



THE

TATTLER

Volume 6

B-CC Class of 63

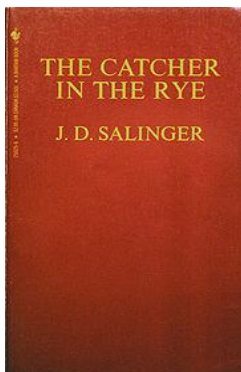
Spring 2010

You Can't Always Get What You Want

No “Catcher in the Rye” For You!



In January 28, 2010, J.D. Salinger (1919-2010), the reclusive creator of Holden Caulfield, died.



"If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born and what my lousy childhood was like, and how my parents were occupied and all before they had me... But I don't feel like going into it, if you want to know the truth."

Opening verse to “The Catcher in the Rye”
You can hear it here

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0beCbtN_Fw&NR=1

Salinger had introduced the main character, Holden, in short stories written for the New Yorker as early as 1941. He apparently had a ninety-page ‘Catcher’ novelette accepted for publication in 1945, the year most of us were born. But he withdrew it and reworked it. The novel finally came out in 1951.

There was a B-CC Connection.



Mrs. McMIndes

“Ms. Monica McMIndes (English, Drama) had written an adaptation of ‘Catcher in the Rye’ and had begun rehearsals of a B-CC school production. Ms. McMIndes then received a letter from Mr. Salinger (either directly or through his agent) informing her that he had never approved any stage adaptation of his work and that our production should be stopped immediately. It was my understanding that some parents were offended by the content of ‘Catcher in the Rye’ and did not approve of a school production.

They then informed Mr. Salinger, thus leading to a 'cease and desist' missive. Our production came to a screeching halt. It was a particular blow for me, since I had been cast as Holden Caulfield and had already learned my part. So much for my budding acting career. We switched to another play which I can't recall the name of. It didn't have quite the same mystique. I remember being incensed at the idea that a disapproving parent had derailed the production. I didn't do anything about it other than gripe to family and friends. There were no heartfelt pleas to Mr. Salinger himself.

As we know, Mr. Salinger never permitted any adaptations of *Catcher in the Rye* in his lifetime. As I also know, now, but didn't appreciate then, authors get to decide if and when rights will be granted regarding use of their works. That is how it should be. Any adaptation should have been submitted for approval. In retrospect, of course, Salinger was correct. I was just upset that a parent had undermined us.

That's my memory of what happened and what my reaction was."

Mark Chodoff, B-CC '63

Mark, a successful surgeon, is now retired, in Rochester, NY. But. Ah, what might have been. I mean Holden Caulfield. That was a role worth fighting over. He might have been the one and only Holden Caulfield because no one else has played the role in a stage or movie production. Anyway, we really did want to hear about it.

"I tried out for the part of Holden. I didn't make it. McMIndes was my English teacher. This was 11th grade. She did become famous in my family for giving me a 'D' for the year in English, something even my kids today know about. (Example of how you can overcome youthful fuck-ups. I have used it many times on them.) I even went to summer school after my junior year in an effort to correct this blemish."

Diogo Teixeira, B-CC '63

Dale Palmer Heiges



Dale Heiges died on October 22. I worked close by his apartment and Jim Tomlin called and asked me to check on his whereabouts as he hadn't been answering his phone. I went by and he wasn't at home so I called and he called right back. He was in the Hospital and on the way for some tests. I visited the next day and a few days later he was gone. We had lived together for two years 4 days a week and I was able to get him a job which he kept for a year. But he just didn't have the ability to get up every day and eventually just stopped working. The family asked me to give the Eulogy and it was the hardest thing I have done yet in life. One of the things I said was that all Dale's friends were his best friends. Anyone close to him would agree. I told Heiges stories at the service and there are so many wonderful times I could have gone on indefinitely. It was a tragic life and a tragic loss. I will miss him very much.

David Wilson, B-CC '63



Summer 2004, Three Stooges pose: Huie, Wilson, Heiges. Photo by Tomlin

Twenty Five Cent Nassau.

“It’s late spring and we’re motoring north on I-270 heading for Gettysburg, PA. As we cross the Mason-Dixon Line, Dale inhales deeply and proclaims that there’s nothing like the sweet air of Pennsylvania. I make a face, protesting that manure isn’t sweet. But he just grins. He’s off medication, feeling great, and we’re headed for a grand day of golf.

We reminisced about the fun we had at B-CC: How we stayed up all night playing cards at Key Club Conventions, argued on who threw the touchdown pass to Bobby Scott to beat Wheel Club, and how we won bragging rights by beating both clubs in touch football and basketball, thereby winning the Service Club Trophy.

Dale loved sports – passionate about golf, which was therapy. He had a loopy swing that Jim Furyk must have copied. And boy could he putt, especially in the clutch. He could remember breaks on greens, even 30 years after he last played the course. Time after time, he’d close out a hole with a pressure putt to apply the ‘dagger.’

Thanks for the memories...to you, Dale Heiges, ‘What a guy!’”

Carl Huie, Golf Bud, B-CC ‘63

"He was one of the ones I really remember well and wished I had seen over the years. I know he had been helpful with your reunion organizing and will be missed."

Don Langhorne, B-CC '63

After attending B-CC, Dale went to Gettysburg College. At Gettysburg, Dale was active in the Sigma Chi fraternity. He received a master's degree in information systems from Strayer

University. His career primarily involved systems engineering, yet his work life took him to diverse organizations including the US Navy, General Electric, TRW, Herbalife, and Geico.

Dale was a lifelong Redskins fan. He enjoyed all types of sports. He loved playing golf. He was a junior softball and basketball coach, and cheered for his children. He participated in Toastmasters and was head of the B-CC High School Class of '63 reunion committee. He is survived by two children, Kelly Theis of Reston, VA and Chad Heiges of Rockville, MD, two grandsons, Cameron and Brady Theis, a sister, Jean Coldiron of Henrico, NC, and a brother, Robert Heiges of Glen, NH.

