

Welcome to this, the sixth newsletter of the Jericho High School class of 1972.

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ALUMNI UPDATES

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Thanks to this issue's correspondents and to Web-macher Freda Salatino. We hope that you will contribute news about you and yours to future issues.

"Lies! Lies! All of It, Lies!"

JHS Class of 1972 Thirderly On-Line Newsletter

Official Propaganda Tool of Jericho High School's Class of '72

Our Communal 50th Birthday Party Is Almost Here!

The JHS class of '72's communal birthday party on Saturday, July 17, 2004, is fast approaching. The day, which promises to be both fun and funny, shapes up like this:

• **12 noon to 2 PM:** cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and oyster bar on the outdoor deck at Steve's Pier One restaurant in Bayville, L.I. Great music,

all programmed by you, encompassing the fifty years of rock & roll. Have your picture taken at the photo booth or pose with Archie, Jughead, et al.

• **2 PM to 5 PM:** buffet dinner and dancing, and ... karaoke? Depends on how much you've imbibed. You'll

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Bigger than Woodstock, Bigger than J. Lo's seventeenth wedding, bigger than Cher's recent 100th birthday celebration!

Rachel Glickman • Luise Halberstadt • Elise Goldstein



Grace Under Pressure: Three Class Acts Talk About Coping With Cancer

Rachel Glickman, Luise Halberstadt Linder, and Elise Goldstein Breall LaPaix were all at our thirty-year reunion — Elise having come all the way from San Francisco. They looked great; pictures of health.

Within the next year and a half, all would be diagnosed with cancer: Elise, with invasive breast cancer; Luise with noninvasive ductal carcinoma in situ

(DCIS) of the breast; and Rachel, with endometrial cancer, or cancer of the lining of the uterus.

Fortunately, in each case the cancer was caught early, during either a screening exam or a routine medical procedure. All three women are determined to become active participants in their cancer care, which probably

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BOLDFACE

Nooz About Yooz

Six Degrees of Separation, JHS Division

*Premise: a recurring feature in which class members tell us about running into fellow JHS '72 grads — hopefully not with their car — in the most unexpected of places. Here **Patty Ryon Spiers** of Palm Bay, Florida, reports about a recent ooo-wheee-ooo encounter with fellow Floridian **Jane Altvater Duda**:*



"You're not gonna believe what transpired this evening. I was in the card aisle at Publix, and I heard some one say, 'Patty?' I turned and saw a woman and said, 'Jane?' Unbelievable! It was Jane Altvater Duda, whom I hadn't seen in thirty-two years.

"We had talked the night before for about fifteen minutes and said let's get together, then poof! There we both were at Publix. Jane recognized me from the picture on the class Web site. We had a nice visit in the card aisle."

A few weeks later, Patty, husband **Stephen Spiers**, and Jane got together for dinner and drinks with **Monica Wood Izzo**, who also lives nearby. "It was great seeing Patty, Steve, and Monica again," says Jane, who recently moved farther south to Fort Myers, Florida. "We had a wonderful time."

Adds Monica: "I am very pleased to say that Patty and Steve are very happy. It really does one's heart good to see and hear a story with such a happy beginning/ending!"

Everyone got together two weeks later for dinner at Jane's house, which is where the photo at left was snapped.

*Left to right, Jane's husband, **Edward Duda**; **Jane Altvater Duda**; **Monica Wood Izzo**; and **Stephen and Patty (Ryon) Spiers**.*

Laurie Farber Honored by *Newsday*

In April, the Long Island newspaper *Newsday* named the class of '72's **Laurie Farber** (right) an "Everyday Hero" for having cofounded the Starflower Experiences program for kids. Starflower is a hands-on learning experience intended to excite children about the natural world. Laurie, who lives in Jericho, has a

degree in environmental education from Montclair State University. In addition to her work with Starflower Experiences, she serves as the conservation chair for the Long Island Group of the Sierra Club. She's also worked with the Suffolk County legislature on a number of local issues.

The 50th Birthday Watch

Birthday wishes go out to:

Mark Russo, November 24, 1953
Jimmy Rudy, February 1
Elise Goldstein LaPaix, February 3
Cheryl Goldenberg Kristal, Mar. 10
Richard Siegel, April 1
Luise Halberstadt Linder, May 16
Beverly Weissman Cogan, May 19
Cindy Rosenthal, May 30
Jill Thierman Parrott, June 17
Susan Lubow VanderDoes, June 25
Jeffrey Parker, July 4
Tom Jendrzewski, July 6
Elaine Katz Burack, July 6
Debi McLaughlin Cioneck, July 10
Michael Esposito, July 11
Wendy Foxmyn, July 11
Richard Libes, July 11
Larry Licht, July 11
Jill Gruber, July 12
Mark Whitehill, July 15
Alan Lovler, July 18
Andy Iskoe, July 29
Stephen Spiers, August 10
Debbi Nathel Kazan, August 22
Paul Gress, September 3
Lori Berman Mann, September 8
Patty Ryon Spiers, September 13

* thru 9-30-04

Congratulations! Report back to us what it was like to turn fifty, will ya? The brilliant white lights, the voices of loved ones welcoming you over to the other side, etc., etc.



Elise, Luise, Rachel

Continued from page 1

comes as little surprise to anyone who knows them. They read extensively about their illness and sought out expert cancer physicians.

Major illness is something that will touch all of our lives, if it hasn't already, whether we're the patient or it's someone we love. We're grateful to Elise, Luise, and Rachel for sharing their experiences in a three-way conversation in the hopes that it might help other members of the class. The lessons they've learned aren't exclusive to cancer but are universal to any serious ailment.

Elise, a longtime museum curator and the mother of two teenage daughters, had completed an intensive course of chemotherapy and radiation treatment only several weeks before.

Luise, who lives with her husband of nearly twenty-eight years, **Jeff Linder** (JHS, 1970), in Great Neck, L.I., has a son in college and a teenage daughter at home. She's been in private practice as a learning disabilities and reading specialist for nearly thirty years. Presently she works at a private school as curriculum and reading coordinator.

Rachel lives in Manhattan but visits Jericho regularly, as her parents still live in West Birchwood. She is vice president of sales development and marketing for Time-Warner.

Taking Charge. Learning Your Options

Elise: Prior to my diagnosis, I was going through a difficult and acrimonious divorce, and my priorities shifted very quickly. I felt that I'd

been thrust into a "survival mode" of living in order to preserve essential aspects of my daughters' and my lives. And it's funny, because as I was going through this difficult period of adapting to single parenthood, planning my older daughter's Bat Mitzvah, getting divorced, being laid off from my job after seven years at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and dealing with three car accidents — none of which was my fault — I kept thinking, *Isn't this amazing? I've sustained tremendous psychological and physical injury, but I'm not getting sick! Isn't it amazing how resilient my body is? I have to be strong for these girls, I have to be strong for myself, and I'm just not going to allow myself to give in and get sick!* And guess what? I was getting sick. I just didn't know it.

But I have an excellent prognosis because my breast cancer was caught very early in an annual mammogram. And the difficult times I'd lived through during the prior two years had, in fact, changed me. I was transformed into a stronger, more present woman, better equipped to deal emotionally with my diagnosis, surgery, and subsequent treatments.

Rachel: I was diagnosed after a fairly routine exam and D&C. Also at an early stage.

Elise: I don't think people can be told often enough how important it is to go for whatever cancer screening test is appropriate for them, especially now that we're all turning fifty. Even if you jog twenty-five miles a week and you think you're in great shape. I mean, I'd never

had surgery before. Or drugs — I gave birth to two daughters without a drop of medication.

You know, every day I meet women who avoid taking that one essential, relatively small action of having their yearly mammogram. If reading about my situation inspires even one woman to get her mammogram after she has put it off for two, three years — or maybe she's avoided it altogether — then I've helped someone else. And now we all need to put those bone density scans and colonoscopy appointments on our calendars!

