomplished dancers—their first dance together as a married couple was truly marvelous, even jaw-slacking, to behold. And hey, what can you say about a wedding reception where you have semi-professional swing dance instructors giving a group lesson to the guests?



Jennifer and David Schuman



Rich and Fred

Our Class Treasurer, **Kevin Liddy**, got news of a Classmate via the Classmate's co-worker—Kevin's sister, Jane. Seems he came up to Jane and asked her if she was related to Kevin, to that she replied, "I'm proud to say that I am." The conversation progressed so that we now have news of **Jim Meany**. Jim, like Kevin, is a St. Louis native. He went to DeSmet High School. Jim left after Plebe because he was given a major that he wasn't interested in (marine

engineering). I know the feeling, I was given a major I could pass. Anyway, Jim got a bachelor's and master's in engineering at Mizzou (University of Missouri). He then went to work for McDonnell Douglas in 1980. He stayed at McD for six years before he had to return to Mizzou for his Ph.D. in electrical engineering. As Dr. Jim, he returned to McDonnell Douglas where he is now a Boeing Fellow in R&D. The Fellowship Program is for employees who have done outstanding work but do not wish to be involved in management. Jim is married and has a daughter (16) and a son (13).

**Rudy Escher** (rudyescher@knology.net) will need a babysitter for our reunion for little Olivia Grace (born last 8 May). (By the way, I know there a few more of you in the same situation—and the reunion committee is looking into it.) New fatherhood has added more to Rudy's already very busy life as a technical manager at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge Tennessee and as Commanding Officer of a Reserve unit. (He's got ComSubRon 20 Detachment 408 and drills near Atlanta in Marietta, GA.) In the Reserve billet he works closely with CAPT Paul Schmitt, the senior Reserve Submariner in Atlanta, in the realignment of Submarine Reserve Units to better support our Overseas Front line gaining commands. He tells everyone to "rest assured that '78 is on watch at the gate, guarding freedom for humanity, both active and Reserve, we are ready to answer the call to arms."



The Eschers

Thanks, Rudy, great photo of the family! Also adding more muscle to the Reserve watch gate is our latest admiral select. Naval Reserve, Rear Admiral (lower half) **Jay Deloach**. Jay's name popped on the Reserve selection list. At the time of his selection he was commanding officer, Naval Reserve, commander, Seventh Fleet Detachment 111, Fort Worth, TX. Don't know what job the big stripe will get him but it must be something big. Congrats, Jay! I'm looking forward to that wetting down—"wherever" it may be.

Did anybody see **Jay Bowling** (CO@TARAWA.NAVY.MIL) on MSNBC's special on Warships in March? Jay was great as they toured his ship, TARAWA. I laughed my tail off when in the engine room the correspondent quizzed Jay on "what's this dial and what's that" as he covered up the indicators with his reporter's note pad. I don't know how much was his quick keen

vision, captain's knowledge or just plain luck, but Jay went two for two on the quiz. It kinda reminded me of my feeble attempt to pass the engineering portion of our pro-exam First Class Year; except I wasn't that good. Especially funny was when Jay standing in the background shook his head "no" as the newsmen asked the officer on watch if the Skipper could be trusted down there alone. It was a great show, that showcased Jay's ship and crew as an example of the fine leadership and outstanding men and women we have serving out there.

On a sadder note, we send our condolences to Jay on the news of the death of his mother. As I wrote Jay, "I'm sure she was a wonderful woman who cared much for her family. It was quite evident from the way he reacted with his crew and showed how much he cared for them. While our training may have helped hone our leadership 'skills, it was our families' values that formed that character of leadership and the foundation and heart of our earnest concern for our troops." Smooth sailing, Jay.

By now, **Ken "Sox" Bowersox** should be back home. Sox was commanding the team on International Space Station. He and his crewmates had their stay extended as a consequence of the loss of the shuttle COLUMBIA and her crew. The plan was for them to use a Soyuz to return. Sox appreciated the thoughts and words of encouragement that many of you asked me to send him. Of life aboard the station he wrote,

Life here reminds me a lot of life at the Boat School, same menu every eight days, same clothes every day, no cars. Only here it is impossible to go over the wall even if you wanted too. Maybe we need to move the Boat School into orbit...