From the St. Paul Lutheran Church Service Brochure, Oct. 28, 2009, Biglersville, PA

“I think Dale was one of those people we all remember, good friends or not. He was always a positive presence.”

Jo Bachschmid Turner, B-CC '63

"Dale and I grew up together. We were part of a group of kids that came from Rollingwood Elementary, through Leland Jr. High to B-CC. We were Cub Scouts and Little League team members together. Dale had that unique combination of athlete, IQ, and Leader. Fond memories of early days."

Chuck Isen, B-CC ‘63

"He was our best and brightest, our leader in the class. He always -- always -- had a kind, encouraging word for us."

Michael Hawfield, B-CC ‘63

"Dale and I shared a life long friendship. As we both were devoted to our high school class of 63 that gave us a shared connection. My memories of Dale are of him chairing our reunion committee these past and many reunions. He was a class act and he would always cut me

slack as I quickly lost control giggling over a comment usually made by Lanny Hunt or Jim Tomlin. Dale would show his patience and allow for the laughter to subside and then hold us all to the rules of order and business at hand. He was always kind and patient and a true gentleman with me and always saved me a dance at every reunion. I miss him very much and dedicate my work on the 50th to his spirit and love for B-CC.

Dale was privileged to have true friends In Dave Wilson, Jim Tomlin, Lanny Hunt, Paul Otto, and John Berry who intervened at the end of his life to give him some dignity before his passing. These men and others who I may have forgotten define the word, True Friendship."

Mary Walker Agnew, B-CC '63

"He was a helluva nice guy with enormous talent and an amazing mind."

Mary Pat Linnan, B-CC '63

B-CC Basketball – We Didn't Want a New Coach. But...

Since this newsletter started in the winter of 2005, we have kept our eye on the Barons Basketball team. We still watch. But things have changed. Head Coach Thompson resigned as boys' basketball coach. The move was something Thompson had considered for more than a year, and in an email, he wrote that it was his decision to step down. He is in his 30th year as a math teacher and acknowledged that retirement is approaching. Through it all, few coaches seemed to have as much fun as Thompson did courtside. He has become a friend to Bryant Agnew, Dave Wilson, Jon Berry, and Jeff Stuart. He will be missed. He remains our friend.

The Barons went 92-34 in five seasons under Thompson, and won three region titles. Twice

they advanced to the Maryland 3A final. In 2004-05, the Barons lost, 78-76, on a last-second putback in overtime, leaving B-CC one of the most heartbroken teams you'll ever see on a court. Two years later, the Barons were upset in the final by upstart River Hill led by second-team All-Met Tommy Brenton, after upsetting Powerful Largo in the Semis.

The new Coach is Damon Pigrom. In Just 7 years Pigrom built the Blake Bengal's program into one of the most successful in the state. His success at Blake was not instantaneous. The Bengals posted an 0-23 record in their first varsity season (1999-2000) with a lineup full of freshmen. But three years later, with the same core of players, Blake posted a 20-5 mark, won its first region title and advanced to the state semifinals before falling to Friendly. In 2005 they reached their first State title game but lost to Walbrook of Baltimore in the State Final. But Pigrom still calls that first postseason run the highlight of his high school coaching career. A graduate of Hampton University, he spent the last 3 years as the Assistant Head Coach while at Catholic University.

This year at B-CC was always expected to be tough with the Barons moving up to 4A. Nine seniors off last year's team graduated. And the expected cornerstone of the rebuilding effort, guard Gerome Seagears, transferred to a prep school in North Carolina.

So Pigrom arrived to find a jumble of raw materials. But with time, they could become a skyscraper. A pleasant surprise has been 6-6 junior Harry Holroyd, a pure post player who spendt strength after spending all of last season on JV.

"We do have some size; right now, it's looking like that might be what carries us," Pigrom said. "As a former big man myself, coaching up those guys hasn't been difficult at all."

Senior Greg Jules runs the show at point guard. He went head-to-head with Seagears in practice last season. Junior Langston Brown (6-2) looks to continue the Barons' recent tradition of standout wing play.

Pigrom likes to get eight to ten guys involved. He believes in team basketball. "I don't know what to expect," Pigrom said. "Let's get this thing building and building and hopefully come January and February, we're rolling." The Barons have only won 4 times so far in a trying season. But based on Pigrom's track record, the future is bright.

We Wanted JFK to Speak to Us. But...



At our commencement we had the President's Secretary of Agriculture, Orville Freeman. His daughter, Connie Freeman, after all, was in our class. And he was good.

But John F. Kennedy himself delivered the commencement address at B-CC on June 15, 1959. His remarks included this challenge. "The measure of our superiority may very well depend upon the extent to which our country utilizes and develops the talents of its students.

We want from you not the sneers of the cynics or the despair of the faint-hearted. We ask of you enlightenment, vision, illumination."

John F. Kennedy

The Family and Friends Remember Tommy Walsh



Thomas Edmund Walsh, Jr. was the second of eight children. He spent most of his school days at Westbrook ES, Western JHS, and BCCHS living in our house on the corner of Baltimore Ave. and River Rd. After high school he attended Montgomery Junior College (MJC) where he and Bob Windsor, later of the NFL, took the basketball team to a national tournament. During those two years MJC earned the number 1 rank in won/loss percentages of the 21 area teams, which included Maryland, Georgetown, American, and Navy to name a few. In 1965 he transferred to the University of Maryland but was soon drafted into the Army.

After basic training he was assigned to the Old Guard in Arlington and remained there for the rest of his tour. Duties included attending funerals, guarding LBJ, protecting firemen during the milk riot, and of course playing on the Army's basketball team. He was also part of a guard contingent scheduled to perform on the Ed Sullivan Show but they were bumped at the last minute. Although Tom wasn't crazy about his tour of duty, he was happy to serve in Arlington rather than Viet Nam.

