

CLASS NOTES

Maine West News and Events for and of the Great Class of 1968

NOVEMBER 2022

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The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty. ~ Winston Churchill

FROM THE EDITOR



As I sit here in my home office looking out the window, I see a cloudy day. The very kind of day that one who has lived in the Midwest for a long period of time would expect on a fall day. Most of the leaves have fallen and almost all of those have been raked, bagged, and picked up. One more round of raking might get it all done; the kicker comes when that first snowfall occurs, then the leaves must survive the Illinois winter.

The High School football playoffs are well underway. Our beloved Maine West Warriors made it to the playoffs once again, however, as fate would have it, they were eliminated in the 1st Round. It is never easy to make the playoffs and even more challenging to progress through them to the state championship. Congratulations to this year's Warrior team for performing well enough to have at least one more game this year.

Speaking of our beloved high school, visit our social media sites listed in this edition of Class Notes (page 5). You will see two very cool videos that show the renovations that have been completed at the school. Remember the Pit? The male classmates will remember it as a dark and dingy indoor track with locker rooms on the periphery. The female classmates will remember that part of the building that was off-limits to girls. Well, as part of the renovation project, the Pit has been eliminated and is now dubbed as part of the Commons Area. The old Pit is now the Lower Level of the Commons and the old cafeteria is now known as the Upper Level of the Commons. Check the videos out, you will not believe how different the place looks.

In past editions of the Class Notes, the theme was always based on a particular year. For many editions, I chose to focus on one of the four years in which we attended. A new trend was started in the last edition; 1978 was the chosen theme. It is easy to figure out that 1978 represented our Ten-Year anniversary of having graduated from Maine West. I figure that now that we've all grown up and well advanced in our adult years, this is a trend that I will continue into future editions. Having said that, the theme of this edition is 1983. This chosen year represents our fifteen-year anniversary.

I write this column on the day after Veteran's Day. Speaking on behalf of the Class Notes staff, I want to say a hearty "Thank You for your service" to those who answered our country's call and served in the various military branches. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I may have mentioned this before but it bears repeating: I am a volunteer for Honor Flight Chicago. We just wrapped up our season of flights to Washington D. C. for Veterans that have applied for and have been chosen to be served by Honor Flight Chicago. I was asked to serve as a Guardian for one of my buddies. I got to fly and spend the day in Washington D. C. with the veterans. The send-off and the reception for the Veterans upon landing in Chicago is amazingly stirring. The Honor Flights will resume next spring.

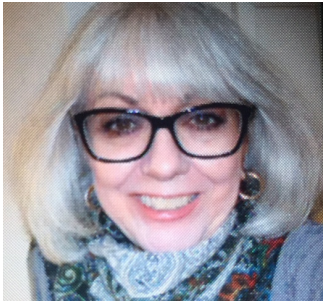
Thanks to Elizabeth Dent Wyse for her incredible artistic talents in graphically designing the layout so she can make these words turn into memorable images. Also thank Susan Calabrese Demerit for her contribution through "Susan's Musans." Carolyn Shayman Wissmiller has opted to take some time off from her quarterly contributions. Thanks, Carolyn for the past contributions.

Keep in touch,

JC



THANK you!



Susan's Musans

... Thoughts and Memories from Susan Calabrese DeMerit



1983 "Where Are You Now?" as 15 years have flown by in a flash! Without rehashing the last 15 years, 1983 was almost as memorable...well, kind of.

We were now living in Eugene, Oregon after years of living in the gorgeous Bay Area of San Francisco. The pace here is SO much slower, people are very laidback and casual. I get strange looks and comments from neighbors when I dress up to go grocery shopping. That's just me. I'm not into the Birkenstocks and t-shirts and never will be. That seems to be the dress code but this is a huge college town.

I now have a beautiful daughter and life has taken a new turn to motherhood, which I love. However, she loves preschool so to keep busy, I go back to work. Doesn't seem like work, though I'm selected as a Pepsi Challenge Girl. You may recall the campaign. We have Pepsi and Coke hidden behind a partition on a table. We pour a bit of Pepsi into one cup, and Coke into the other. I give them to a willing participant, they tell me which one they like better.



It was great fun seeing their expressions when they swear they picked Coke and it was Pepsi! Happened more often than you'd imagine. You could find me at grocery stores, special events, and the big County Fair. It was a fast-paced day and met a ton of interesting people, and yes, most of them were in t-shirts and wearing Birkenstocks. I wasn't one of them.

Cheers!
SusanC.

1983 Top 10

1. Every Breath You Take – The Police
2. Billie Jean – Michael Jackson
3. Flashdance: What A Feeling – Irene Cara
4. Down Under – Men at Work
5. Beat It – Michael Jackson
6. Total Eclipse of the Heart – Bonnie Tyler
7. Maneater – Hall & Oates
8. Baby Come to Me – Patti Austin and James Ingram
9. Maniac – Michael Sembello
10. Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This) – The Eurythmics



1983 Fall Historical Events

November

- 2 – President Reagan signs a bill establishing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 3 – Jesse Jackson launches his 1st campaign for presidency
- 3 – Nashville Network begins on Cable TV
- 7 – Bomb explodes in U.S. Capitol causing heavy damage but no injuries
- 10 – Federal Government shutdown
- 11 – President Reagan became 1st U.S. President to address Japan's legislature
- 28 – 9th Space Shuttle Mission Columbia 6 is launched
- 30 – Radio Shack announces Tandy Model 2000 computer (80186 chip)

December

- 11 – 1st visit to Lutheran Church by a pope (Pope John Paul II in Rome)
- 12 – A truck bomb explodes at U. S. Embassy in Kuwait



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referenced on our website.*



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