Not sure that would be possible, but know of some I would like to send into orbit!

For all you guys who worked on the *Log* while we were Mids, **Andrew Gallotta '84** (gallota@rochester.rr.com) and **Sean Hilferty** (Sixth Company) are developing an anthology of sorts that will re-visit and perhaps re-capture the spirit of the *Brigade's Humor* magazine. The project includes plans for making back-issues available for viewing online and providing some historical context to much of the magazine's humor. This project also entails gathering the perspectives of past editors, Salty Sams, artists, and writers, along with that of O-reps and administration personnel involved with *The Log*. To that end, he asks your help. He asks for email or contact information on our Class' Salty Sam and *Log* editor-in-chief; suggestions as to other individuals who might have insights that would be of historical or anecdotal value to developing the anthology; insights and reflections on *The Log*. They are hoping to re-capture a little of the humor that tickled us each month when we were Mids. By the way, did you know that *The Log* was a small part of Brigade life for over 75 years, dating back to 1922 and continuing until 1999?

**Marty Thamm** (thammwm@mfr.usmc.mil) wrote in February to say he was safe at Prince Sultan Air Base Two. At the time he was getting in-briefings, security badging; getting his "feet on the ground" was the order of the day. His job is to head up the Marine Aviation Strategy cell on the CFACC (Coalition Force Air Component

Commander's) staff, where they will represent Marine Corps aviation capability into an integrated plan to the CFACC, a USAF lieutenant general. He reports to Gen Franks and is responsible for the conduct of any air campaign to be prosecuted, both current and future. The best way to get him was his military e-address. He said not to be surprised if some of your emails with attachments are rejected by the .mil address (security). In that case he suggested sending him a note at the .mil address telling him there is an email with an attachment awaiting him at the AOL address (marythamm@aol.com).

**Kevin Liddy** also sent me the following note from his 17th Company mate, **Steve Gahan** (navymn2@hotmail.com). Steve wrote:

Life's great. I'm working at Joint Interagency Task Force East, in Key West. Supervise a network of six bilingual, tactical logisticians, located in Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, and Costa Rica. Also have the portfolio for planning logistical support of counter-drug operations in Central America and Colombia. Travel a lot, more than 35 trips to CentAm and Colombia in the past 18 months. Jackie retires from teaching in December '03 and we'll celebrate our 25th anniversary in June '04. Kids are grown and doing great, Chad's a general surgeon and Erik's an executive with a pharmaceutical distribution company. When I'm not on travel, I try to fish as much as possible, in search of marlin (though I'm happy with dorado, tuna, or wahoo). I see **Al Kowadla** at least once a year, otherwise haven't seen anyone from 17th Company in over a decade—guess they don't frequent Latin America, but it's my comfort zone, sort of a "home away from home."

As this goes to submittal for publishing, we are faced with the gripping reality that conflict in Iraq is imminent. The clock is winding down on the time limit our President has set for Iraq to stand down and Saddam Hussein and his ilk to flee. Many of our Classmates, shipmates, brothers and sisters, and now in our advancing years, even our sons and daughters sons are prepared to respond to our Commander-in-Chief's command to engage the enemy; poised to answer their orders with a snappy "Aye, Aye, sir" and even speedier execution of those orders. Should that order come, we all pray for you to have courage, safety, and victory...

O Trinity of love and power!

Our brethren shield in danger's hour;

From rock and tempest, fire and foe,

Protect them wheresoe'er they go;

Thus evermore shall rise to Thee

Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Semper Fidelis.

### Sec'y Column Deadlines

(send columns to classnews@usna.com)

ISSUE	HARD COPY:
July-Aug.	11 June
September	11 July
October	11 August
November	10 September
ISSUE	ELECTRONIC:
July-Aug.	16 June
September	17 July
October	15 August
November	16 September