Rachel: I think we reach a point in



our lives where we have to re-examine our choice of doctors. Because I could have gone to a gynecologist who may or may not have found the cancer. But a friend suggested I see this gynecologic oncologist. She felt that whatever it was, he would be the best equipped to diagnose it, and she was right.

It made me rethink all of my doctors. You get to an age where a general practitioner is not necessarily what you need to maintain your health. This guy was trained to look beyond the norm. I got lucky.

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Elise, Luise, Rachel

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Elise: Most of the women that I've met who are also going through some kind of cancer treatment have taken a very active role in understanding what their options are and what kind of treatments they can get, so their decisions are coming from a place of education and confidence. You've got to believe that the treatment and drugs your doctors advise — and the hell you are electing to go through — will put you back on the road to health.

There are so many different types of cancer. Even just within the disease labeled "breast cancer," prior to my diagnosis I had no sense of how many different variables went into determining the scope of "cancer disease" and what factors influenced treatment options. You really have to be proactive in case anything happens to you, your parents, children, or friends.

And when you face a catastrophic illness yourself, if you are really fortunate, your family and friends step up to support you. When I learned of my diagnosis, one of my closest friends committed to accompany me to every doctor's consultation. Her involvement was extraordinarily helpful. She was able to focus and hear things that the various doctors were advising me better than I was equipped to, because I was initially too upset to ingest everything that was being said. We reviewed the substance of the meetings afterward, which was helpful and comforting.

Luise: I know that for me, gathering information is just the way that I deal with stuff, whether it's in my career or my personal life. Information is power.

Elise: Initially, when I had my breast surgery, I was being seen at a private hospital, where my daughters had been born. That's where most of my doctors were affiliated.

The tumor was minute — described to me by my surgeon as the



size of a lentil! When she called me following surgery, she reported it was so small that she had trouble finding it after it had been removed. Initially, it looked as though the cancer had not spread to my lymph nodes. However, four days later I received word that subsequent lab tests revealed that the lymph node presented evidence of malignancy, albeit minor.

Armed with those results, a week or so later I went to an oncologist affiliated with that hospital to discuss what my next step should be. She was a slightly older doctor, and her recommendations were for a relatively modest course of treatment. She didn't recommend further surgery.

But then I went to get a second opinion at the University of California at San Francisco Medical Center, which is one the best cancer facilities in the country. I was referred to another female oncologist by my internist and a parent of one of my younger daughter's friends. It turns out that this doctor's daughter

attends the same school. This woman reviewed my case and argued for a much more aggressive treatment path. With my permission, she brought the biopsy slides of my tumor and sentinel lymph node before the cancer-treatment tumor board. Because some malignant cells appeared to have crossed beyond the lymph node, they suggested I have a second surgery to remove additional lymph nodes under my arm to determine whether or not the cancer had spread further.

I elected to follow their recommendation and had a second surgery. And whereas the first oncologist who met with me had recommended four sessions of chemotherapy three weeks apart, the people at the teaching hospital were saying *eight* sessions of chemo *two* weeks apart. A very different course of treatment.

I ended up going with a more rigorous treatment because I was determined that I would undertake anything that would increase my odds of not having a recurrence. I figured I'd been through this personally difficult time. And I was just ready to do whatever it took to get my health back and then get back to the business of rebuilding the rest of my life.

Rachel: I had read a couple of books about cancer treatment, and they talk about finding the best hospital in your area. When you look for health care in situations like this, you don't always go to the hospital you're comfortable with, or even the hospital in your area that's known as a "cancer center." Because whereas Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center might be very good at one type of cancer, there are

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Elise, Luise, Rachel

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other hospitals that might have more experience with other types of cancer. So you need to really look at the cancer *programs*, not just the institution, and the doctors that are there. As for me, I was treated at Mount Sinai Medical Center.

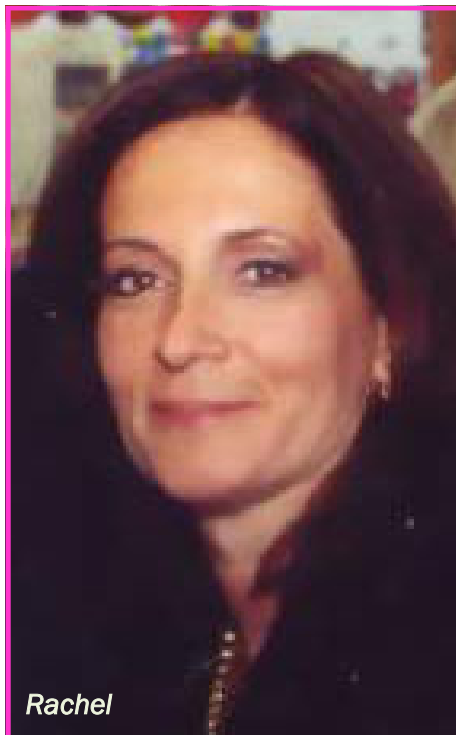
Luise: I took my mammogram films to three different people for second opinions. Yeah, you don't mess around with this, especially with all the diagnostic tools that are out there now. I was lucky: Not all breast cancers are picked up while they're still noninvasive. I had a lumpectomy, then radiation. I didn't need chemo, thankfully. I feel great and continue a diligent checkup every six months. It's now been about eighteen months.

Unfortunately, the rest of 2002 and 2003 were disastrous. Just eight days after my surgery, my parents were hit by a car as pedestrians while walking through a parking lot in a medical complex (of all places). They were both hospitalized for four months, then went through rehabilitation for another two months.

I have one brother, who is very, very dysfunctional, so I really needed to be there for my parents. I flew down immediately, getting to the hospital at midnight. They had to escort me up through the ER, and as I got there, both of my parents, amazingly, were coherent. They had just each come out of surgery. And the entire floor was like, "You're the *dawter* from New Yawk with breast cancer! Oh my Gawd!" They were freaking out. But I was like, *How could I not be here?* After visiting with my parents, I got into their house in the middle of the night. At first I just stood there,

thinking, *They're never, ever going to come to this house again.* I played their phone answering machine, and there were about fifteen messages from all of their friends.

"We're calling, Shirley, to find out how your daughter is." Everything was about "your daughter." It was just a surreal time, like who was taking care of whom?



Rachel

Finding Unbelievable Reserves of Strength

Luise: So my cancer took second stage to this catastrophe. I commuted to Florida on many week-ends after a Monday-through-Friday regimen of morning radiation treatments. And yet I felt very energized, almost. Only at the end of radiation did I get tired out. And I'm not sure if it was that or doing everything else as well.

I don't know where I got the reserves of energy. I guess you really do what you have to do. I sort of went on autopilot and took care of what needed to be done, putting

one foot in front of the other. It's only now, a year and a half later, that I'm just able to process everything that went on.

Elise: Many of us are in this most moment of being adults and parents of teens, but also of caring for our parents! So even though you're sick, you want to spare your family some of your personal anguish. I knew that my diagnosis was just going to be so incredibly painful for my daughters and my parents and sister.

Rachel: I know. When I got diagnosed, my parents were celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary, and they were supposed to leave for Israel the following week. I told one of my sisters, "I'm not telling them until they come back." I didn't want to spoil their trip; I wanted them to go. I was just going to let them get on the plane and tell them nothing. It took both of my sisters to hold me down, literally, and force me to call my mother and tell her.

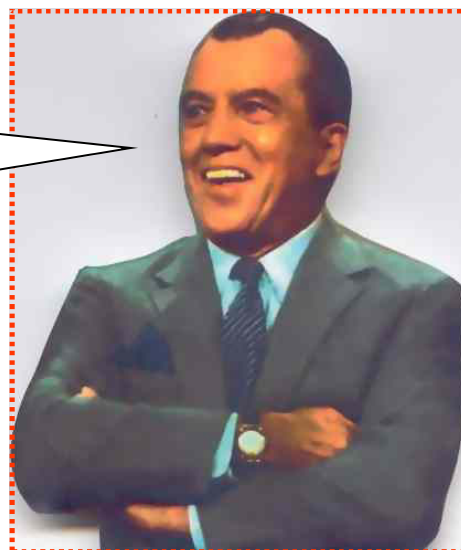
Elise: I think that for anyone who is faced with cancer or any serious illness or loss, one's attitude and belief in yourself are tremendous sources of empowerment. Not to say that your outlook can determine your survival, but I think it is an essential factor. It can influence the outcome of your recovery.

