

BERLIN BRATS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 3

July 2002

Melbourne Regional?



Sunday at noon, Pat (Martel) Little '72 had arranged a picnic lunch for us at a local park where we enjoyed a great picnic spread and visited with each other before leaving for home.

Those in attendance in were Joyce Clark '72, Sue Abruzzo '73, BJ Connors '83 and wife Ginger, Cal Bloebaum '68, Deb Brians '74, Linda Hoyle '72, Magda Gonzalez '65 and husband Mike, Gerry Harms '70 and wife Janet, Debbie Hoosack '72, Mr. Horner - teacher '59 to '62 and wife Irene, Charles Kelker '73, Kris Keller '76, Stretch Murty

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On the weekend of May 24th, 25th and 26th, 2002 a number of Berlin Brats gathered in Melbourne, Florida for what was supposed to have been a regional gathering. Well, it turned out that most of the attendees were from other parts of the country as well as those that live in and around Melbourne, Florida. That just goes to show you... Just give us a reason to meet and we Berliner's will come in droves. Some of us arrived on Thursday night, while others arrived on Friday. Those of us that were present earlier on Friday, met at Pat (Martel) Little's house for a little visiting. Some Berliner's staying with Pat were still in their pajamas when we got there at 1:00 p.m. (Linda Hoyle '72 are your ears burning?)

Friday evening, we all left the hotel around 5:00 p.m. to enjoy the evening on the Sterling Casino Cruise. Cal Bloebaum '68 led the caravan and gave us an adventurous tour of the local streets just getting

to Cape Canaveral. Once onboard, we enjoyed a small snack and then found a spot on the deck to enjoy the rest of the cruise. I don't know if anyone gambled, but we did have a few Berliners that joined the reggae band and helped play the steel drums, while the rest of us danced on the decks.

Saturday during the day was spent on the hotel deck by the pool or in the ocean as well as shopping and visiting some of the local stores like Ron Jon's. Saturday Night we all met at the NCO club at Patrick AFB and had a dinner of either Salmon or Prime Rib. I am not sure how Pat pulled that off, but with the total cost for the weekend of only \$25.00 per person, she really out did herself. Dinner was followed by a few announcements, and introductions of different Class Contacts and other Attendees. Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 relinquished the podium for dancing and more visiting and reminiscing.

'72, Jeri Polansky '72, Richard Sanchez '70 and wife Karen, Mr. "Jet" Timmerman - teacher '59 - '61 and guest Coni Strine, Linda Waters '80, Jeanette Martel '74, Jan Gonzalez '63, Gary Brown '71, Tony Brown '73, Ricky Goltz '73, Billy DiBenedetti '74, Mrs. Jutta Martel, Pat Martel '72 and husband

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Joyce Clark '72, Richard Sanchez '70 and wife Karen

Melbourne Regional?

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Roger, Ken Cousins '72, Gary Carpenter '72, Chuck Hewins '63 and wife Linda, Jim McLean '78 and wife Becky, Jim Wright '72 and daughter Amy Jo, Larry McCulley '68. There were 41 total attendees in all. The Class of 1972 had the majority of attendees. Then at the picnic on Sunday, we had the added company of Jammer's children, parrot, Frito & dog, Odie!

*Linda (Waters) Keeler
Class of '80
Nashville, Tennessee*

Dear fellow classmates:

I wish all of you could have attended the Melbourne regional over the Memorial weekend. The weather was fantastic and the beaches were spectacular. With the hotel right next to the ocean, Karen (my wife) and



Linda (Waters) Keeler '80 and
Jim "Jammer" McLean '78

I were able to have long walks on the beach before breakfast. It was the first time I actually saw coquina on the beach. This is the 'rock' made of seashell and sand that earlier settlers used to make forts and houses.

Pat (Martel) Little '72 did a great job organizing the event. Even though I didn't attend the Friday night cruise (I get sea sick just looking at a boat in the water) I heard it was a blast. Debbie Hoosack '72 couldn't help breaking into laughter everytime she tried to describe what went on that night.

