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Surprise—I'm still here! The results of the election are in and were announced a couple of months ago at the reunion. I'll fill in for those of you who were unable to attend...

As you can gather from the header above, **Glen Woods** is our new president and I'm on for another five as your chief scribe. Rounding out the ranks, **Sean Coffey** is our vice president and **Kevin Liddy** returns as our fiscally responsible treasurer. Providing counsel as our Trustees at Large are **Glen Ives**, **Eddie Reid**, **Rob Cloutier** (who also doubles as our industrious Webmaster), **Bob Novak** (lending his experience and continuity from his service as vice president and then as our president), and **Matt Elias** (who returns as a trustee). Thanks to our former Class officers, our late President **Arch Griffin**, and outgoing Trustees, **Jim Fiorelli**, **Rob McNeal**, **Mike Holden** (who established our web site in the first place and maintained it through its infancy), and **John Skogsberg**. Their vision, counsel, and energy helped maintain our reputation as a "go-to" Class and expanded our role in leading, promoting, and supporting the Academy and the Naval service.

This is a short column as much of the traffic lately has been on the reunion. In fact, as this goes to submittal we are just days away and hustling to work alternatives to address the impact of Hurricane Isabel on the events of the weekend. Let's just say that while some attendance numbers may be down because of disrupted flights, there will still be a "good time had by all." Nothing could stop us from celebrating. Besides, we planned to bill it also as a big hurricane party. Rest assured that over the next few months the column will be brimming with stories and photos about what went on and who is were and doing what. That is unless you categorized the news as *Secret Noform* (or "off the record" for you Congressional and Government types).

In a couple of brief notes...

On 17 September, CAPT **Joe Leidig** relieved Brigadier General (select) **John Allen '76** as the Commandant of Midshipman. With **Art Athens** and **Jim Jones** teaching, **Bruce Latta** at admissions, and **Bruce Boles** in charge of NAPS, we pretty much have a grip on the key slots around and into the yard. While it's not the king position (that's the Supe's slot), it's a pretty nice prince-*dom* that Joe has. He and everyone else will need our help over the coming years to ensure that the Mids stay the course and that programs are continued that aid in their development as future naval officers and leaders in our nation. That's help in talent, toil and a little "tithe." Good luck, enjoy the tour, Joe. You have us all behind you. Of course, one thing does puzzle me though—with you *and* your Deputy 'Dant both nukes, will that glow illuminating the Chapel dome *really* be from the spotlights or is from you guys?

In case any of you are still trying to locate **Steve Lessard**, you can thank Julie Angleman, who coincidentally happens to be married to **Alan Angleman** (a.angleman@verizon.net), for providing the following "last known address" that she had for him after seeing the recent picture of him in the September 2003 issue of *Shipmate*: 14 Young St., Peekskill, NY 10566. Julie says that Steve and his wife, Kathy, had a little girl who was born in 1993. If anyone happens to get in touch with Steve and Kathy, please bring us up-to-date on their latest happenings.

As for the Angleman family, they just sent their youngest daughter, Paula, off for her freshman year of college at Clemson University in South Carolina. Their oldest daughter, Sara, will head back to Cambridge University in England to finish her Ph.D. in epidemiology, and their middle daughter, Joane, just graduated in May 2003 from Salisbury University with a degree in elementary education. Alan is busy with his work at the National Research Council and is also working part-time as the associate pastor at Glenmont UMC in Maryland.

In other 31st Company news (for the uninitiated, Alan was in 31st Company and so was I), I recently received an invitation from the program executive officer of the Integrated Warfare Program announcing the retirement of **Ken Graber** (GraberKA@navsea.navy.mil) on 7 October 2003 at the Washington Navy Yard. Unfortunately I wasn't able to attend, but if anyone was there and took pictures, please send them in. We wish Ken well in his second career.

Class Communication

You may not believe this one, but it seems that the USNA Superintendent is looking for sea stories that he can share with the Brigade, parents, Alumni, friends, etc. when he speaks (bet you never thought all your sea stories might be worth something one day). According to the request:

The intent is to bring reality to the incredible job that our Alumni are doing for our naval service and our country. These can be short vignettes or a page or so, and if you have pictures, send them as well. If we get enough, in addition to passing them to the Supe, we can have a regular piece in *Shipmate* and on the web (similar to "Alumni at War"). We would really like to hear about your experiences. What leadership challenges have you encountered? What did you do in Iraq, Afghanistan, or the Arabian Sea? Are you still there? What are you doing, seeing experiencing?

You can help the Supe in telling the Naval Academy story by sending your sea story to seastories@usna.com. Who knows? Maybe you'll be lucky enough to be in the audience when the Supe relates one of your sea stories (unembellished, of course!).

Closing Remarks

That's all for this month, folks! Next month you should be reading about the next new father in the Class, me. Until then, *Go Navy!*

—**Bob Sanderson**

Update your own record
when you visit
usna.com



Aboard *NORMANDY*, 1 to r: RADM John "Birdman" Bird, CAPT Matt "Mattman" Streeter, and CAPT Brad "Bradman" McDonald, (Ret.)