Rachel: I will tell you that I only told a couple of friends before I went in to the hospital. I wanted to wait until the final diagnosis was in to go public, so to speak. One woman, Anne DeMarzo, and I could not be more opposite ideologically. She said she knew I'd be fine. I responded that I didn't want to give it a *kinahora* (don't know how to spell that).

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"... AND NOW, FOR THE YOUNGSTERS ..."

What are some class of 1972 progeny up to? Find out right here ... on our page ...



Jessica and Leanna (Wertheimer) Katz



Mindy Wertheimer writes from Georgia: Jessica, nineteen years old, just completed her freshman year at the University of Georgia. She enjoys tennis, traveling, and shopping. Also a TV addict. She will be working as a counselor in tennis camp this summer. Jessica loves to visit New York (the city, not Long Island) and Israel. This past year she took her third trip there. She is fluent in Hebrew.

Leanna, sixteen, will be a rising junior in the fall. She is very outgoing, plays tennis on her high school team, and loves to shop 24/7. Hopefully she will have a job, or two, this summer to support her "hobby." She loves New York and has already informed us that after college she is moving to the city — even though she cannot tolerate cold weather. She is fluent in French and Hebrew. ■

Lauren Rudy and James Rudy, Jr.

Jimmy Rudy writes from New Jersey: My daughter Lauren graduated from the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Connecticut, with a double major in communication arts and psychology. Mary and I are very proud of her. She worked hard to finish in four years — and fought with a lot of people during the course-registration process every semester to ensure they did not lock her out of classes that she needed to take to avoid defaulting into the five-year zone.

In other family news, my son (yup, you guessed it, I burdened him without remorse with the roll-off-your-tongue moniker James Francis Xavier Rudy, Jr.) finished his sophomore year at Georgetown's McDonough School of Business, in Washington, DC. He is a finance and accounting double major (doesn't anyone have just a minor anymore?). To the credit of his mother, he is a very kind and considerate young man. ■

And Now, For the Youngsters

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Josh (Marder) Mirman

Josh Mirman, son of Eileen Marder-Mirman, is entering his junior year at the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan. Four years ago he began an on-line comic, "Stubble," which chronicles the exploits of Clint Wilson, "the pale-skinned, purple-haired angst boy," and an ever-evolving cast of friends, crushes, and, unfortunately, roommates.

When the strip started, Clint was a junior in high school, as was Josh, in Rockville Centre, L.I. And as Josh has gone on to college and begun living on his own, so has the "Stubble" gang. Dramas in the



At right: Josh the cartoon character

school cafeteria, girl problems, petty bickering between friends, hyper self-consciousness -- all the trials and tribulations of growing up are here. It's like a cartoon version of

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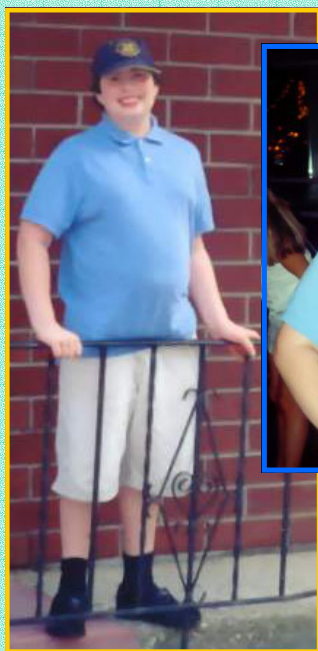
Justin Bashe

Philip Bashe writes from L.I.: Our son, Justin, received an award from Lawrence Elementary School No. 1, where this year he attended a special program specifically for children with Asperger's syndrome, an autistic spectrum disorder. The award was for outstanding leadership and for helping

other kids resolve conflicts. AS is classified as a developmental disability, but that doesn't tell you much about it. Very briefly (and overly simplistically), it might be described as a neurological psychosocial disorder in which sounds are often too loud, other people's movements occur too fast — in a way, sensory over-

load. Many kids like Justin also have poor fine-motor skills, difficulty recognizing people's faces, reading facial expressions and social cues, etc. But these skills, which come naturally to most of us, can be learned.

Thanks to great teachers, appropriate medication, and various therapies, our son has been doing beautifully socially. If anything, these days his biggest hurdles are his multiple learning disorders, including profound dyslexia, but sixth grade saw him progress academically too. In September the program he's in continues at the Lawrence Middle School. My wife and I couldn't possibly be any prouder! In related news, in July Patty becomes executive director of the David Center, a nonprofit support organization on L.I. for people with AS and their families. ■

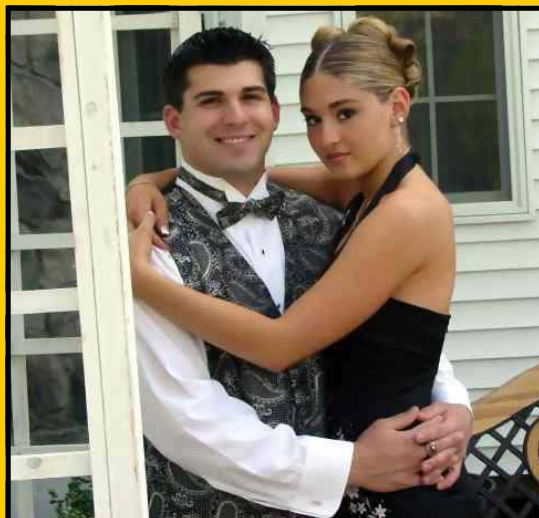


Fast learner: Justin, 12, attends his first school dance and swiftly lands 19-year-old über-babe. Actually, she's one of the DJs and dancers hired to entertain the graduates.

And Now, For the Youngshters

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Nicolette (Bunin) Huss



Karan Bunin Huss writes from New York: Our daughter Nicolette graduated high school this June. She will be attending the Conservatory of Music at Purchase this fall. Her primary instrument is clarinet, but she plays eleven others! Here she is going to her senior prom with her love, Adam. ■

Aimee (Siegel) Dolan



Melanie Siegel Dolan writes from Florida:

Our daughter Aimee (pictured here with older sister Marci) became a Bat Mitzvah over the Memorial Day weekend. It was beautiful -- everything! Some of my out-of-towners had such a good time, they stayed in Daytona for two extra days. Rabbi Herbert Rose, my former rabbi from Temple Or-Elohim in Jericho, was there with his wife, Esther. There were three dueling tables full of folks from Plainview, the South Shore, and Suffolk County seeking dance floor supremacy. The North Shore won, of course. ■

They Once Were Lost, But Now They're Found!

Remember that you can locate more than 300 class members through the class directory on our Web site, at <http://www.jhs1972.org>.