Saturday's dinner at the Patrick Air Force Base NCO club was also fun. After a great meal of prime rib or salmon, Jim "Jammer" McLean '78 played tunes while Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 and Pat (Martel) Little '72 got everyone on the dance floor. We spent the evening dancing to the familiar



Friday Night on the Sterling Casino Cruise



Melbourne Regional?

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tunes of the 60's, 70's, and 80's. I heard the next day that several partygoers didn't get to bed until after 4 AM!

Sunday was a perfect day for a picnic. We enjoyed playing volleyball, horseshoes, and getting reacquainted with other Berliners. I hadn't seen Gerry Harms '70 since high school. It was interesting to hear that Gerry use to fight oil well fires! I also had a chance to talk to Gary Carpenter '72, Ken Cousins '72 and Joyce Clark '72.

In talking to fellow classmates, I learned that we have not had an easy life. We all have had to deal with misfortunes, career changes, divorces, death, or some other calamity. Yet, we seem to have survived and even excel. I like to think that the comradeship and support we had for each other in Berlin provided us with the inner strength to deal with these hardships. Our Berlin experience was unique, and I like to thank the Hoosacks for laying the foundation for the Berlin Brats organization.

Speaking of that, start making plans to attend next year's reunion!

Jose (Richard) Sanchez
jrs70@attbi.com
Class of '70



Saturday Dinner/Dance—Yes, that really is the Ocean out those windows!



Mr. Timmerman, FAC '59 - '61 with Coni,
Kris Keller '76 and Linda (Waters) Keeler '80



Don Horner, Faculty '59 to '62 and wife Irene,
Jim "Jammer" McLean '78 and wife Betsy



Mike and Magda Gonzales '65, Linda Hewins & Jan Gonzales '63



Youngest to oldest cutting the cake. BJ Connors '83,
Chuck Hewins '63 and Jan Gonzales '63

Asheville Site Inspection Team Picks a Winner!

When Jeri Polansky Glass asked if I'd be interested in being part of the Asheville Site Inspection Team, I thought....sure, why not! I had participated in the first Asheville inspection mission in March 2000, and was honored to help with the final process of selecting the perfect site for our 2003 reunion.

My fellow inspection team members on this April 18-21 trip were: Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Pat (Martel) Little '72, Debbie (Hoosack) Jones '72, and Jim Branson '64, with fiancée Brenda Smith (Stuttgart, Class of '66). In addition to BAHs, the site inspection team had two members from Karlsruhe, Chris Kyrios '75 and Tony Whalen '79. Our Karlsruhe friends had also selected Asheville as their reunion location in 2003, so it made sense for both groups to tour the hotels together, as guests of the Asheville Chamber of Commerce. Our guide from the Chamber, Clara Osteen, provided transportation to and from the various hotels and treated the group to a daily lunch. Our mission: to find a hotel that could accommodate our numbers both in terms of rooms and banquet seating (we anticipate more than 250 attendees), large hospitality suites, and extra amenities, all at an affordable rate.

The Inspection team arrived in Asheville on Thursday afternoon, April 18th, and we checked into the Great Smokies Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort (our Karlsruhe friends stayed at the Ramada Plaza hotel. Both hotels were part of our site inspection list). Our guide and driver for the weekend, Clara, picked us up at 7:15 pm and drove us to the Best Western Asheville Biltmore, for dinner.... compliments of Brenda Taylor, sales manager at the Best Western. Brenda was proud of the hotel's restaurant, the Overtime Sports Grill, where a wonderful assortment of

food could be had....seafood, wings, burgers, sandwiches, and their signature dish...pulled pork barbeque. After a fine meal, we stayed at the restaurant to enjoy the nightly entertainment....on this evening, the band was "The Sharkadelics" whom we ended up following around the Asheville circuit (more on this later). Willie Nelson was staying at the hotel that evening, but, alas, there were no Willie sightings. After closing down the place, we decided we better get our rest for a grueling next day....inspecting all six hotels in one day!