Once out of the Army, Tom did a quick turnaround, grew a beard and long hair, and headed for the land of the hippies. After earning a BA in English at the University of California, Berkeley he moved to a remote island on Hawaii to “live off the fat of the land.” His ashes are scattered there in the ocean off one of his favorite beaches, Polihale State Park. The surf there is strong, and Tom must have been a good swimmer, or high, or both, to go out in it. He said he used to swim around an outcropping of rocks on the north side to get to a secluded area with good puka shells, which he strung into jewelry to earn a living. It was in Hawaii that he developed his love of gardening, growing vegetables, flowers, and sometimes other things. Later when living in Virginia he came up to DC whenever he could to collect lion poop from the Ringling Bros circus to keep the deer from his garden.

Eventually he moved back to the DC area and had various jobs at a post office collection station, Lusk real estate listing company, and even a brief stint driving a cab. After earning a master’s degree in teaching he substituted at various levels. As for first graders, he said the biggest accomplishment of the year was getting them to walk in a straight line down the hall. His real dream was to teach high school English and coach basketball but a long-term position at a local high school left him feeling that today’s classroom wasn’t at all like his memories of B-CC. Instead he accepted a position as a technical writer at EPCO. His job included national and international travel, which he really enjoyed. When he and his wife, Chi-sing, who he married in 1985, moved from Lovettsville, VA to Cleveland, SC, he emailed his boss that he would be telecommuting and the firm said OK!

Besides being a gifted athlete, Tom was a talented musician, writer, and poet. He played the guitar and harmonica and loved to jam with other sibs and their kids. He even taught at least

three sibs how to play music. For a time he played bluegrass in a club near his home in SC. He and his wife loved to travel to offbeat places with unpaved roads, wild animals, and few people. He was an avid reader and especially liked short stories. Tom followed the careers of many college/pro basketball players and continued to play organized and pick up games throughout his life. Tom also had a really clever sense of humor. One example was when we were talking about how high real estate prices had gone, and Tom, changing the tone of his voice as if to impart some inside information, says: you know they say the three secrets to real estate are: Location, Location, and...What was that third thing? Damn it, I can never remember that third thing...His niece, Kelly, captured his persona when she wrote about the family’s cicada reunion in June 2004:

I thought back to the last time that I saw my uncle, at a family reunion during the summer between my sophomore and junior year of high school. The animation, exhilaration and enjoyment of this gathering were enhanced by Tommy’s presence. He always brought an air of amusement into the room, and while we were all together, began a music jam in the living room, inviting other members of the family to join in. With his guitar in hand and a harmonica close by, he played wonderful, invigorating music and got the whole family to sing along.

That is how his family remembers him. He died July 25, 2005 after a three year battle with colon cancer. He is remembered by his wife, 7 siblings, 4 nephews, 2 nieces, a bunch of grand nieces and nephews, and many friends.

From Pat Hahn, Tom’s sister on behalf of the family

"Tom Walsh and I were on the B-CC basketball team together. He was a terrific B-ball player with a deadly jump shot from the 12-15 foot range. His feet were extra large for his height

(size 12 or 13?). Tom's extra large feet for his height did not interfere with his tenacity in playing Coach Foster's man-to-man defense. He was a team player all the way, doing whatever he could to help the team win when he was out on the court. Tom had a very likeable personality, easy going and low key. He was just a real classy human being. At every reunion I had hoped to see Tom but I don't remember him getting to any of them."

Bryant Agnew, B-CC '63

"It was with great sorrow that I received the message that Tom Walsh had passed away. Living almost 3,000 miles away, in the Tucson desert, I don't get the opportunity to stay up to date with everything that goes on back in my hometown. This one hurts really bad. Tommy, I never called him "Tom" was one of my oldest and dearest friends. From our days at Westbrooke Elementary School and Cub Scouts, Western Junior High, B-CC and Montgomery Junior College we were very close.

We spent many Friday and Saturday nights together along with Mike Hawfield and Steve Brant. From our days down at the 'field' playing ball (Westbrooke ES) to the days we would all "sneak" over to where Tommy was earning extra money by babysitting. We tried our very best to take it away from him playing 'high stakes poker.' They were great days. We would also sample some of his customer's finest from the liquor cabinet! But we were always careful not to wake up his clients!

From the time we were in the 4th or 5th grade, as the seasons changed and the games at the 'field' changed from football, to basketball, to softball, Tommy never left the basketball court. He was very dedicated to one sport...Basketball. As we all remember, that determination helped him become one of our school's best players.

My last memory of Tommy was sitting at the Zebra Room, drinking beer and eating pizza and talking about our college days. Tommy at UC-Berkeley and me at Ole Miss. Talk about different cultures...you couldn't get much further apart. But, the beer was cold and the pizza was greasy and my memories of Tommy will forever remain fond!"

Patrick Cavanaugh, B-CC '63

"Tom was my best friend growing up in Bethesda and one of the most important influences in my life. We went to Westbrook Elementary and Western JH together daily, and nearly so at B-CC. We played ball together (until he shot up to 6 feet and left me behind at 5' 8" – he had a great way of laughing at my pathetic jump shot) and I loved watching him get better and better at hoops, beginning with Junior High and especially at B-CC. When growing up we spent a gazillion hours walking the neighborhood, talking into the night about what was coming up for us, what we wanted, and what we were frustrated about. We watched every episode of The Untouchables in my basement rec room, especially after I got a 1930 Buick and we could go joy-riding after midnight, and we watched all the old horror movies on late Saturday night TV. He was always so easy to talk with, so open to explore all sorts of ideas and dreams. Tom taught me so much about laughter, about honesty, and about reaching for what you want and staying level even when troubled. I recall especially being so happy to learn that he would not have to go to Nam, but would serve in D.C. with the Army Honor Guard. He was one of the best men at my wedding in 1968, but the last time I saw Tom was in 1972 when he visited me where I was living and teaching in Virginia. By then, he had made his transition from the Army to longer hair and beard, which I loved, and he brought his guitar, which was terrific. Then, a huge hole in my life opened when I lost touch over all the next several decades. Now to learn he is gone,

an even bigger hole has opened in my life. I was, however, deeply happy to learn from his sister Pat that Tom was still playing B'ball up to the end. As always, he made me smile. A better best friend growing up no one could have."