FOUND

Elaine Katz Burack

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NEW ADDRESS (or new to us)

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Tracking Down the Class of '72

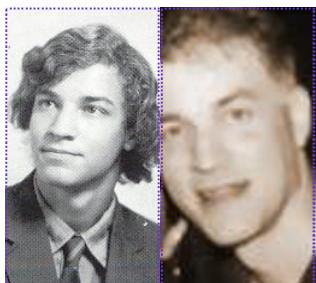
We've found all members of the class of 1972 except for these eighteen folks. If you have any ideas where they or their family members might be, please let us know ASAP.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Borgess, Georgene | 10. Mari, Bea |
| 2. Cole, Grainger | 11. Meadow, David |
| 3. Cucco, Juliet | 12. Rorer, James |
| 4. Esposito, Joseph | 13. Saydan, Ayda |
| 5. Fairfield, Olivia | 14. Siegel, Laurie |
| 6. Gross, Steven | 15. Simpson, Barbara |
| 7. Haas, Randy | 16. Snow, Emma |
| 8. Hartley, Billy | 17. Turetsky, Sam |
| 9. Lubitz, Judy | 18. Wright, Philip |

• GALLERY •

A place for displaying your creativity and adding a little culture (or “*kul-chah*,” as they say on Long Island) to this here rag

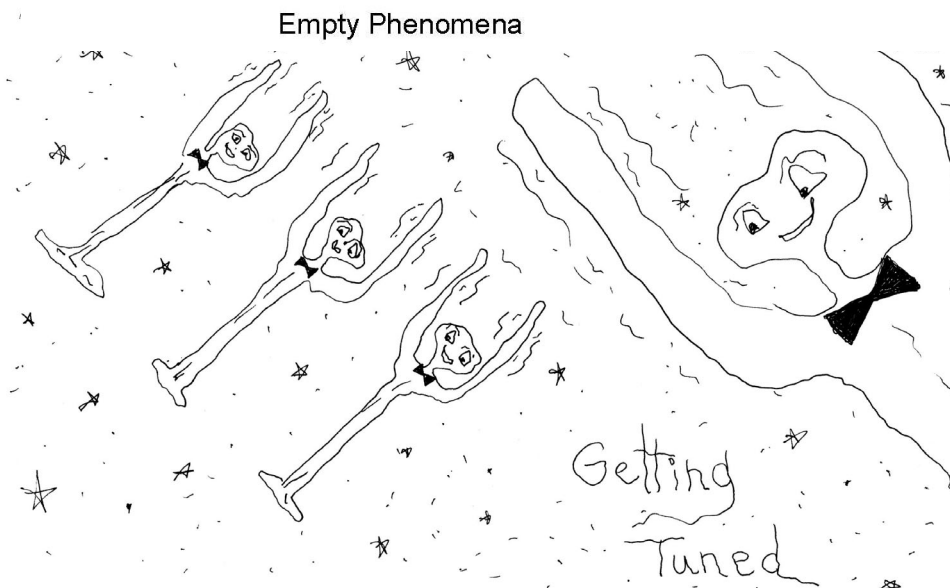
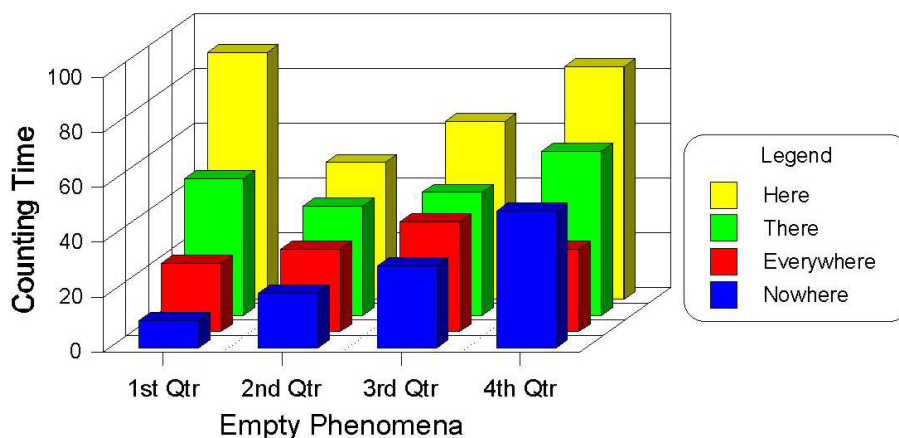
Selected
Cartoons
by Dan
Clurman



“I have been a coach and educator for the last 20 years, delivering training and classes in non-profits, universities, and corporations. I assist professionals, business people, couples, and students to more skillfully navigate life transitions, as well as improve their communication and presentations. I also have a small practice as a Feldenkrais® practitioner, a movement-based form of education.

“I’ve cowritten a few books, *Money Disagreements: How to Talk About Them* and *Conversations With Critical Thinkers*, as well as a book of poems and drawings, *Floating Upstream*. The book these toons are part of will be published in a few months.”

Ceaseless Meaningless Activity In All The Worlds



To purchase *Floating Upstream*, send \$15 (plus \$2 postage) made out to Dan Clurman, 396 61st Street, Oakland, CA 94618. For *Money Disagreements*, send \$10 to the same address. For more information, visit Dan's cartoon Web site at www.insightoons.com.

Elise, Luise, Rachel

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She was so exasperated with me. "What is it with you Jewish people? Put a little positive energy out there!" That was like a slap in the face. But she was right.

The Importance of Community

Elise: The big thing that I really want to focus on is the importance of friendship and community. So many people have come to support me, , both from my home in California and from Jericho, going back to when I separated from my husband in 2001.

Cindy Rosenthal and I have been close throughout all these years. But there would be months and months when we wouldn't be in close touch. When my marriage failed and then my cancer diagnosis happened, Cindy called me almost every single day. And she told Beth Flanders, who called me. Susan Finkelstein kept in contact with me, as did Marion Lomurro and Patty Ryon Spiers.

I had an extraordinary conversation with Ilise Zimmerman on February 2. I've always remembered that our birthdays were two days apart. As she'd turned fifty the day before, and it was the eve of my "five oh," I phoned her out of the blue and told her what had been going on with me. I asked her how it felt to turn fifty. Her fabulous reply: "It sure beats the alternative!" I love that!

My younger daughter is in seventh grade at an all-girls private school that my older daughter also attended. There are forty-five or so girls in each grade. And of the forty-five girls' families, more than thirty signed up to help out my daughters and me, from September through the present. Also, members of our

synagogue phoned, brought us food, visited, and said weekly prayers for my recovery. The notion that they and people of other faiths were praying for me was very uplifting.

Women I barely knew sat with me during chemo. My younger daughter was welcomed into a car-pool every morning from September on. One of the girls' father visited and sat next to me while I was in bed after chemo. Another dad e-mailed me to say, "If you need any work done around the house, call me. Nothing too small, nothing too big."

It was amazing. A group of parents took turns going to Costco for me, they went to the drugstore for me, the dry cleaners. They were altogether phenomenal. And I feel that's where a lot of my strength

"My experiences have really helped empower me to find myself again. I keep coming back to things that were part of who I was in high school."

— Elise

came from, because people really cared.

Luise: People do care. It's not what you think sometimes. I work in a private school. I scheduled myself for radiation first thing in the morning, then would go to work. It was a place to go, with direction; I was not going to stay home. One of the things that kept me going was that a group of parents got together after they found out my situation, and they prepared dinners on a weekly basis for eight weeks. They did this

anonymously, so that I wouldn't have to take the time to write thank-you notes!

Also, my kids and my husband, Jeff, all rose to the occasion. I ended up driving my fifteen-year-old daughter to school every morning (when she ordinarily takes the school bus) for the eight weeks I was undergoing radiation treatment. It happened to be right on the way, and it was also a way for us to spend very important time together. She constantly told me how proud she was of me. On the final day of radiation, we celebrated together. I guess it was important for me to be this role model: someone who is going through something very difficult but is still okay with it and showing her how to deal with adversity. I've shown her resiliency and resourcefulness.

My son, on the other hand, had a difficult time with the whole situation. I know he was very scared. And Jeff was wonderful; there with me for every consultation.

Elise: People say, "If there's anything I can do." And they mean it. But they don't always know *what* to do. It's really great if someone in the family or a friend can be designated as the coordinator. You ask the people who are facing a difficult situation if they can identify things they need. And then whoever is working on this lets other people who want to help know, "She thinks this is what would help her." Whether it's picking up the children, walking the dog, or cooking meals. And people sign up.

Rachel: I went a completely different route. Only my immediate family and one or two close friends. I made them all take a vow of silence. So when I went into the hos

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Elise, Luise, Rachel

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pital I just disappeared. I didn't want to deal with it until the surgery results were in. After I knew what I was dealing with I could deal with everyone else. In retrospect I should have let people be there for me. It would have helped.

