

Untitled

November 2005

Staples '55 Newsletter
"All the news that's fit to dish..."

Post-reunion greetings!

I recently heard from Chuck Banks who was kind enough to forward sad tidings about John Oliver, classmate (see below). I thought I'd share the news with you in the form of an email newsletter. (If your email program is set to read incoming messages as text, you won't see any photos. Reset it to read mail as html, instead.)

I created this with software that allows me to build an html (formatted) newsletter and send it to up to 50 people at no charge--just about the number of people on our contact list with an email address. If you have any newsworthy information you'd like to share with the "wired" members of the class, I'll be happy to do so on a periodic basis in this format.

Best regards,

Your humble correspondent,
Cliff (formerly "George") Clifford

John L. Oliver, RIP
Succumbs to Parkinson's After Long Battle
John Oliver Letter from classmate, Chuck Banks, September 15, 2005:

Dear Cliff:

I am enclosing a page out of the July-August Brown U. Alumni monthly, which was sent to me by my younger brother, who attended Brown, which shows that our Staples classmate, John Oliver, died on February 28 of this year, apparently from Parkinson's disease. I suspect that none of our classmates are aware of this, and you might want to include it in your next "update" edition of the Reunion Rag.

Best regards, Chuck

John L. Oliver '59, of East Hampton, NY: Feb. 28, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. He worked in advertising for more than thirty years in various offices of the Interpublic Group of Companies. He was a longtime member of the Devon Yacht Club, Amagansett, and the University Club in New York City. He is survived by his wife, Anne; a daughter, Victoria '82; and his mother, Janice Sullivan.

Good to hear from you, Cliff, even if you do send your emails at 2:26 AM. Get some sleep. Or get a life.

Oliver was one of my closest pals at Staples. We kept in touch for ten years after Staples and he was an usher in my wedding in '64, but we lost contact as the years went on. I kinda wish his widow had sent something to us when she received the Reunion mailings.

I enjoyed the Reunion, too, and I'm glad I nagged Leopold to come--his wife is great.

I can't wait to see what your next diabolical move with the Rag is going to be. Keep in touch, and give me a call if you're down in my area.

Chuck

"Footprints"
Staples '55 website

Untitled

Footprints logo

Having carefully considered Bank's remark about "getting a life" (see Oliver story, above), I've decided that my next "diabolical move" should be to build a website for the class, which is now on line at: www.staples55.com.

It started out as a simple idea in mid- September. I had just read an article in PC Magazine about some new user-friendly, inexpensive photo-blog software. The idea was to post the photos that were taken at the reunion so that everyone with internet access could see them-- especially those who couldn't attend. Thanks to Tom Saviano, Bruce Kent and Jack (Armitage) Heath, that got accomplished by mid- October.

Site Content

And then--as most errant pursuits will--it just kind of expanded from there. There were email exchanges shortly after the event about a next reunion--suggestions, do's and don'ts and so forth. That led to the idea for a Reflections page.

Next, I thought it would be interesting if we had some more detail about classmates who had passed away; an obituary page, as it were. Sure enough it was John Ottinger who began feeding me information from the SSDI website and other sources. John also suggested the In Memorium page for recollections of classmates now deceased.

After several philosophical (and some very humorous) polemics from Bruce Kent, I had the idea for a Commentary page (Joani--I can show you how to bookmark this particular page, if you like...). An In the News page was not far behind (as in the Rag: Larry Roberts, Orrin MacLeod, Ron Grecula), for anyone else breaking into the national media (it needn't be limited to our class-- just schoolmates we knew).

And, speaking of news, some of you sent in newspaper clippings of high school and before which, because of space, did not find their way into the Rag. However, I've added a Clipping Archive page as a way to preserve some of those gems before they get lost or fade into dust!

In late October I happened to recall a nostalgia article written by my younger sister, Linda (class of '64), that appeared in the Westport News some time ago. So a Memory Lane page was born. Another example: last winter/spring when we were reaching out to classmates for the reunion, Judy Schachte's daughter (Carol) in New Zealand wrote me that Judy had died a couple of years ago. But she mentioned that her mother had attended a writing class in New Zealand and penned a couple of stories about her childhood in Weston. Would we be interested in them for the Rag? (I never heard back from Carol, but I'll keep on it.) Mostly welcome will be short, spontaneous recollections of the character of life that we experienced growing up in Westport.

Another fun idea would be to send me interesting photos of your retirement doings for a Lifestyles page. Examples of "interesting": You have forsaken civilization to become a mountain man and want to share a photo of you and your new cavemate: a momma cougar. Or this: you've been an avid gun collector over the years and they now reside just about everywhere you look in your 600 sq. ft. house. You have a photo you'd like to share with the class of your spouse pointing the elephant gun at your head. In other words, not just family smiley photos, but photos of whatever you happen to be involved in today.

(If legal.)

Finally, of course, to help classmates better keep in touch, we should have a Contacts page containing up-to-date email addresses. Managed, of course, by our go-to Contact guy, Noel Castiglia. And--just to be safe--permission to post email addresses required. Here again, we'd be happy to list addresses from those we knew at Staples before and after our class, as well.

