

## THE LAST DANCE

We have all received a couple of emails recently from Ed Mullen, on behalf of the Reunion Committee, indicating that the response for the 40<sup>th</sup> reunion on October 11, 2008 was somewhat underwhelming. The last time I looked it appeared that 39 classmates had sent in their reservation.

I have been to all of the reunions: 10<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup> and will be here for the 40<sup>th</sup>. There are undoubtedly a lot of reasons why some will not come. Of course, there are those who are no longer with us and we do not know about them yet. We are all busy people, no doubt, and it is much easier for someone like me, who still rides past Overlook School everyday going to the office, to attend rather than those in Michigan, Texas and the like. So, there is travel and a busy schedule. And, of course, some have never attended because high school was “not a very happy time.” There is a support group for that. It’s called EVERYBODY. I wasn’t as happy as you might think. I had acne, some emotional conflicts, the torment of three older brothers, and the loss of my best friend in a violent motor vehicle accident.

I have loved each of the reunions. It has been great to see each other at all the different stages of life, to catch up, renew acquaintances that have become good friends. Bill Lucas and I knew each other only in a general sense but because of seeing him at reunions he has become one of my dearest friends. Good times in high school have led to better times in life with good people: Nancy Corrigan, Rob (George) Lockart, Ron Rhoades. I look forward to a lot more as time goes on.

One of the things I loved about school was dancing. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade we had dances at each other’s houses. Rich Spencer and I went to Lehman’s Dance Studio together and the Overlook kids went to the dances at the Roychester Park house. At Huntingdon Junior we had dances once a month run by Mr. Garvin and I danced all night with out stopping with whomever would dance: Donna Campton, Dori Brower and others. When we went to North Campus we had similar Friday nights run by Mr. Garvin again. I don’t remember anything like that at South Campus except dancing out of the way of getting caught doing something we should not have. But there was great dancing at Hullabaloo in Conshohocken with Dede Tolin and great dancing in Bermuda with Nancy Roberts and Mariann Quinn. At each of the reunions, after catching up with each other, it was a great part of the night, dancing was.

This reunion is different. This is the 40<sup>th</sup>. Those older and wiser than us have told me that this is the last reunion where we will get together and have fun, in some ways as “the way we were” and when life is still good and that the 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> reunions will be sparsely attended and will be a fringe benefit of life. I asked for some actuarial comments on that and was told that of the 550 +/- classmates we have information on, at the time of the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion about 55 will have passed away, another 55 will be too ill or

infirm to travel or otherwise attend and another 55 will have spouses, significant others or family that will be too ill or infirm that the classmate could not attend.

Now, like you, I tend to believe none of this. I am healthy as far as I know and have plans to stay that way. There is no contract in life; it does not come with a guarantee. My mother died when she was 58, one brother at 55 and one at 64. So, I don't know what life beyond the 40<sup>th</sup> reunion holds for me.

This could be the last dance. Just in case it is, come dance with me. I will be there and if there is any more way I can convince you that I want you there as well, I will try. But know that I do want you there. Contact Ed Mullen at [ed@edmullen.net](mailto:ed@edmullen.net) or contact me at [kevinlcorcoranod@gmail.com](mailto:kevinlcorcoranod@gmail.com) and we will make sure you have the information you need.

Sincerely

Kevin Corcoran