Just six hotels? Believe it or not, due to our numbers and banquet requirements, there were only 6 hotels that met our qualifications. See if you agree with some of our "qualifiers":

- Must have 150+ rooms
- Daily rate must be less than or equal to \$89 (Breckenridge rate)
- Must have hospitality suites
- Must be able to have our OWN booze/food in the hospitality suites (some hotels do not allow this. One hotel allowed it, only with a permit, which costs extra)
- Must be able to seat 250+ people comfortably for dinner banquet
- Ballroom must have adequate space for dancing
- Must have good location for our registration table
- Must have adequate parking
- Must NOT have renovations occurring during our reunion

So, with the aforementioned qualifiers in mind, we ventured out at 9am on Friday to begin the process of meeting with various hotel managers and touring their respective facilities. Some hotels we visited had higher than expected group rates, while others had small ballrooms, or not enough sleeping rooms. Some hotels were not as flexible as we liked....in terms of food/beverage content in our hospitality suites, or charging extra for A/V equipment (ie:....itemized extras that do add up quickly!). One hotel in particular, was overdue for a renovation, and it was possible the renovation may not be completed by the May 2003 timeframe.

By 5:00 p.m., with just one hour to go before touring our next hotel, we decided to check out the bar in

the Ramada Plaza, the hotel we had just finished touring. We were greeted by a friendly bartender, Chris DeWilde, who told us his father went to high school in Germany....a Heidelberg alum! Chris asked us if we wanted to try out a new drink his wife, Keelie, had created. It was called the "Keelie", and Chris wanted our expert opinions, as he could tell we were true connoisseurs. What can I say? The drink was fabulous and refreshing, and we raved about it. Chris was quite thrilled and renamed the drink after his new friends....the "Sweet Berlin". Sorry, Keelie! We won't give away the secret recipe, but the main ingredient is cranberry juice mixed with other wonderful ingredients. The hotel sales manager, Marc Rosenbaum, mentioned we could take over the entire hotel, including the bar (with special drink prices) during Memorial weekend 2003. This demonstrated "flexibility" beyond our expectations. While we were waiting for Clara to pick us up to take us to our last hotel of the day, Marc offered to make us dinner reservations for later that evening at The Heidelberg Restaurant. Again, nice touch, Marc!

After touring the last hotel on our list, we took about an hour to freshen up and the Berlin and Karlsruhe team got together for dinner, and a night out on the town. Yes, it was hard work, and we were glad to do it. After all, we needed to check out the nightlife as part of an overall hotel/city inspection tour. We found our way to the Holiday Inn Asheville Airport, where we heard there would be live entertainment. After touring the hotel earlier that day, we thought the bar was pretty cool anyway, and it warranted further "inspection". To our delight, the band was once again The Sharkadelics, and this time the crowd was a bit livelier, and most folks stayed on the dance floor for most of the evening....including your site inspection team! (Jay Stewart '70 & his lovely wife stopped by and joined us for a couple hours - they live in Asheville). After closing this place down as well (we are, after all, BAHers to the core!), we decided it had been a long day, and we needed our rest for the next day's activities.

We met in the lobby of the Holiday Inn Sunspree around 9:30am on Saturday and conducted a de-briefing session, sharing our thoughts/ideas about the hotels we'd seen the day before. Clearly, none of the hotels stood out right away, as there were pros and cons for each. Rats! This task truly needed more discussion. But first, it was off to Chelsea's Village Tea Room where we passed on partaking in teatime, but browsed in the gift shop. Chelsea's is part of several quaint shops, boutiques, and tea rooms/coffee houses

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Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Chris Kyrios, Karlsruhe '75, Pat (Martel) Little '72, Jim Branson '64, Debbie Brians '74, Tony Whalen '79 Karlsruhe, Debbie (Hoosack) Jones '72

Asheville Site Inspection Team Picks a Winner!