Site Participation

Untitled

what I am hoping is that the class will take ownership of the site and enthusiastically contribute recollections, photos, clippings, and, perhaps, thoughts of their own about a future reunion or ideas about this website.

I will continue to serve as webmaster to do the posting. In addition--given his newspaper background and sleuthing skills--if you would please copy John Ottinger on any newsworthy stuff, he often comes up with new material, new angles, of interest.

Site Expense

The cost of maintaining the website comes in at under \$10/month-- remarkably inexpensive:

- * Hosting on Bubbler.net (50MB of space): \$49.00 per year
- * Domain name registration ("staples55"): \$17.60 per year for 5 years
- * Domain name forwarding: \$49.00 per year
- * Monthly Total: \$9.63

The site is paid in advance for the first year (domain name registration is paid for five years). If I can solicit just \$10 a year from 12 classmates, we can keep the site up for five years, just in time to upload news and photos of our next reunion. Or \$5 a year from 24 classmates.

I will accept checks and set up separate accounting for all receipts. Any surplus received will be used for out years and/or to purchase additional hosting space, as required. I might also ask Judy Gault Sterling if she would act as bookkeeper and paymaster for the site, as she has done for the reunion.

Next Steps

Reflections on the reunion? Ideas/suggestions for a next reunion? Recollections of classmates or growing up in Westport? Clippings? Photos? Email address for Contact page? Cash for site upkeep?

Please submit to:

Cliff Clifford, P.O. Box 1038, Grantham, NH 03753 geocliff@adelphia.net 603.863.5090

P.S. If you do send a non-digitized photo or clipping through the mail it would be a real timesaver to me if you'd also include a self-addressed return envelope with it. Thanks.

Staples '55 website

Losing a Child...

Bruce Kent I recently received the following sad note from Bruce Kent about the loss of his daughter, Denise. I am taking the liberty of sharing it with you as I found it especially moving. There is no loss, it is said, like the loss of a child, as Noel-- and perhaps others of you--have sadly experienced. Also, it shows a side of Bruce I don't think many of us knew well. I certainly did not. Here it is:

Please forgive this seemingly impersonal manner of communicating the sad news to you. I am sending this email to some of my closest friends as well as those of you who I do not know quite so well. It is the most effective way I can think of communicating to you at this time.

My daughter Denise (Musich) died on 4 November after a lifelong struggle with childhood-onset diabetes and the side effects of this dreadful disease. She was 39 years old. She fought this disease without compromise her entire life. Surviving two recent ultimately unsuccessful kidney transplants, she was currently on dialysis when her lioness heart which had won so many battles for her over the past 30 years simply could not withstand another onslaught.

Denise was the most unselfish, caring and giving human being I have ever

Untitled

encountered. She was, and will always remain, my hero. Her incredible courage and fortitude, her grit and determination, her absolute refusal to compromise her standards and knuckle under to her various physical handicaps will remain an inspiration to anyone who knew her.

Denise did not do life from the spectator seats of the arena; she did it on the playing field, and she took nothing from that field when the game was over. Nothing. She gave it all.

She and I shared many inspirational thoughts and convictions. I remember to this day when I shared her favorite "Footprints" with her. An inspirational quotation that so typifies Denise and her absolutely incredible attitude came from Theodore Roosevelt. It is my honor to share it with you now:

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust, sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best, knows the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.
--Theodore Roosevelt

A truly remarkable human being, a beloved daughter, wife, and sister is gone. The memory of her indomitable spirit and courage will always be with us.

--Bruce

Miscellaneous Links

Joy Harmon In case you haven't already visited, some interesting websites related to Westport and Staples graduates:

Joy Harmon Remember Joy (see photo)? Over this past spring and summer some of us were chatting it up over the net about the various Staples celebrities we had known. Joy Harmon's name came up (no, really...?) and we tracked her down to this "Aunt Joy's Cakes" website. A Google search on her name also brings up links to her various movies.

Tippi Rounds Great photos of Westport, Saugatuck, Compo Beach, Old Mill Beach circa 1940s/50s. Website owned by Tippi Rounds (class of '52), wife of Larry Comden (class of '54) and older sister of Nancy Rounds ('54).

Larry Roberts More about Larry and his remarkable career (historic, actually) and his internet company.

Internet History History of the Internet's development thru 2001.

Westport Now Current Westport photojournalism.

Westporters Great "memories" site: find a classmate, period photos, reminiscences, etc. Some aspects of site are paid only.

SSDI Death Index Deceased person research. Frequently accessed by John Ottinger during search for missing classmates.

Roots Web Genealogical research. Discover your family tree.

Joy Harmon Tippi Comden

Larry Roberts Internet History

Westport Now Westporters

Social Security Death Index Genealogical Research

email: geocliff@nhvt.net

Untitled

(The email address shown at left is dead. Please don't use it. The correct email is geocliff@adelphia.net.)

This email was sent to geocliff@adelphia.net, by geocliff@adelphia.net
Update Profile/Email Address | Instant removal with SafeUnsubscribe™ | Privacy Policy.

Powered by

Cliff Clifford | P.O. Box 1038 | Grantham | NH | 03753