Birdman is currently J-3 on the Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, VA, which is also where Brad lives as a Navy pension recipient ("Oh, how I love that retirement pay!"). Since Birdman's a geographic bachelor, he comes over to Brad's place at 5 a.m. and drags him out for a morning run. Brad notes that "Bird's in better shape as an old man than he was as a Mid; unfortunately, the same cannot be said for me, so it's all I can do to keep up with him."

Anyway, as you can see, '77 is doing well in senior leadership positions, at-sea commands, and post-Navy life. As for Brad's legacy, check-out this remarkable McDonald link over the last five decades: Brad's dad, **Ewing "Mickey" McDonald '49**, was sworn-in as a Plebe in Memorial Hall in the summer of '45; 28 years later he swore-in Brad on the same spot; and 28 years after that Brad swore-in his son, **Tyler McDonald '05**, on the same spot. If that weren't coincidence enough, Brad started-out and finished-up in 28th Company, and Tyler spent his Plebe Year in 28th Company. Brad says that if he played the lottery, he'd definitely use the number 28!

Mickey was a submarine captain and so was Brad, but he's not sure what Tyler will do yet. Brad reports that his dad's last serious ambition is to be the oldest living USNA graduate ("He's only 78, so I reckon he's got about 24 years to go before he gets that honor"). By then he will have commissioned his grandson and perhaps sworn-in his great-grandson. Mickey lives in Annapolis, and Brad thinks he checks the list of oldest graduates about every two to three months to see where he stands.

By the way, one of Tyler's Companymates (and Plebe Summer roommate) is **John McCarthy '05**, son of our own Classmate, **Dan McCarthy** (jdmjag@aol.com). Tyler was on summer cruise in Mayport, FL, and enjoyed some liberty at the McCarthy household this past summer. Brad thinks that there are several other Classmates who have sons (or daughters) in the Class of '05, so please let me know if you belong on the list. Now that Brad's kept-up his pattern of writing once every eight to ten years, he's looking forward to hearing from the rest of you!

Just when you thought you'd seen the last new father in the Class of '77, **Jandie** and **Elijah Turner** (CaptETurner@comcast.net) delivered Aaron Austin Turner on 27 August 2003. Both Jandie and Aaron (who weighed-in at 8 pounds, 1 ounce, and 20.5 inches) are doing fine. Eli says, "I know what you're thinking, but this is the last one!" Congratulations to Jandie and Eli from all of us fathers (and fathers-to-be)!

Randy Kahn (squash.geo@yahoo.com) was promoting the concept of an "Anchor Baby." As he explained it "we all know about the 'Anchor Man' tradition at USNA, but did you know about the 'Anchor Baby' tradition? Basically, each member of our Class must provide \$1 for each child they have, to the Classmate with the last child born (...something like that)." Of course Randy's suggestion was not without its purpose because he thinks he would be in the running for the title. Well, actually the recent member of the Kahn family would be a candidate for that "Anchor" position. That would be their second boy, Andre Jordan Kahn, born on 24 July 2003. While the "Anchor Baby" is an interesting concept I had to remind Randy that it goes to the *last* baby born. I'd venture to say some of you aren't done procreating and there may even be one or two of you who idolize the late Strom Thurmond's proclivity at progeny. So while young Andre may be the most *recent* baby born to the Class of '78. I doubt he'll be the last. Sorry, Randy. Nice try. Now if you can convince your wife...well, you could still be in the running in the future.

Many of you have been following the story behind **Skip Bayes** heart attack and bypass surgery. (Thanks to our Webmaster, Rob, for keeping the news on our web site). On a Thursday in August, Skip went for his daily jog (4-5 miles). During the jog he experienced a pain in his chest (no other symptoms noted). Being the stud all '78ers are, he continued and went to work (Marine Corps Systems Command-Quantico). He still had the dull pain in his chest and while getting a haircut; he felt a little nauseous and became sweaty. So, he got some Tums. The pain continued, so he decided to take a couple of Bayer aspirin (preventive/corrective maintenance?). He continued through the day—symptoms of dull pain and nausea continued. Friday morning, while still feeling the pain, he asked his wife (Charlene) to call her office—she works for a cardiologist (Dr. Siri). He was given an EKG and the doctor said Skip had, in fact, had an MI—heart attack, and that he needed to get to the hospital emergency room. After an initial battery of test, the doctor ordered Skip to be transported to Fairfax Hospital to undergo a catheterization. The results of the cath described his condition/blockage. Suffice it to say that it was substantial. The short of it all is that Skip went through a multiple bypass operation with flying colors and his recuperation is ongoing. I saw him at his home at the beginning of September and he looked good. He was even planning to make a short visit during the reunion. By now he's probably had enough of working from home and is really chomping at the bit to get back to the office. Charlene's got her hands full having him take it slowly—but she can handle him. I'm sure Skip would emphasize that Dr. Siri, the surgical and hospital teams, his kids (Kenneth and Angela) and especially his bride, Charlene, played a large part in saving his life (Charlene had to work through his stubbornness and stress the urgency of seeing a doctor when he had those "little signs" flashing like crazy! By the way, that was a "below" in head-work there, Skip—but it was overcome by a major "above" by virtue of your having married