Luise: The three of us, I think as a result of who we all are, and our generation, we try very hard to be strong and independent, and kind of push other people away. "No, I can do this." I don't know what it's about -- maybe proving something. When people would ask, "What can I do?" I might tell them, "Nothing. I'm really okay."

"Luise, you've got to be kidding!" It's important to be open and let people in. It doesn't make you any less or weaker of a person. This is what community is all about.

Elise: But everybody has a different way of how they want to deal with it, and that's their right.

Luise: At the same time, there were people who I thought were good friends who "didn't know what to say" and didn't call me. I was so

"If you'd asked me beforehand, How would you handle the news that you have cancer? I would have told you that I would fall apart. But that's not how it played out."

— Rachel

hurt. Especially in light of the fact that so many people I *didn't* know at all were calling. And all I can say is, You don't have to know what to

say. You just have to say, "I'm here for you. And I care about you." It's okay to not know what to say. But don't ignore.

Rachel: I have a story. I had one friend that I didn't tell until I came home from the hospital. She came to visit me in my apartment. Now, I'd just undergone a radical hysterectomy — what I like to call my excavation — which they could not do laparoscopically, so it was very severe surgery. I was in the hospital for a week because I'd developed an infection, and I get home, and I'm doubled over, can't walk from my apartment to the corner.

Anyway, she came over and brought me a journal, which I thought was very sweet. And then *[laughs]* she also bought me a book: *Chicken Soup for the Single Woman's Soul*.

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Be Smart, Be Safe, Be Screened

One of the keys to successful cancer treatment is for the disease to be detected while it is still localized; that is, before it encroaches upon neighboring tissue or *metastasizes* elsewhere in the body to form a new tumor. For certain types of cancer, screening tests can diagnose the disease while patients are still

asymptomatic. Now that you're fifty, you should make sure that the following procedures become part of an annual checkup, as advocated by the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American Cancer Society (ACS). The recommendations, while not always uniform, reflect a consensus.

The screening guidelines below are for people aged fifty or older who are considered to be at average risk for developing cancer. High-risk individuals — those who meet specific criteria, such as a personal history or family history of cancer — generally require more frequent or more aggressive surveillance. This is a subject to take up with your doctor, or, better still, with a cancer specialist.

Breast Cancer

Annual clinical breast exam and mammogram

digital rectal exam every 3 to 5 years; or

colonoscopy and digital rectal exam every 10 years

Cervical Cancer

Annual Pap test and pelvic exam

Prostate Cancer

Annual digital rectal exam and PSA blood test

Colorectal Cancer

Annual fecal occult blood test, sigmoidoscopy, and

Skin Cancer

Annual skin examination



Elise, Luise, Rachel

Continued from page 11

Luise: I would've thrown it at her!

Rachel: I wanted to throw it at her! I looked at her and said, "I really appreciate the thought, but do you think the *timing* was exactly right?" I mean, what was I supposed to do with this? Plan dating? It was just the most ill-conceived idea. But, yeah, people don't know what to say or do sometimes.

Even in Terrible Times, You Can Learn About Yourself, Surprise Yourself

Elise: For the last three and a half years, I've felt that I have been on

"I took my mammogram films to three different doctors for second opinions. You don't mess around with this, especially with all the diagnostic tools that are out there now."

— **Luise**

an amazing personal roller coaster — and I don't particularly like steep, fast, scary rides! I think that my experiences have really helped empower me to find myself again. And what I think is so extraordinary (and I just talked about this with Cindy Rosenthal on the phone yesterday) is that I keep coming back to essential parts of me that I discovered or "took on" in high school.

I've taken the name LaPaix as my last name. As everyone in our class knows, it's not my last name. But one of the reasons I realized I did it was that as we were talking

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"Comments? Feedback? Fan mail from some flounder?" asks Smilin' Joe "Goin'" Postal.

Greetings (and Regrets) From Some of Those Who Can't Make Our Communal 50th B'day

Cindy Rosenthal

First off, I want to congratulate you on the latest issue of our Class of '72 newsletter. It's really outstanding. A terrifically interesting and fun read.

What a great bunch of humans we all are. I love us — and, on that mushy note (my 50th fast approaches — May 30th to be exact, and I'm definitely feeling nostalgic), I have to report, with some degree of sadness, that I won't be able to join the multitudes at the Pier on July 17, as I'll be trodding the boards in Measure for Measure this summer up at Bread Loaf. I'll miss you all, and I wish everyone — especially the very hard working committee — a fabulous big b'day party.

Thanks for the memories and the current events as well.

Cindy Rosenthal

New York, NY

CDRNYC@aol.com

Susan Lubow VanderDoes

I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate all you do to bring this far flung group together. I turned the big five-oh in May, only to be saved by my fourth-graders, who told me it was impossible. "You look twenty, thirty, forty — but not *fifty!*" they insisted. *I love my job!*

I wish I could attend the party, but our niece's wedding is that weekend. The 30th reunion two years ago was great. I came home

loving my roots in a way I hadn't realized before.

I also got a great kick out of reading the *Jer-Echo*. The historically accurate version of Sam's Jam was precious. Reading it aloud to my parents was great too. My dream is to get **Karen Bunin, Judy Lubitz, Debbie McPherson**, and I together for another crack at "Helplessly Hoping."

Susan Lubow VanderDoes

Lincoln, RI

ride8044@ride.ri.net

Jeff Soukup

I regret that I will not be able to attend the 50th birthday party for our class of 1972. I am scheduled to accompany my younger son to a lacrosse tournament in Massachusetts the weekend of July 17.

Please wish all our classmates a very happy birthday, and here's hoping the party is overwhelming success. Thank you for all the effort put in on our behalf these past few years.

Jeff Soukup

Poquott, NY

soukup11793@yahoo.com

Stephen and Patty (Ryon) Spiers

The 50th sounds great, but SS and I will not be in attendance. His brother and his family are here at that time; I haven't ever met his wife or girls, but I used to babysit Steve's little brother! I have heard

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Elise, Luise, Rachel

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about the thirtieth reunion nearly three years ago, right around that time, when I came to New York, I went up to Rhode Island first, to visit my sister, who's a plastic surgeon.

The reunion committee had asked us to suggest music for the party. My sister had a lot of my records stored in her house. So I pulled them out: James Taylor, Carole King, Simon and Garfunkel — all these things. And on one after the other, I'd written "La Paix" in small letters, so I'd be able to identify my albums when I brought them to parties.

Then right before the reunion, I pulled out my yearbook, and when I looked it, so many people wrote to me, "Dear LaPaix." "Dear Elise La-Paix." I was just thinking about the concept of peace and not wanting to have any more discontent in my life, and I thought, *This is who I am. I'm going to be LaPaix!*

I really felt very nourished by being at the thirty-year reunion; it was very emotional for me, because my divorce was in progress, and I had just lost my job. Now I feel like I'm going back to who I really was, as an independent, free-thinking, spirited person. And a lot of who that person is was the girl in high school.

Luise: And you feel you had lost that somewhere inside you?

Elise: Definitely. I definitely had lost track of that. And one of the things that I had lost was this keen connection with my old friends. Someone like Cindy. I was more focused on what was happening in my California life: my family here, my career, and not so much focusing on,

really, who was I? And while I feel that the divorce was such a horrendous experience, the cancer can be an empowering experience. Because I know now that I can count on myself, and that I will be able to do what I need to do: to take care of my daughters and myself, and be a good friend. And I don't think I knew that before I was treated for cancer.

Luise: As trite as it might sound, I've learned to really, *really* try not to sweat the small stuff. And I mean, the really, really stupid stuff, whether it's with my kids or some aggressive driver. I just turned fifty last week, and the way I wanted to celebrate was to have a picnic at the Planting Fields.