Mike Hawfield, B-CC '63

Remembering Mike Geary



I thought I would share this nice photo I have of my old friend Mike Geary taken on a warm afternoon in October 1962. This was a pre-practice photo before Coach Jones was able to dirty up our uniforms. Mike and I were tossing the ball around and pretty Jennifer Harting came over and joined in. He was popular with the girls because he was quick-witted and funny, and I remember some of their words about his 'cute blonde crew-cut and lots of freckles.' Mike was a nice friend to have and we all enjoyed his company. And he was a great athlete, a natural wide receiver, incredibly fast, who could turn on a dime, and who had great hands. All you had to do was get the pigskin near him and he would grab it and take it home! Absolutely his favorite song back then was 'Run-Around-Sue,' which really put him into dance mode, an athletic

dance mode, that was very entertaining to watch! I hadn't seen him for quite a few years as I believe he spent most of his life in Florida. So as a tribute to an old friend, thank you Mike, we remember all the fun times together in those innocent days of 1962, and we miss you.

Bill Congdon, B-CC '63

The Gold Ring

All the kids kept trying to grab for the gold ring, and so was old Phoebe, and I was sort of afraid she'd fall off the goddam horse, but I didn't say anything or do anything. The thing with kids is, if they want to grab for the gold ring, you have to let them do it, and not say anything. If they fall off, they fall off, but it's bad if you say anything to them.

The Catcher in the Rye
Holden Caulfield in Chapter 25

Donna Brott

I think that Donna Brott was Miss Montgomery County in 1964. Beyond that I can't remember much. She's still beautiful and I'd love to read a story about her experiences in our newsletter!

Mary Pat Linnan, B-CC '63

"Yes I was in many pageants long ago and far away. Now, I am a shorter, plumper senior citizen, although vivacious and very active. My husband is a pastor locally and a police Chaplain. I am Chairman of our county GOP. So we are super busy and on the go. Facilitating ladies Bible studies and some get away ladies retreats has been tough but rewarding. Some day we want to attempt a marriage weekend retreat. My loving children are all grown and all boys. Three gorgeous men married and 2 of them have children (3 grandchildren), and this gives us 3 daughter-in-laws. Finally, some girls in the family. My grandchildren are 2 girls and a boy.

We have lived many places 14 or so because my husband was 21 years in the Navy.
 We are 1 1/4 hours east of Charlotte, NC.
 My sister Susan, 4 years younger is in Kensington, MD and my other sister 5 years younger is in Fincastle, VA near Roanoke and the mountains. We own 2 hamsters and a beautiful medium sized Bichon named Ivory.”

Donna Brott Wells, B-CC '63

Holden Caulfield Again

He kept saying they were too new and bourgeois. That was his favorite goddam word. He read it somewhere or heard it somewhere, Everything I had was bourgeois as hell. Even my fountain pen was bourgeois. He borrowed it off me all the time, but it was bourgeois anyway.

The Catcher in the Rye
 Holden Caulfield in Chapter 15

And Holden Again

If you had a million years to do it in, you couldn't rub out even half the 'Fuck you' signs in the world. It's impossible.

The Catcher in the Rye
 Holden Caulfield in Chapter 25

Try It – You'll Like it

If you never did, you should. These things are fun, and fun is good.

Dr. Seuss

Harrison on Africa



What I learned in Kenya last June.

Animals are either eating others or having fun, a picture story. Above: Our Maasai friends. Carlisle, top row far right next to Kate. Harrison, top row middle. Lauren, bottom row middle.

You visit Africa for not only the unique animals, but for the wonderful people, the food and the scenery!



A cheetah after suffocating an impala.



A leopard returning during the day to enjoy an impala killed during the night and carried up a tree.



Two lions enjoying a baby giraffe as mom looks on.



Lions enjoying life and creating it.



Satisfaction.

Carry on

Harrison Daniel, B-CC '63

Well I guess animals do get what they want. At least sometimes.

But If You Try Sometimes

You just might find
You get what you need

Mick Jagger, The Rolling Stones

Coming Through the Rye

You know that song, "If a body catch a body comin' through the rye"?...' It's "If a body meet a body coming through the rye"! old Phoebe said. "It's a poem. By Robert Burns."

The Catcher in the Rye


Holden Caulfield and Phoebe in Chapter 22

And "Kassai Club" Was What Exactly?

I am Tolson Allan, who was in Kassai, recently asked me that question. Would you have known? Well If you look on page 110 of the 1963 "Pine Tree" it says, "Kassai was established for the purpose of supporting a Korean War orphan adopted


through the Foster Parent's Plan in New York. Through its various projects the club raised \$180 annually which is forwarded to its ward, Kim Chang Sim. Activities include selling pom poms, sponsoring a fashion show, bake sales, and Dutch auctions." Wonder where Kim is now? Kassai means "to cheer, or to applaud" in Japanese. Don't know what it means in Korean. Anyway Pam, Mary Pat Linnan, the late Penny Loomis, Kitty Moran, Sybil Nicodemus, Holly Craig, Justine Cahn, Jackie Carson, Julie Mackie, and the late Linda Willoughby were among others raising money for that orphan.

Life and Living

 If we let things terrify us, life will not be worth living.

Lucius Annaeus Seneca – Moral Epistles
(Well actually I heard Wilson say this to Tim "The Tool Man" Taylor on an episode of Home Improvements. But Wilson was very wise.)