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which are located in Asheville's historic Biltmore Village district. Long ago (1890's), these shops were once homes of the hundreds of workers who built the Biltmore Estate. This area is a must-see while in Asheville, in addition to visiting the Biltmore.

Our next stop was the Biltmore Estate, and after lunching at the Stable Café, (fabulous food...all fresh and grown or made on the premises!), we headed to the Biltmore Winery. Another difficult task, but we were real troopers! After a brief tour of the winery, we headed to the wine tasting area, where we sampled several of the Biltmore wines (yes, they give refills!). After the winery, Clara drove us to several parks in the Asheville area, to determine if the park facilities would be conducive to a large picnic (perhaps a combined function with Karlsruhe) and outdoor games.

You see that this was an action packed, hard working weekend! By the time we said our good-byes and thanked Clara profusely for taking us around Asheville, we still had not decided on a hotel. At first, our thoughts were to stay at the same hotel with Karlsruhe, but have events at different times. But the combined numbers from both schools only

allowed for one hotel possibility, with respect to room accommodations. That possibility was dashed when we found out a couple of days later, that the ballroom had already been reserved for Memorial Day weekend. Without a ballroom available, both schools had to remove this hotel from their lists. As luck would have it, it was one of our top candidates. Jeri asked us Berliners to mull over our results and contact her in a couple of days after we returned home.

And our winner....The Ramada Plaza Hotel! After much debate and soul-searching, the decision was made primarily because of this hotel's fine customer service, atmosphere, and accommodations. In today's business world, you can have a fine product, but if you don't back it with great customer service, you won't make it. Well, the Ramada made our grade, and we thank Marc and his wife, Melissa (also an employee of the Ramada), for working with us, and allowing us great flexibility for our reunion festivities. As attendees, we hope you'll enjoy the hotel's welcoming lobby area, with eight different "conversation" seatings, and quaint

bridge walkway (a fine group photo opportunity!). The rooms are spacious and reasona-



Debbie Brians '74, and Pat (Martel) Little '72,

bly priced (\$10/night cheaper than Breckenridge), and the hospitality suites can accommodate our numbers and requirements (our own booze) without penalty.

The restaurant serves three meals daily, and boasts one of the lowest prices in town on a full breakfast buffet. You and your family members will also enjoy the lobby pool which flows from indoors to outdoors. Yes, we feel we've picked a winner, and if you should find yourself in Asheville before next year's reunion, please stop in to see Marc, Melissa and Chris. Your "Sweet Berlin" will be waiting for you!

Deb (Brians) Clark '74

dclark56@carolina.rr.com



Chris Kyrios, Karlsruhe '75 and Jim Branson '64 Modeling their Letter Jackets.



The Gangs All Here!



Jim Branson '64 and with fiancée Brenda Smith, Stuttgart, '66

2003 REUNION ITINERARY (Sample)

Day 1, Thursday, May 22nd

- 1 p.m. Registration Opens
- 4 to 6 p.m. Thank You Reception for Class Contacts and Volunteers.....by invitation only.
- 6 p.m. Early arrivals meet in the hotel lobby to car pool off site for an "early arrival dutch treat dinner"
- 9 p.m. Hospitality Suite opens to start reuniting with old friends, reminiscing, sharing photos, scrapbooks and yearbooks. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Also the room will be decorated with Berlin Memorabilia and some of our old trophies!
- 9 p.m. Come As You Were: An 80's Party (Subtitled: Get Your Groove Back On), sponsored by Rob Ahrens, Class Contact for 87. (Suite 517)

Day 2, Friday, May 23rd

- 9 a.m. Registration Desk Opens
Hospitality Suite Opens.....
- 1 p.m. A Video Respective of Berlin from the 50's to the 90's.
Photos contributed by former teachers and students.
Includes photos of AFN Berlin and the last class of BAHS, Class of '94.
Narrated by Jim Branson, class of '64 Class Contact
- 3 p.m. Images of Berlin.....the German Capital. Followed by personal footage of "reunification" narrated by Bob Shaw, spouse of Diane Orozco, class of '66.
- 6 to 8 p.m. Welcome Reception.
In the hotel atrium. Dress: Casual-Elegant
Hors d'oeuvres.....and cash bar.
- 8 to 12 p.m. Karaoke/DJ
In the banquet room. Dress: Retire to your room after the reception and get comfortable for this!
Be prepared to be entertained!!!!
- 9 to 1 a.m. Hospitality Suite Open.