My husband loves to cook, as do I, and we made this really nice lunch, with a baguette and wine and cheese, and we took a hike and sat there enjoying the beautiful day. Those things really fill me up now. Having had cancer humbles you, definitely. And I try to keep that in perspective; when I start getting a little crazed up again about that stuff, I say, *Wait a minute here.*

I know that I feel much closer to my mother than I ever thought I could. Sadly, my father, after finally returning home with multiple injuries, died last year. I was never one to hold grudges, but several reconciliations with people, I think, may be as a result of my having had cancer. But I am far more forgiving of people than I might have been in the past. It's more helpful.

Rachel: If you'd asked me beforehand, "How would you handle being told you have cancer?", I would have expected to fall apart. It didn't play out that way. Maybe because I was the oldest, the responsible one always in control, protecting every-

one else. So I had a meltdown for about fifteen minutes, then pulled myself together, gathered information, asked a lot of questions, and just kept going. Because if you stop and give in to your fears, you won't be able to make rational, thoughtful decisions for yourself and take control of the situation.

Luise: It's similar with me. I grew up with this brother who was just so overbearing and so difficult my whole life that I guess I was just sort of the steady one. And had to be. The "good girl." But on top of that I had a serious good-girl syndrome in my immediate family. And after years of therapy, I know now that I always felt I needed to be very okay for my parents, because they had so much *tsuris* with my brother.

I've thought about this. I think part of who I was, and then who I've become, is based upon those experiences, and how I felt I had to handle everything like this. "I'm going to take control of it and do what I think is the right thing." And later I reflect. And that's pretty much what went on with this scenario.

One thing all of this has taught me is that life is just so fragile and unpredictable. ■

Communal 50th B'day Party Almost Here

Continued from page 1

also get to blow out the candles on your birthday cake.

5 PM and beyond: Change clothes, if you wish, at Pier One, then pull from one parking lot into another — it's literally next door — and you're at Ransom Beach, for more music, watching the sunset, and just being together. ■

*Obituary***Dr. Stanley Donovan, Jericho School Psychologist, 79**

Dr. Maurice Stanton Donovan, the former chief psychologist for the Jericho Public School District, died June 2 of colon cancer. Mr. Donovan grew up in Manitoba, Canada, and served in the British Navy during World War II. He also served briefly as an Anglican priest before pursuing psychology.

While in the Jericho district, he lived in Port Washington, but later moved to New Paltz, New York, with his wife, **Mrs. Linda Donovan**, a Jericho Junior High School English teacher for more than thirty years. He had a private practice in Port Washington until retiring in 1993. An avid outdoorsman, he took up rock climbing at age 62. Mr. Donovan is survived by his wife, a son, and two grandchildren. ■

This Is Good News — Right?

Melanie Siegel Dolan of Ormond Beach, Florida, informs other transplanted New Yorkers now living in the Sunshine State that fifty-year-olds are entitled to Senior Discount Days at all Beall's Department Stores, "where they'll receive a whopping 10 percent off their purchases. Thrilling!" Another perk of hitting the big five-oh in Florida is that you can now start pilfering salt, sugar, and ketchup packets from restaurants with impunity. ■

**CLASS OF '72 ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB**

Be sure to visit our official Web site at <http://www.jhs1972.org>. Features include contact info for more than 300 of us, an updated yearbook, photos from the 30-year reunion, updates on upcoming reunion activities, this here newsletter, and more.

**On the Next Page***Dug Up From the Archives*

*From the January 29, 1971, issue of the Jer-Echo:
Jericho High?*

Cindy Rosenthal and sophomore **David Lutzker** collaborated on a lengthy story examining the extent of illicit drug use at Jericho High School, based on a survey of 830 students, or 85 percent of tenth-, eleventh-, and twelfth-graders. **Bruce Schecter** and senior **Bob Fortgang** programmed the poll.

"**Mr. McKeen**, our journalism teacher, entered it in a Long Island school-journalism contest," recalls David, who lives in Manhattan, "and it placed as first runner-up. To this day I can still hear Cindy's reaction: 'So then why didn't it win?'"

The poll results are pretty interesting. When it came to smoking marijuana, the class of '72 out-puffed the competition, with fully half of you stating that you'd smoked at least once. Only 43 percent and 42 percent of the classes of '71 and '73, respectively, responded in the affirmative.

Here are some other survey results for the class of 1972:

- 30 percent claimed to have bought, exchanged, or sold drugs on campus.
- 21 percent said they'd tried drugs stronger than marijuana.
- 13 to 16 percent claimed to have used LSD, mescaline, STP, DMT, downers, or amphetamines at least once.
- 42 percent said they'd smoked cigarettes at least once.
- 61 percent said they'd been drunk at least once.

We think you'll find it all pretty interesting, especially given the benefit of hindsight. Thanks to **George Ploskas** for loaning us his copy.

Blue and Gold
in
Black and White

JER-ECHO



JHS, The Drug Haven?

What the Poll Reveals

by Cindy Rosenthal and David Lutzker

A student poll was conducted through the social studies classes by the JER-ECHO and the Health Department. Eighty-five per cent or 830 students of a student body of 972 were polled December 18.

Two years ago, February 4, 1969, a similar poll was conducted by the JER-ECHO. Most questions from the first poll were used on this present poll, but a few other questions were added by the Health Department.

A total of eighteen questions were asked, fifteen of which appear in this issue. The three questions omitted dealt with the students' reasons for drinking and the habits of students' friends. Because more than one answer was frequently given to these questions, they could not be accurately calculated.

Marijuana

The 12th graders who participated in the poll this year were the 10th graders who participated in the poll of two years ago. The percentage of this class who have tried marijuana increased from 19 per cent to 43 per cent. The percentage of the Senior Class of two years ago, who tried marijuana was 36 per cent, which is reasonably close to this year's 12th grade percentage.

Forty-two per cent of the present 10th graders have tried marijuana which is more than twice the percentage of tenth graders two years ago. Two years ago 9 per cent of the 10th grade girls smoked marijuana, the lowest of any one group in the school. The present poll indicates that 54 per cent of the 10th grade girls have smoked marijuana, which is the school's highest percentage group, followed by the 11th grade girls with 53 per cent.

According to Mr. Mike Lamm and Mrs. Glorvya Selton, health teachers, who provided interesting insights into these statistics, it is not surprising that the 10th and 11th grade girls have a higher percentage of marijuana use than the boys. This may be explained by the fact that girls often go out with older boys who may introduce them to drugs. Secondly, there is generally a greater range of extra curricular activities available for boys than for girls. Apparently, the "keep them busy and out of trouble" factor is significant.

Fifty per cent of the 11th grade has tried marijuana. This is the highest total amongst the three grades this year.

The total average for the school indicates that 43 per cent of the student body has smoked marijuana at some time. The Health Department seems to agree that this figure may be slightly low. This can be explained by the fact that of the 142 students (15 per cent of the enrollment) who did not take the poll, many had been absent for more than a day or two. Similarly, a percentage of the students who are absent for prolonged periods may be drug users.

On the other hand, the reader may elect to believe that these statistics are accurate and that the 43 per cent figure is as low, or as high, as it should be.

In the previous poll 45 per cent of the students thought marijuana should be legalized and 55 per cent thought it should not be. This year 48 per cent think it should be legalized, 26 per cent think it should not be, and 24 per cent answered under a new category of "Don't know." Interesting to note is that 48 per cent of the students who feel it should be legalized is very close to the 46 per cent of the students who have tried marijuana.

Stronger Drugs

The percentage of people who have experimented with stronger drugs almost doubled in the past two years from 11 per cent to 19 per cent. The majority of the students correctly predicted the percentage range of drug use.

It is significant to note that some students misinterpreted this question. In the category of stronger drugs, some athletes included the muscle relaxers that

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JHS, the Drug Haven?

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There was little difference between the number of students who have used LSD, mescaline, STP, and DMT, barbituates, and those who use amphetamines.

The exchange of drugs on school grounds has remained relatively low, according to this poll. However, many students probably did not answer this question honestly for fear of actions that might be taken against them by school officials.