Diana Milton Blackman

 I met Diana at Leland (Oh, that would be just a few years ago) and we remained friends until her death at age 64. Diana was the well-groomed gal with everything always very organized. In high school she was part of a group that called themselves the Dirty Dozen. She married Joe Mansolillo whom she met at Maryland University and they had one son Christopher (my godson). They lived in the Bethesda area before moving to snow-ridden Rochester, New York. After several years there, where Diana hated Rochester more every year, they moved to San Diego. Diana became a true "California Girl". She just loved the whole California lifestyle. After twenty-some years of marriage Diana divorced and was single many years before meeting and marrying Rich Blackman. Diana had several bouts with Cancer. I have

never been around anyone that wanted to live more than Diana. How she hung on to life for so long only because of her will to live. She is missed.

Alice Austell Hovde, B-CC '63



Diana Milton - June 1963 (Photo by Bill Congdon)

"Our Class of 1963 produced many wonderful young gals and I was fortunate that two of them were my very good friends. Diana was someone I first met at Leland JHS and we were friends all through the B-CC and University of Maryland years. Below is a photo I took of her in June 1963 out in front of her house on Cedar Lane. Diana was a fun person with a sparkling personality. She was a great conversationalist and she really enjoyed social gatherings (all those high-school and college parties!). Her friend Alice Austell recalls that she was always "well-groomed" and in fact Diana acquired this characteristic largely from working at Lord & Taylor starting from when she was just sixteen. Later in life she was a real-estate agent in the posh Rancho Santa Fe area of Southern California, where her outgoing personality and her "right" clothes served her well. After her divorce in 1993, I had many enjoyable telephone conversations with Diana that allowed us to relive and laugh over all those crazy high-school days and events. Sadly she passed away last November 4th. And now unfortunately we can't call her up any more, but we will always

remember her for the nice person and the wonderful friend that she was.”

Bill Congdon, B-CC '63

Jersey Boys



Wow! What a fun show, if you remember and like the music of “The Four Seasons.” I caught it at the National Theater in DC last November. But there are a number of touring companies. I know every step is precisely choreographed. But the performance of “Oh What A Night, Late December Back in 63” looks like everybody on stage is having a huge impromptu dance party. Of course that song in particular is one our class should really relate to. Catch it if you can. Enjoy. It’s fun.

Jeff Suart, B-CC '63

We Don’t Like Change. But...

Horoscope for GEMINI (May 21-June 21) on February 9, 2010.
 “Fear of the unknown can be paralyzing for a pessimist. But an optimist can manage the unknown well, imagining that it might be more wonderful than anything that is known. That’s why you’ll be able to take a leap of faith today.”

Holiday Mathis, Washington Post

Girls

I was half in love with her by the time we sat down. That’s the thing about girls. Every time they do something pretty, even if they’re not much to look at, or even if they’re sort of stupid, you fall half in love with them, and then you never know where the hell you are. Girls. Jesus Christ. They can drive you crazy. They really can.

The Catcher in the Rye
 Holden Caulfield in Chapter 10

Tiger Thought He Got Everything He Wanted. But...

I thought I could get away with whatever I wanted to. I felt that I had worked hard my entire life deserved to enjoy all the temptations around me. I felt I was entitled. Thanks to money and fame, I didn’t have to go far to find them. I was wrong. I was foolish. I don’t get to play by different rules. The same boundaries that apply to everyone apply to me.

Tiger Woods


More “Catcher” Quotes worth Repeating

Among other things, you’ll find that you’re not the first person who was ever confused and frightened and even sickened by human behavior. You’re by no means alone on that score, you’ll be excited and stimulated to know. Many, many men have been just as troubled morally and spiritually as you are right now. Happily, some of them kept records of their troubles. You’ll learn from them - if you want to. Just as someday, if you have something to offer, someone will learn something from you. It’s a beautiful reciprocal

arrangement. And it isn't education. It's history. It's poetry.

The Catcher in the Rye
Mr. Antolini in Chapter 24

Vulnerable

 n reading postings of classmates who have died, I have felt the vulnerability of my own aging.

This past month I read of the death of one of my best friends in junior high and high school, and that vulnerability came ever nearer.

I remembered that we are vulnerable. Always. Even when we're truly strong and powerful. Even when we're not momentarily aware of our vulnerability. In the song, "I Hope You Dance," Lee Ann Womack sings, "I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean." A beautiful way of describing our vulnerability.

I remembered that if we live a long, basically healthy life, we are most obviously vulnerable as little babies and children, when we cannot take care of ourselves and have to depend on our parents (or parent substitutes) to take care of us - physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. To see who we are and to help us know who we are, grow into who we are. And we are most obviously vulnerable as seniors, when perhaps bit by bit, we can no longer take care of ourselves all by ourselves. And need others to help us physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Maybe even to see who we are and help us remember who we are, be who we are.

I remembered something crucial I learned early in my training as a psychotherapist: If you haven't worked through your dependency issues before you become aged . . . in that vulnerable state of aging, all the unresolved issues from when you were dependent as a child will come rushing forward to affect how you age. Needing help to take care of basic needs and wants;

feeling helpless and even powerless; feeling frightened, angry, hurt, happy all at different times; being and feeling vulnerable. I remembered knowing in my heart and the cells of my body that this was true ... and committing to do my own work with dependency and to help my clients do the same.

I remembered moments of vulnerability very early in my life, moments in elementary school, junior high, and high school, moments in college, my marriage, my single life after marriage. moments in my therapy room and in my personal life. I remembered moments

beginning to investigate transferring my health insurance from Blue Cross Blue Shield to Medicare. I remembered that I'm very soon going to be 65.

As we age and face the re-emergence of our dependency experiences, we have a choice. We can fight to defend ourselves against them, or we can allow ourselves to feel our vulnerability -- the vulnerability from long, long ago and the vulnerability in the present moment. We can forget who we are and collapse into the vulnerability, letting go of the strength of who we are that also still exists. Or we can allow ourselves to be both vulnerability and strength moment by moment by moment.

Again from "I Hope You Dance",

"And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance."