Day 3, Saturday, May 24th

- 8 a.m. Golf Tournament
- 9 a.m. Hospitality Suite Opens
Registration Opens
- 11:30 "Ode to Joy & Freedom" a video of the Wall coming down.

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2003 REUNION ITINERARY (Sample)

(Continued from page 6)

- 1 p.m. A Video Respective of Berlin....(see Friday's description)
- 1 p.m. German Coffee Hour. Come enjoy a cup of German coffee and pastry in our hospitality room.
- 2 p.m. Pool Side Games (no bathing suits required!)
- 2:30 Images of Berlin (see Friday's description.)
- 5 p.m. Class Photos
- 6 p.m. Cocktail Hour
- 7 p.m. AYA (or DYA)/Sock Hop dinner dance. AYA/DYA and School spirit attire. (wear those letterjackets, reunion polo shirts, poodle skirts, braided jeans, or whatever was in style during your decade!
'60's, 70's and 80's Wall to be presented
'63, '73 & '83 milestone years to be recognized.

Day 4, Sunday, May 25th

- 10 a.m. Buses depart for Chimney Rock Park. (1,000-acre multi-activity park and a must see while in Asheville). Catered picnic in the meadows, Scavenger hunt, Nature Center, Nature Walks, Gift Shop and ride a 26-story elevator to the top of Chimney Rock! (you can see for 75 miles!!)

Karlsruhe American High School will be joining us on this outing....so we plan some competitive games between the two schools!! Go Bears!!!!!!beat those Knights!

Yellow School buses will pick us up and return us.
Returning to the hotel at 4pm.
Last official activity.

Optional Offerings/Separate from Registration Fee:

Tour Biltmore Estate Group rate of \$29 (Fri and/or Sat day)

Berlin Golf Tournament \$40 May 24th, Saturday at 8:00 A.M.

Raft-N-Rail trip \$70 to include a picnic lunch for those who want to stay an extra day.
(Monday, May 26th.) Travel 22-miles by rail then raft 8-miles down river.

An Important Reminder!

The Berlin Brats Database/Roster may not be provided to,
or used by, any other group or organization.
Rosters may not be utilized for commercial, political or for solicitation purposes

Letters received...

Peter Stein '80

pstein80@msn.com

Hey Linda --

Funny that you mentioned the letter jacket on eBay. I have quite a history with eBay (Berliner80), and my classmate Paul Bergly '80 sent me the site while it was still up, but I missed reading his email in time. The jacket sold for around \$40. I had quite a discussion with the German fellow who bought it, as I offered to buy it from him. He was not willing to sell for less than \$300, even though I attempted to explain the sentimental significance of the jacket. He was actually quite unfriendly, but it went to someone in Berlin.

I have no idea whose jacket it was.

Best, Peter

Anna Klenman

I was playing "stump the search engine" just now ...

Some friends of mine had a punk band in LA in the early punk era, and the band was called the Berlin Brats.

They used to write "BERLIN BRATS" all over the place in Hollywood, on the sides of buildings, under freeway bridges, and especially on bathroom walls. If anyone had ever not heard of the band, they used to quip "Never heard of us, then you obviously haven't gone to the bathroom in Hollywood." perhaps using a more colorful expression there. I am serious! They recorded once, a four song demo, and at least one of those tracks made it onto a Rhino Records compilation of obscure early LA punk bands called "Saturday Night Punk" or

something. I can't remember it too clearly but the cover art was a spoof of "Saturday Night Fever."