All in All

The questions on cigarette smoking showed that cigarette smoking has increased in the past two years. Also worth noting about cigarettes is that the majority of students who smoke them do not have parental consent. This is one of the reasons why some students continue to smoke in bathrooms despite the new school ruling.

In 1969, 68 per cent of the students answered yes to being drunk compared to 60 per cent answering yes this year. This decrease may be due to the fact that smoking marijuana has become more popular. Also, the percentage of students who go out deliberately to get drunk was higher two years ago.

There was a great difference two years ago among the three grades in drug use, seniors having the highest percentages by far. Today, however, the three grades come very close in their percentages and seniors do not continue to lead. It seems as if drug use is affecting students at a younger age and to a greater degree than before.

In any case, it is important to understand the limitations of the poll and the error that it may include, or it is impossible to draw any valid conclusions from it.

Pot . . . Why or Why Not? Two Views

Some of my friends smoke marijuana. Others don't. I'm not going to venture a guess as to which side has the higher percentage, because it's not important—not to me, anyway.

I don't smoke. I never have smoked. Oh, sure, I've had the opportunity many times, but I've never felt the need to try it. When I've said this to smokers, they've occasionally responded with, "I don't feel the need to either. Nobody needs it." I can't dispute that, as I've never experienced the feeling that results from smoking.

I don't think it's the fact that marijuana is illegal that has influenced me not to smoke it. I've been in a room where ten people have been smoking while I sat there holding the incense to cover the smell of the pot. I would have been just as guilty as the smokers if the place had been busted. I'd probably have a hard time trying to prove I hadn't smoked. So the law isn't the primary deterrent, although subconsciously it may be.

I don't feel the need to smoke to be "in." As I said before, whether a person smokes or not,

Drugs are fun, as long as you keep control. With me, it's been an on-and-off kind of thing; sometimes I control it, other times it controls me.

The first time I hit drugs it was grass, and the thrill was not only from the weird sensation of being high, but from doing something which was illegal and, what I felt was at that time, immoral. The first half year, I smoked on-and-off—sort of like going to a movie — smoking and then enjoying the confusion of the mind. It's very hard to explain a high.

My drug experimentation never came because of any real reason, except it was fun. But not all drugs are fun all of the time. Once I smoked some opium, which is hallucinogenic—it really scared the hell out of me, and I decided not to do drugs stronger than smoke. Maybe this is a cop-out, but I've always smoked because it's fun to do—and anything which I don't enjoy, I don't intend to do.

Drugs are fun—at least for me, and I intend to continue doing it. I won't try to talk you into smoking it, but please don't talk to me about stopping it.

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ATTENTION GIRLS AND BOYS REGISTRATION NOW OPENED DRIVER'S EDUCATION COURSE

AT

SACRED HEART ACADEMY

47 CATHEDRAL AVENUE
HEMPSTEAD, L. I., N. Y.

1 block west of A&S Dept. Store

N.Y. State Approved AAA/endorsed

afternoon
483-7383

evening
221-3427

WRITE OR CALL

Jer-Echo On Drugs

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Why or Why Not? . . .

(Continued from Page Five)

does not determine my relationship with them. I have had many discussions with several of my smoking friends, and we've made our philosophies on smoking clear to one another. If these people cannot accept me for what I am because I didn't smoke, I can't consider them worth a friendship.

I have to admit that I am somewhat curious as to the effects of marijuana on me. But at the present time, whenever I am bored, depressed, nervous, etc., eating and sleeping fulfill my needs.

Letters, Letters, Letters

Continued from page 12

from a few of the "Jericho South": Peter Savino, Bobby Ehrlich, Janet McNally. Will be talking to each of them soon. The reunion committee should be very proud of yourselves. You have connected lots of old — slip of the tongue; *former* is better — friends.

Patty Ryon Spiers
Palm Harbor, FL
PattySpiers@yahoo.com

Dave Mollineaux

Once again I commend the committee on the great job you are doing to get everyone together for the 50th birthday reunion. I was hoping to attend; however, my parents are coming out to Idaho for the summer to get out of the heat from Tampa, Florida. They will be here for six weeks from early July to mid-August.

Sounds like lots of fun at Pier One, and I hope everyone has a good time. I will be in New York in

September, as my daughter wants to look at Boston College, Columbia U., and Georgetown U.. We will do the East Coast swing to see those colleges. Sorry the Reunion wasn't until then. I already have tickets for my daughter and I to go to Fenway Park to see the Red Sox play on September 15.

Take care and great job!!!!

Dave Mollineaux
Sun Valley, ID
dmollineaux@cox-internet.com

Janet McNally

I have now finalized my summer plans, and, unfortunately, it does not include a trip to New York. I will be up there in September but not July. I tried to change a few things, but I am going mountain climbing, and climbing permits are hard to get and the dates are not easily changed.

I will be out in Oregon and Washington climbing three mountains in eight days — sort of our little mountain marathon. Every summer since I went to Mt. Everest, we all get together for a few hikes and a mountain climb in honor of our friend who died while we were on Everest.

This year our targets are an ice climb on Elliot Glacier on Mt. Hood in Oregon ... then up to Washington to climb Mt. Adams ... and then ending with a five-hour climb for lunch on the rim of the crater of Mt. St. Helens on July 30. There is a lot of prep work that goes into all of this, so I have to be out there in early July. I'll send a couple of pictures when I return.

Thanks for all your hard work, and I hope to attend another reunion in the future. Hope everyone has a wonderful 50th. Mine was in January, and I spent it with three close friends and my three sisters. We stayed at the Westin Times

Square Hotel. We had a girls weekend out, just wandering around Manhattan. Unfortunately, my now thinned-out Florida blood had a little trouble with the 19-degree and very windy weather, but it didn't dampen our mood. And my sisters didn't let me forget that I was f-f-f-f-fifty for one minute!!!

That's okay ... I feel marvelous!!!
Take care and enjoy the party!!!
Stay safe.

Janet McNally
Englewood, FL
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And Now, For the Youngsters: Josh

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"The Wonder Years," only in real time and without the filter of nostalgia. Put another way, if Charles Schulze had let the "Peanuts" gang grow up to pursue their artistic muses in downtown NYC, they might have been Clint, Lana, Jack, Nicole, et al. Some of the characters are based on real people in Josh's life, some are composites, and others are entirely fictional.

Josh himself is a character in the strip, but mainly as an observer. Is "Josh" really Josh? An alter ego? You'll have to ask the artist himself, who breaks the fourth wall by adding a running commentary at the bottom of each installment, explaining why he's manipulating characters a certain way.

"Stubble" is now approaching its 500th episode. It's interesting, always entertaining, and ultimately very sweet. Read this cartoon diary from the beginning (at <http://www.stubble.com>), so that you can watch the evolution of both the characters and Josh's visual style, which incorporates elements of anime yet is wholly original. ■

***Wanna learn what some of your former teachers are up to?
Then drop in, pull up a chair, set a spell, but most of all —
NO TALKING! — at the ...***



This Issue:

Robert Hoffman and Dolores Poltorak Hoffman

Last issue's cover story, "Love, Jericho Style," left out another Jericho romance: social-studies teachers Mr. Robert Hoffman and Mrs. Dolores Poltorak Hoffman, just one of eleven such intrafaculty marriages. Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman, now retired — in a manner of speaking — have a dual perspective on your home town, having each taught there for thirty-five years (she, from 1958 through 1992; he, from 1966 through 2000) and having resided in White Birch since marrying in 1970.

My first teaching job was in Canajoharie, in upstate New York. Next I went to Mahopac, in Putnam County. Then I taught two years out in East Islip, before coming to Jericho High School in 1966.

I met my wife almost right away. One day she walked by my room and gave me the eye. Me, being a confident bachelor, with all kinds of women on the side, I would nod to her. Finally I decided to take her out for cocktails, and the rest, as we say, is history. We got married in the spring of 1970 and moved to Jericho that December.