Judith (Footer) Barr, B-CC '63



Cliffs, Rye, and Catching

Anyway, I keep picturing all these little kids playing some game in this big field of rye and all. Thousands of little kids, and nobody's around - nobody big, I mean - except me. And I'm standing on the edge of some crazy cliff. What I have to do, I have to catch everybody if they start to go over the cliff - I mean if they're running and they don't look where they're going I have to come out from somewhere and catch them. That's all I do all day. I'd just be the catcher in the rye and all. I know it's crazy, but that's the only thing I'd really like to be.

The Catcher in the Rye
Holden Caulfield in Chapter 22

Boy, when you're dead, they really fix you up. I hope to hell when I do die somebody has sense enough to just dump me in the river or something. Anything except sticking me in a goddam cemetery. People coming and putting a bunch of flowers on your stomach on Sunday, and all that crap. Who wants flowers when you're dead? Nobody.

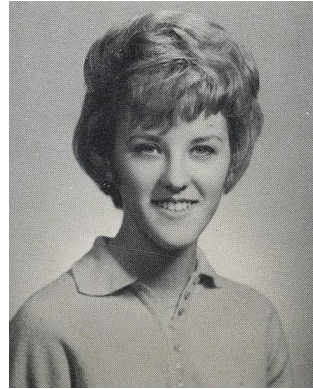
The Catcher in the Rye
Holden Caulfield in Chapter 20

On The Use of Semicolons

People will probably figure out that you went to college--you don't have to try to prove it to them.

Kurt Vonnegut to Danny Baciagulupo

John Irving's Last Night in Twisted River
Chapter 6



In Remembrance of Penelope Loomis Wells

On Friday, July 17, 2009, Penny Loomis Wells, of Potomac, MD, loving wife of Jerry Wells, beloved mother of Abigail Wells and devoted sister of Judith Loomis and Lynne Inman died. Gifts in memory of Penelope Wells may be directed to support Esophageal Cancer Research at The Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, 100 North Charles Street, Suite 234, Baltimore, MD 21201 (Please indicate in memory of Penelope Wells).

“She and I grew up together in the same neighborhood in Bethesda, Md. In fact, she and I were best friends throughout the junior high years. Many fond memories come flooding into my mind of the times we spent together: spending many, many sleep overs at her house, walking down Wisconsin Ave. in our ‘short shorts’ and waving at the boys who whistled at us, and forming a B-CC “sorority” that we called ‘The Dirty Dozen.’ I called Penny on my cellphone on the night of the last B-CC reunion that was held a few years ago and we reminisced about the good ‘ole days.”

Sharon Nichols Smith, B-CC '63

“God takes the prettiest flowers.”

David A. Snyder, B-CC '63

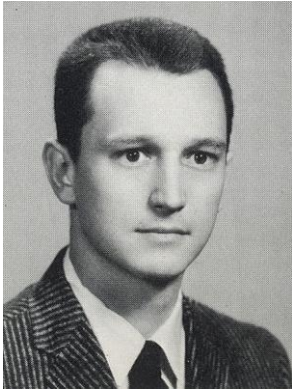
"I lived a few houses from Penny and we had a great time growing up together. I have great memories of Penny, her parents and two sisters. She was a great childhood friend."

Alice Austell Hovde, B-CC '63

"Penny was a very 'alive' person, always joking around. She had a great sense of humor and made all of her friends laugh."

Marcy Urrutia Roban, B-CC '63

Mr. Appleton - To and From Russia with Love



This is not an obituary. Mr. Appleton, Russian History teacher, is still very much with us. He now lives in Gettysburg, PA. He still teaches. I stumbled upon his name while browsing Amazon.com. He had written a favorable review for a book called "How to Survive in International Marriage" by Oksana Leslie.

On January 14, 1989, 15 students from Moscow School No. 45 arrived in the Washington area to begin a month long stay at B-CC as part of an exchange program. They spoke with President Reagan at the White House upon their arrival, and met the families they would be staying with during their month long visit here.

Approved by Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the Moscow Summit in May, 1988, the program, partly funded by the U.S.

Information Agency, brought the first 40 Soviet students to the United States, to Princeton High School in Cincinnati, Episcopal High School in Alexandria and to B-CC. Later, students from those schools visited the Soviet Union and lived with Soviet families. The schools were selected by a national panel. An important criteria was that they offer instruction in the Russian language.

In the crowded B-CC auditorium, Yuri Dubinin, Soviet ambassador to the United States, talked about "the spirit of new thinking." Secretary of State George P. Schultz told the students they have a "diplomatic mission--to learn, but also to teach." Montgomery County Council member, William E. Hannah Jr., called their arrival "a wonderful way to begin 1989."

Later, the students ate a spaghetti dinner in the school cafeteria, which was decorated with posters of the Moscow Circus; watched the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Battlin' Barons girls' team play basketball against Churchill High, and danced to a "Battle of the Bands."

School No. 45, in downtown Moscow, is known as the School of Intensive English Language. Students there, who compete to attend the school, begin their study of English in the second grade.

Mr. Appleton, though retired, played a major part in making this exchange successful.

Mr. James Biedron, a fellow teacher at B-CC recalls:

"I started teaching at B-CC in 1969 and retired in 2002. We were both teachers in the same department. He was a teacher of Russian history and then we shared the Russian history. I started doing the Imperial stuff and then he would do the Soviet stuff. I also brought Russian language into B-CC and so I taught Russian language. And then when he retired I took over Russian history and then went into the European history. And so we started the Russian exchange in 1989.

After the first couple of experiences, the money from various sources dried up. We had to do some fund raising. And we did as much as we could. And I remembered that he, being a Russophile, might be interested in going with group. And he was. He was willing to do that. And so he participated in the Russian exchange as much as anybody, acting as chaperone, teaching at the school in Moscow, and doing everything that we could have asked.

And he made it very possible for us to get a second B-CC teacher to go along each time. We paid for their airfare. But we didn't have the funds to take him. But he was willing to do it voluntarily. It was very good. He was very good.