Considering how this stuff gets re-hashed, and rehashed out there, I thought maybe there would be some reference to the band online, but instead I found your homepage here, and I've laughed a great deal.

I thought you might enjoy the story.

Best wishes,

Anna K.

Did You Know...

Berlin American High School was one of the first five American Schools to open in Germany in 1947. Open for 47 years the school closed in 1994.

Mr. Jim Rice, Faculty

Written February 14, 2001

Great to hear from a former tormented student. All my previous reunions have been with the Orleans High School where I taught for three years before I landed in Berlin. I am in the process of gathering my "stuff" from Berlin to take to Wichita this spring. I have a video tape of all my Super 8mm film that I shot in '69 and '70. I still have some voice over to do with it, and then I will donate it to the museum. I sent an original copy to George Pepoy last week. It's been twenty years since I've seen George and his wife Inge.

It is too early in the year to consider the reunion. July is usually filled with family gatherings and retreats. However, I do plan to spend time in Wichita before June. We are in the early stages of moving to a townhouse, so as we pack up, we are sorting through items we have to part with. It was at this time that I decided all my memorabilia from my overseas teaching years should go to the Wichita museum where it can be appreciated by others for years.

As you mentioned, I left Berlin in 1971 to return to Minnesota. I continued my teaching career for another twenty-five years in a bedroom community west of Minneapolis. I am now enjoying the retired life of leisure. There is no doubt in my mind that those years in Berlin were the greatest. Most of the credit

goes to all the outstanding students and athletes. We were from Berlin, we were unique.

Thanks for contacting me and best wishes for a successful reunion.

J. Rice

Kelly (Murphy) Benton '82

Subject: Update on Dave Guerin

May 14, 2002

Hi all ~

I know I have send this email to most of you but I just wanted to update you all on Dave! Last night at 1:30am I was sitting on Who's Online and Dave popped in. He asked if he could call me...we talked for some

*****UPCOMING EVENTS!*****

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|--|
| October 10th, 2002 | | Last day to contribute to the Kip Taylor Memorial Fund |
| October 11-13th, 2002 | | 2nd Annual Berlin Brats OktoberFest in So. California. Contact: Lee Angel '64 at : leemangel@cox.net |
| October 17-20, 2002 | | OSB Gathering in Chicago area. Contact: Joe Condrell, OSB President at: OSBPres@aol.com or call (316)269-9610 |
| MAY 23rd-25th, 2003 | | <u>BERLIN BRATS REUNION!</u> (All classes, All Years!) |

Letters received...

time. I had a lot of questions for him but he didn't really have the answers. The down and dirty is that, about a month ago Dave was in Baltimore for a family reunion and he started to experience double vision. He thought it was the onset of diabetes, as it runs in his family. He went to the doctor, and they ran a bunch of tests on him. This is the point that he learned that he had a brain tumor. Due to the location it is inoperable. He and TC (his wife) have been doing a lot of research and have tons of questions for the doctor. Last week he went and had a biopsy done. He told me it was really painful. They put this metal cap thing around his head, and drilled four holes in his head, all under a local anesthetic. His Mom and dad went with him. They currently live about 3 hours away in Pensacola. In fact, his Mom came in when we were on the phone. He is returning to the doctors tomorrow and will receive counseling about the radiation treatment that he is about to undergo. He says the sooner it starts the better.

Just so everyone remembers what a terrific guy Dave is...He has a terrific heart (and a thick southern draw) and he is SO uplifting. He made all my worries go away with his positive attitude. Still the road ahead will be difficult, please keep Dave and his family in your prayers. He would love to hear from all of you. He is completely open to talking about it. The thing that made me happiest was, as we were about to hang up he said "Kelly please stay in touch, I love you." My dear, dear friend, my heart and prayers stay with him. I know he will be just fine, and will gain strength through all of us! It was great to hear his voice.