Back then, to teach social studies was like being on the gravy train. You didn't need any kind of lesson plan. You just picked up the newspaper, read the lead article, and you'd have your lesson for the day. The Zeitgeist of the times made teaching history easy, passionate, and interesting. There was so much turmoil. We would talk about body bags coming back from Vietnam.

Lou Boroson and I went to Union College together. He was probably my best friend on the faculty and still is. Even though he taught

math, now and then he used to take a chunk of class time to talk about current events. He always said, "I should have taught social studies."

Jericho Teachers and Parents

Our son, Chris, went to the Jericho schools. In fact, all three of us were in the high school at the same time. He graduated in 1992, the same year my wife retired. I'd see him walking down the hall and would go to say hi to him, but like a typical teenager, he would just nod his head and walk on by. The only time we probably spoke was when he came down to the department of fice and asked for lunch money.

He was in my future-studies class. One day, around the middle of the school year, I asked a question, and he answered it. I said to him, "Where'd you get *that* from?"

"My father told me."

Now, about half the kids laughed. And my comment was,

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Mr. and Mrs. H.

Faculty Lounge: Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman

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"Well, tell your father he doesn't know what he's talking about!"

He replied, "Everybody knows that!"

Afterward, two kids said to me, "Hey, you'd better watch yourself. You know what these parents in Jericho are like." And someone said to them, "Don't you know that's his son?"

Chris graduated from C. W. Post as a communications major and recently got his masters degree. He's been at Syosset High School for the past five years, working at the radio station there.

From Teacher to Documentary Filmmaker

Since retiring, my wife has done some tutoring for the elderly at a local nursing home. She's an avid reader and goes through two, three books a week. As for me, I'm in



the process of making a documentary about the 1954 Little League World Champions, from Schenectady. I grew up in Whitehall, New York, around the Lake George area, and Union College is in Schenectady. In 1974, a writer named Martin Ralbovsky wrote a book about them, *Destiny's Darlings*. James Michener called it one of the finest books ever written about American sports.

The theme of his book was

that these kids did *not* become destiny's darlings. Even more than that, they had this tough, overpowering manager who a lot of the kids said took some of the joy of playing from them.

I'm updating the story, to see what's happened to them fifty years later. I've found thirteen out of fourteen of them. The one member I haven't found yet lives somewhere in Texas. One of them was Billy Connors, who pitched briefly for the Chicago Cubs and the New York Mets in the mid-1960s. He later became a well-regarded major league pitching coach and is now the director of player personnel and vice president of player personnel for the New York Yankees -- one of George Steinbrenner's lieutenants. He was thirteen at the time.

Another player, Jim Barbieri, went on to become a utility outfielder for the Los Angeles Dodgers. In the '54

finals and semifinals, Schenectady played two teams with some more future major leaguers on them: Boog Powell, Carl Taylor, and Ken Hubbs. I'm not quite sure what the story line is yet; there are about four or five subthemes running through here. I think that will probably form itself from the interviews.



Their winning the championship was a big deal in Schenectady. I have footage of the parade they had for the team; they also appeared on the Dave Garroway show and the Perry Como Show after they won. Later this year the Schenectady Hall of Fame is arranging a reunion of

Your deepest suspicions confirmed: Mr. Boroson really was a social studies teacher in math-teacher drag.

the players on the fiftieth anniversary of their championship season. I'll be going up there to interview the players, their wives, other people in town. It's so much fun talking to people and listening to their stories. Everybody has a story.

More About the Leisurely Life of a Retiree

I run five miles a day. I also officiate at track meets, about two or three times a week. That was always an interest of mine. It's fun, the kids are nice, and there aren't any parents around. It's not like being an umpire or a referee, where these days you take your life into your hands.

Kids at Jericho were always great kids; I loved them. Do they have less interest in school now-a-days? That appears to be the case. But that may be an old-timer looking back and saying, "Things were always better back then." As for moving to Florida, like so many others from Jericho, *never*. I plan on dying at 534 Parkside Drive! I love Long Island. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. ■

Your Back Pages

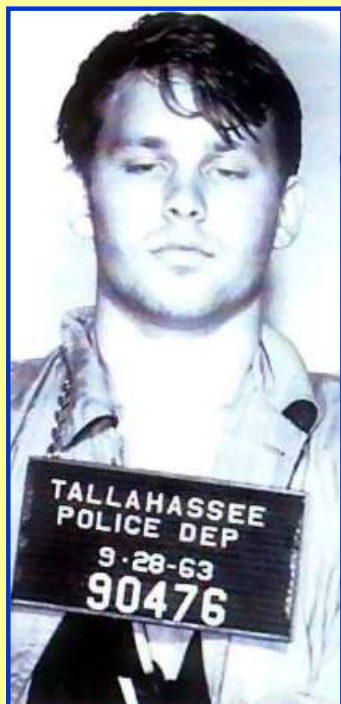
"I was so much older then, I'm younger than that now." — Bob Dylan
You wish!

The World Around You • Eighth Grade, 1967-68

♦ On March 31, 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson shocks the country when he announces on TV that he will not seek re-election, throwing the Democratic race for the nomination wide open. Leading contenders include Vice-President Hubert Humphrey, Sen. Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota, and New York Senator Robert F. Kennedy.



♦ Awful times in America: First, Martin Luther King, Jr., is assassinated in Memphis on April 4; two months later, RFK is shot to death at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles after winning the California primary.



♦ On December 9, 1967, Jim Morrison, lead singer of the Doors and parttime Lizard King, is arrested while performing onstage in New Haven for allegedly exposing himself, as well as for breach of peace and resisting arrest. Now, *that's* showmanship! It is the first time that a rock star is arrested on stage. (But couldn't Britney Spears be arrested for impersonating a singer?) Incidentally, this wasn't Jimbo's first brush with the law. In 1963 he was arrested for a college prank committed while a student at Florida State University.



♦ *Hair*, billed as "The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical," opens at the Public Theater in the East Village.

♦ Armana introduces the microwave oven.

Proof that college really does prepare you for the future: Hello. You're arrested. Won't you tell me your name?

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Your Back Pages

The World Around You • Eighth Grade, 1967-68

Continued from previous page

♦ On March 8, 1968, Bill Graham opens the Fillmore East in a converted movie theater in Greenwich Village. Janis Joplin and Big Brother and the Holding Company give the inaugural performance.



ON THE RADIO: "Lady Madonna," Beatles • "It's a Beautiful Morning," Rascals • "Jumping Jack Flash," Rolling Stones • "Judy in Disguise (With Glasses)," John Fred and His Playboy Band • "I Heard It Through the Grapevine," Gladys Knight and the Pips • "Summertime Blues," Blue Cheer • "Incense and Peppermints," Strawberry Alarm Clock • "Valleri," Monkees • "Simon Says," 1910 Fruitgum Company • "Spooky," Classics IV

ON THE BIG SCREEN: *The Graduate* • *Bonnie and Clyde* • *2001: A Space Odyssey* • *To Sir, With Love* • *Valley of the Dolls* • *The Producers* • *Belle de Jour*

ON THE TUBE: "Green Acres" • "Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C." • "Gentle Ben" • "Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour" • "The Beverly Hillbillies" • "Gunsmoke" • "The Lawrence Welk Show" • "The Red Skelton Hour" • "The Lucy Show" • "The Andy Griffith Show"

In Sports:

- ♦ The St. Louis Cardinals edge the Boston Red Sox in seven games to win the World Series, as ex-Yank Roger Maris bats .385 and Bob Gibson wins three, with a 1.00 ERA.
- ♦ The Green Bay Packers roll to their second straight Super Bowl, 33-14, over the Oakland Raiders. Coach Vince Lombardi then retires.
- ♦ The Boston Celtics beat the Los Angeles Lakers in six games for the NBA title. In the brand new American Basketball Association, the Pittsburgh Pipers take the New Orleans Buccaneers in seven.
- ♦ In the NHL, the Montreal Canadiens sweep the St. Louis Blues in four.