When it started, the first year, we all went down to the White House and met Ronald Reagan. Greg Guroff was the man in the Reagan Administration who thought up the whole idea of a Russian exchange. He was a parent in Moscow. He was a State Department man. And he was able to convince a Russian school, a Soviet School, to allow his American kids to attend their school, which was unheard of. And then when he came to the United States and he came to the Washington area, he specifically sought out B-CC because we had a Russian Language program. And he presented idea of making a high school exchange program, where, for the first time, kids would live in the homes of the families in both countries. And we picked that up.

The Government, typically, dropped the whole thing after a couple of years. But we, at B-CC, kept it going and we kept in going longer than any other high school exchange in the United States. It was every year from 1989 to 2002 with one exception. Our school board would not allow us to go one year when the Iraq war began.

It was a mixture of language and history. The focus was language. But the students in the history classes expressed very great interest.

And we gave them after school lessons, trying to help them to get a basic understanding of the language. The school in Moscow was a school that focused on the English language. So, all of their students, starting in the third grade, took English. So our kids could get along great well. And the teachers, who went along each year, really spoke Russian well. So they got along. And they taught in the school in Moscow and had a great time. I don't think I ever had a negative comment about their experience from any of the teachers. And we had teachers from the English department, history department, science department, etc. The trips lasted a month, each way. That is another thing that was pretty unheard of. If you look into most high school exchanges they do it alternately. One group goes there one year and the next year the second group comes back. That is not how we did it. We did it both ways each year.

It is interesting to note, just as a sidelight, that all of my kids knew him as 'Doc' Appleton, because he got his doctorate. He didn't care one way or the other. They could call him 'Mr.' or 'Doctor.' But they just liked to call him 'Doc' Appleton.

He and I took a trip in Russia just this past year. We took a trip on the Volga River and we went back to see the people that we had become acquainted with during our previous times there. I went to visit the people who were at the school that we had the exchange with. And he stayed with some folks that he had become acquainted with. And so it continues. He is still active. He is still involved and he still likes Russian stuff. And he's doing teaching up there in Gettysburg. He has students that he works with. He does tutoring."

James Biedron, teacher, B-CC (1960-2002)

And direct from Mr. Appleton, himself:

"I retired in 1985. Jim Biedron stayed on for some time after I retired. So I just did a lot of exchange

trips with Jim and the students. I would go over there by myself too and taught at that school that we had the exchange with. Then I was over there doing some acting. I was over there with an actors group. And then last summer Jim and I went on a trip on the Volga together. So we have kept in touch and done some Russian things. Quite a few. In fact I think we were together over there four times as chaperones and that type of thing. And then when he couldn't go, I would go and be the translator and chaperone and facilitator- that type of thing. I haven't done this chronologically. I just mixed everything up. What happened was that I would go over pretty much every time the exchange went over and then I would go over by myself. I think I did that three times. Stayed for a month and taught English over there. I had gotten a lot of friends over there. So I just stayed, economically, with them. That's what I did. So I went over independently too.

The Russian History stuff came when Sputnik went up (1957). I was asked by the social studies coordinator to start a semester course. So I did that. Now let me go back to the beginning. I taught Economics, Sociology, Geography, and U.S. History, Russian History, Asian studies, and Contemporary Religion. Anytime there was something like that, except for Psychology, which I thought was a bunch of hooley, I'd say ok I'll teach it. I'm ready to go. And I did.

That's what happened to me. I had a broad and in depth experience with a number of subjects. And I had good colleagues. Very good friends: Mark Simon, Jim Biedron, Charlie Bryant, etc. Now that student exchange was a result of the Gorbachev-Reagan agreement. When that occurred, the secretary of State, George Schultz was at the school and the ambassador from the Soviet Union came. It was a big deal. How that happened was, a B-CC father, named Greg Guroff, was over in the Soviet Union and had kids over there and wanted them to go to a Soviet school. He worked this out at School 45 in Moscow. And he was the guy. He used his influence in the State Department to work on this exchange agreement. That is how it occurred. Now after the three year exchange program was over, Senator Bradley from New Jersey got a law passed through Congress extending the program for another

several years. The President signed it and so the program went on. That's how it worked. I am a bit foggy about the situation at B-CC now, whether it has a Russian program, or if it still has an exchange. I don't know."

Robert Appleton, Teacher – B-CC

"I still think of him as one of the best teachers. He made history come alive, that history was "people" not just a string of facts. His was a class that I looked FORWARD to attending. There should be more professionals just like him!"

Sharonlee Johnson Vogel, B-CC '63

"What could he have been, late 20's or early 30's in 1963? I had him for one semester for economics. Don't remember much about econ but remembered that the class was pretty laid back. I definitely enjoyed the class even though I probably got only a C or D in it. I graduated in the upper 1/2 of the lower 1/8 of our class.

David A. Snyder, B-CC '63

Ed's note. This teacher profile marks the first time that a teacher or teachers have communicated with the Class of '63 directly through our own version of "The Tattler." My gratitude to Mr. Appleton, and also to Mr. Biedron. It was a privilege transcribing their telephone remarks. And vacationing on the Volga just seems more interesting than anything I did last summer.

Conan O'Brien Didn't Get Everything He Wanted Either

All I ask of you, especially young people is one thing. Please don't be cynical," O'Brien said. "I hate cynicism -- it's my least favorite quality and it doesn't lead anywhere. Nobody in life gets exactly what they thought they were going to get. But if you work really hard and you're kind,

amazing things will happen. I'm telling you,
amazing things will happen.

Conan O'brien - On leaving The Tonight Show

We Didn't Want All This Snow Either. But...