Kelly

Dave's original email:

This will be down and dirty because I can't see too well right now.....excuse the type-O's. Just letting everyone know, friends and family, that I'm doing fine and to get the rumors turned down to a low roar. Here is the bottom line-the Doctors have found a tumor the size of a golf ball in the center of my brain. Yep....it happens to the best of us! As

you can see, my spirits all up and I refuse to put my other leg in the grave just yet! The good news is that it isn't CANCER! The bad, it's a slow-growing tumor and it's not operable because of it's location. Talking about changing my life. There's so many unanswered questions, and I'm sure I just dropped this on all of you suddenly, but, I have come to grips with it and moving on. I know this is disturbing and this isn't what email is for, but if you would like to call and talk about it, I'd love it. If not, just keep me in your prayers-there's still chance for this thing to disappear. I'm having my first appointment for radiation treatments to hopefully shrink it or do away with it. If you want details, give me a call. I have nothing but time... REMEMBER, I AM DOING FINE....AND I REFUSE TO LEAVE THIS WORLD YET! SORRY FOR THE BAD NEWS. ON A LIGHTER NOTE!.....For all those who this applies to - HAVE A HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY and don't you dare let this little disturbing news get anyone down. My phone number is 706-687-5029 if you would like to call. I can't write very well/type because of my double vision. There's no idea how long this tumor has been growing in my head. Yep, I will wake up from this nightmare soon too. TAKE CARE! LOVE YOU ALL. DAVE

Again, I don't mind you talking about my situation. In fact, if you do.....maybe "it" will disappear with a little bit a radiation and some help from above. A few updated pictures of the family are attached; the very reasons I refuse to quit! Please forward the information and pictures as you need. I may have forgotten a few of those I have come in contact with.

My flying career has come to a complete stop for now, and still have to figure out, after radiation, whether or not the Army can still use me and if I'll make it by the skin on my teeth to CW4, and 5 more years to retirement....but look at it this way.....I feel useless and like a bump on the log, but I don't think I'll be deploying anywhere anytime soon - take



Ralph Ryan '72 and Gary Carpenter '72 in their "new" letterjackets!

care everyone.

Rob Ahrens Class Contact for '87

Subject: Demonstrating no shame whatsoever...

Why do I always seem to feel the need to demonstrate a complete lack of shame?

I worked with a friend of mine on a short comedy (done just for fun), and had a part in it, along with Chris Marvin. It would have sat on tape and gone nowhere, but a San Francisco radio station had a "3 minute film festival", my friend submitted the short, and became a finalist. He didn't win, but the film is now online. Go to http://www.upwardrising.com/submissions_movies.html look for URD: Movie Submissions and look for "Tales of the Internet" at the bottom of web page, select your bandwidth, and enjoy. Stay tune to the very end..... And try to keep your mockery of me to a minimum. Thanks.

Rob

PS Europe was great!

Cast members in movie submission are Rob Ahrens, Class Contact for '87 and Chris Marvin, Class of '89.

Did You Hear?

NASA woke the orbiting space shuttle astronauts up with "Drops of Jupiter" last month? yep!!! (the Grammy Award winning song by Train....the group started by fellow BAHSer Rob Hotchkiss '79). They thought about waking them up with "She's on Fire", their current hit single, but decided maybe that wasn't such a good idea.

Going Home

I have had a few days to allow the "Berlin 2002 Flashback Tour" to sink in and WOW! It was an incredible event and journey that I wish more of us could have shared.

It all started with an incredible party which Bobby Harrell '83, Yhoshikia Loftin '83 and James Miller '83 were able to attend on the 4th of July in Berlin. They got all dressed up and were treated like the royalty they are. At that point, Cate Speer '85 was waiting patiently for her friends and her bike to show up in Austria....Larry Speer '83, Jenni Hewitt '85 and Kelly (Murphy) Benton '82 were all en-route to Berlin for the time of their lives. On the 5th of July all Flashbackers were located in Berlin, with the exception of world-class tri-athlete, Cate Speer '85, who was busy mentally preparing for her Iron Man competition on the 7th of July. On the 5th of July we all cleaned up, pretty much so and went to the revered Loretta's beer garden for a bit of camaraderie and to our surprise were greeted by several fellow local alumnae. One of my personal favorite memories was sharing some time with Mr. Bluem and catching him up on all of the comings and goings of Berliners I knew about. Now if we can just get him to buy a computer!!