Charlene. She did everything but grab him by the ear). Skip also says his remarkable recovery is due to Classmates; his roomie, **Kevin Cheezum** and his family, who were there throughout for Skip, Charlene and the kids; and of course all you guys. He got many cards, letters and emails of support and encouragement. They really lifted his spirits and gave him that boost he needed. Once again you guys demonstrated what a Class act '78 is. In fact, Skip's son's girlfriend (who had never been exposed to the military) was in awe that "people" would actually do that for someone. She was rightly impressed and now has a better understanding of the makeup, mindset, and meaning of Classmates—Classmates from the Naval Academy ('78 of course). We're glad to see that Skip is doing fine, but it brings a lesson to us—get checked up! Here was a guy who was running three to five miles a day, appeared to be in good shape and condition; but that little fist-sized muscle of his was operating with some clogging. You never know—genetics, diet, and a bunch of other stuff come into play. A lot of us still often think of ourselves as iron spitting, all-nighter, hard-charging young Mids, but we just had our 25th Reunion. Our personal odometers have clocked a lot of mileage and indicate we probably are due for a tune up. So get one. Besides, we'd like to see you at the 30th Reunion.

Well, that's the short of it all. I'll get off my soapbox. Besides, I have an appointment to make with my doc. Before I end—Happy birthday to all you hard charging Devil Dogs out there! Wherever you may be, be safe, vigilant, and recognize that as General Mattis wrote in his guidance to his Marines of First Marine Division on the eve of the start of the War with Iraq, that... "You are part of the world's most feared and *trusted* force... Demonstrate to the world that there is 'No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy' than a U.S. Marine." Semper Fidelis.

Launchin' Spot 4—Ooooooahhhh!

79

Annual Membership: 1%
Life Membership: 89%

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Greetings, '79!

So, did you miss me?

C'mon! You did, didn't you? Please tell me you did! Please tell me you noticed that there was no "November" issue of *Shipmate*, and that the one you're reading right now says "November-December." Go ahead, check the cover. See? I told you so! So it's been nearly *two whole months* since you've been able to read about your fellow '79ers. Not to mention enjoy the hilarity normally associated with this column. (Note: if your response to that last line is "What hilarity?," bring around a Form 2!)

Anyway, this particular issue of *Shipmate* is the first noticeable result of an ongoing review of the magazine. The Alumni Association—rather, *your* Alumni Association—is giving the publication quite an overhaul. The goal is to enhance the features that everyone wants in *Shipmate*, while at the same time controlling its rising costs of publication. In order to free up the time required to accomplish this review, the *Shipmate* staff is adjusting publication dates for FY 2004. Essentially, between now and September, only eight issues will be published instead of the usual ten. No decisions have been made for future publications cycles, but I'll keep you informed as I learn more.

So I'm not 100% sure when you'll get this issue. Chances are, we're just about to *Beat Army!* And most likely your thoughts are turning to the approaching holiday season. You've done a quick scan for **Bold Print** to see what names you recognize, and now you're getting ready to deposit me in the magazine stack on the coffee table. But please, before you relegate me to that pile, read just a bit further and catch the latest news regarding the *Gala 25th Reunion Extravaganza!*

As a quick recap, the reunion will be held during the weekend of 23-26 September 2004. Our reunion hotel is the BWI Marriott (near the BWI airport) which will be able to accommodate the entire Class at one site. And I've just confirmed that as of 1 November 2003, the hotel will be accepting room reservations for the reunion. Classmates must identify themselves as part of the "USNA 1979 Group" to ensure they will receive the special contracted group rate of \$109 (plus taxes) per night (single or double). The Class has rooms blocked from Thursday night, 23 September through Sunday night, 26 September 2004. The deal is, the hotel can only block out 200 rooms this far in advance. However, as the blocked rooms fill up, they will be happy to increase these numbers to the best of their ability.

The bottom line is, *now* is the time to make your room reservations. Not only will you be guaranteeing yourself a spot at '79s largest party ever, but you'll also make it possible to reserve additional rooms for Classmates. To reserve your room, please call the hotel directly at 410-859-8300, or Marriott's toll free reservation number at 800-228-9290. There will be events happening all weekend, so to get the most out of the trip, please strongly consider a Thursday arrival and a Monday departure. There won't be another event like this one, and the world won't end if you take a few extra days off from work. Besides, no one deserves it more than you do!

Let me step back from the sales pitch for a second. Chances are you're a little hesitant to make that call right now because, well, you just don't know your schedule this far out. Fortunately, the Reunion Committee thought of that, too. Thanks in part to their efforts, Classmates may cancel their reservations with *no penalty* up until 5 p.m. the day before arrival if necessary. You can't get much more risk-free than that. One final thing: any reservations received after 26 August 2004 will be space available only.