A thirty inch snow Storm in February, another big storm just 2 days later, and a record 17 inch December storm right before the Holidays giving us a rare white Christmas. There were other storms as well. What a winter! As of the Feb. 9 snowfall, D.C. had the 2nd highest snowfall of Any U.S. city this season. We had 63.5 inches. Only Syracuse, NY, with 73.7 had more. And we were closing in them. **Are you SURE no two snowflakes are identical?**

"No White Fluffy Stuff in Sunny Florida ... got the fans on ... LOL. Retirement is good."

Mary Colville Griffith, B-CC '63

"Well c'mon down! Jeff, I'm freezing here too and it's only in the 60-70's! But I think tonight will be cold again. Just bring the hot chocolate."

Marcy Roban, B-CC '63

"Remember Harden and Weaver on WMAL telling us "Montgomery County Schools are closed. Shouldn't mean anything to us now but those were magic words."

Jeff Stuart, B-CC '63

Hello from Jean Shelton Jaffray in Paris

Riving in Paris, France since 1968, it's nonetheless a pleasure to somehow be in contact--no matter how frustrating and vague this

still is--with my teenage years thru B-CC Class of 63 on Facebook. The only good friends I rmb from that time are Justine Cahn, Chris Opal and Geraldine Sell. I distinctly rmb liking, and having regard for, Jennifer Leaning, with whom I ended up in a couple of English classes.

I am today a qualified psychoanalyst, with a flourishing practice I thoroughly enjoy. I spoke at a psychanalytic congress in Milano last year. Though the clinical paper I presented didn't take the congress by storm, I was still pretty proud to be invited to speak at a (small) international conference! I love my life in Paris, am bilingual, and most of my friends are therefore French. My husband of 37 years died just a year ago of cancer. We have 2 grown sons, and no grandchildren as yet. Jazz, opera, the visual arts, and travel are all important in my life. My interests are many, mostly cultural.

Although I also love the beach and my little house in the South of France, and like NOTHING better than getting together with friends---and laughing! In fact, my definition of happiness is:

*BREAKFAST IN THE SUNSHINE WITH
PEOPLE YOU LOVE*

This is the best I can do--I know it sounds more like someone trying to meet someone on one of those online dating things, but I don't exactly know what you want for your newsletter. If you don't put my maiden name, no one will have a clue who this expatriate B-CC alum is.

Jean Shelton Jaffray, B-CC '63

Calendar Girl

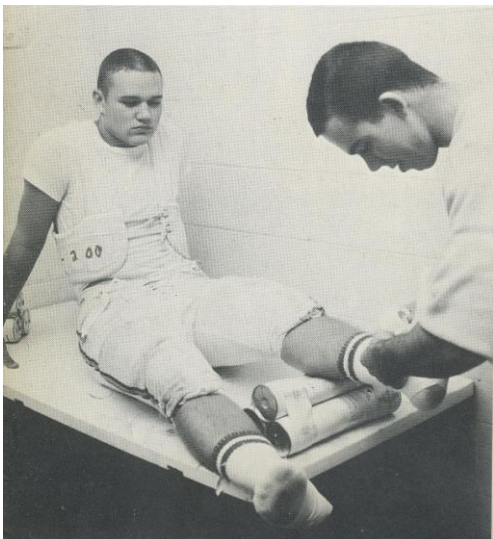


Justine Cahn after midnight. "Even though the photographer came up with a contrived situation, it was very close to the truth. I have never liked deadlines. I find them constricting. That's how I got my name just-in-time mime. I might seem to be running late but I always get there just in time"

Justine Cahn Fenu, B-CC '63

Team Effort

Trainer Corbly McNay prepares Joe Craigen for the football game



School Spirit

Coordination is important in baton twirling, as Joan Sampson (Cupic) demonstrates



Please Keep in Touch!

The only official school affiliated website for B-CC HS Alumni is www.bccedfoundation.org/alumni

Newsletters and information about our class will be posted there periodically. If you move or change your email please contact them at alums@bccedfoundation.org.

Contact your reunion committee: Jim Tomlin, jcatsdt12@verizon.net, Lanny Hunt, lanny0706@netscape.net, Sharonlee Johnson Vogel, sharonleevogel@gmail.com, Jeff Stuart, sark10@juno.com, or Mary Lou Ricker Mall, mallmary@comcast.net

Our class data base is extensive. Respecting privacy, there will be no web posting of this info.

Information about individuals willing to share is available upon request.

Check out the new B-CC High School Class of 63 Facebook page. We have quite a few members.

It Takes a Village

Special thanks to Mary Pat Linnan for her story suggestions and encouragement. She really helped to jump start this edition of the Tattler- Class of '63. Thanks to Dr Mark Chodoff (aka Holden Caufield), and Diogo Teixeira for the 'Catcher in The Rye' story. To Dave Wilson, Carl Huie, Mary Agnew and others for their tributes to Dale. And to Carl again for the golf pictures in Tattler Extra. To Alice Austell Hovde for her tribute to Diana Milton Blackman. To Bill Congdon for his great tributes to Diana and to Mike Geary and for photos of both Diana and Mike. To Harrison Daniel and Donna Brott for their contributions. To Pat Hahn, Tom's sister, and Bryant Agnew and Pat Cavanaugh for the tribute to Tommy Walsh. And to Joan Palmer for lending me her photo of Western's 8th Grade Basketball team. To Alice Austell Hovde (again), Sharon Nichols Smith, Marcy Urrutia Roban, and David Snyder for remembering Penny Loomis and Mr. Appleton. To Mr. Appleton, himself, for his contribution and for speaking to us after all these years. And to Mr. James Biedron, for his insight into Mr. Appleton, and the Russian exchange. To Judy Footer Barr for 'Vulnerable.' To Sharonlee Johnson Vogel for her tribute to Mr. A. To Jean Shelton Jaffray for taking the time to reconnect with us in this way. And to Lanny Hunt for his advice and support.

“Til Next Time

Take good care of yourselves and each other.



To those fantastic classmates who have made contributions already for the 50th reunion – Thank You!

Say Goodnight Gracie

May all of you find – sometime - that you get what you need.