On the 6th of July, the Mercedes van was rented and loaded with "downsized" gear to drive to Klagenfurt to cheer Cate on to victory. Estimated departure was 0830; actual departure was closer to 1030 but the crowd cheered as we departed on our journey, which took us through several rest stops and saw us dining in Munich on wiener schnitzel and other assorted yummy items. The Munich stop-over was a favorite stop for Yhoshikia Loftin '83 – it was a bunch of fun, laughter, the genesis for GIG and just a good ole fashion good time. Our arrival in Klagenfurt was in the o-dark-thirty hours...for us civilians, that means really, really late!

On the 7th of July, Cate Speer '85 was sent off on her Iron Man journey by none other than her esteemed alumni, well most of them. The rest of the day was spent drinking and relaxing and waiting for Cate (new nickname Cate-L) to make her way through town. Just as the team

was winding down from a festive day, Larry Speer '83 rounded the corner proclaiming, "Here she comes, here she comes" and with a smile on her face (and yes this was after 10 hours of strenuous activity!) Cate Speer '85 rounded the corner about 50% complete with her 26-mile run! We hoorayed her

beautiful Italian Pizzeria on one of the many canals, a few bottles of Chianti and beer were consumed as the gang wandered around Venice and ended up spending much quality time in the San Marco Square sipping lattes and espressos. That night, with a tightly bundled Cate Speer '85 in the back of the van, we



Brats at Loretta's Biergarten: top l-r: Bobby Harrell (83), Charlie Bluem (Faculty), Rick Kuhlbars (78), Janine Halter (83), Roy Hawkins (82), James Miller (83) Bottom l-r: Ari Jaffe (83), Jenni Hewitt (85), Larry Speer (83), Yhoshikia Loftin (83), Kelly Murphy Benton (82)

and took plenty of pictures and as she set off to complete her mission, the Flashbackers moved to a more comfortable beverage serving area with chairs to await her next lap around. Cate Speer '85 completed this incredible milestone well within the time requirements and in an impressive 15 hours and 5 minutes! We were all like beaming parents as she shared the trials and tribulations of her day – we were glad to be with her!

On the 8th of July, we awoke with a relatively refreshed Cate Speer '85 and a fresh new outlook on a beautiful summer day in Austria. There were many options for the Flashback team to embark on; however, the team decided to "Go to Venice for dinner". What a grand time that was...Cate treated us to dinner at a

ventured north toward Berlin and about 2330 decided we should attempt a straight-through drive to Berlin, (copyright to Larry Speer for the idea).

Approximately 12 hours after departing Venice, through dark and desolate routes in Bavaria, we arrived in Berlin on the 9th of July. First stop – Berlin American High School!! As luck would have it, on our way back to Bobby Harrell '83's and our hotel we were destined to drive by the BB complex and Berlin American High School. The feeling was there for all of us.... **We were home!!** With Bobby Harrell '83 armed with the camcorder, we began our journey wandering around the school. Fond memories were evoked as we rambled around the cafeteria, outside on the cafeteria

Going Home

patio, down Senior Hall but the energy was at an all time high in the gym....trips down memory lane about Larry Speer's plays, Jenni Hewitt's Student Council speeches, Yhoshikia Loftin's volleyball games and Bobby Harrell's graffiti were all a hit.....can you believe that Bobby Harrell's "autograph" still resides on one of the ceiling beams in the gym? Berlin American High School may have changed its name but it will always be Berlin American High School to us!!!

The next few days were spent sharing memories and making new memories with our fellow Flashbackers....having breakfast on the KuDamm, drinking at the Irish Pub and Irish Harp, visiting old houses in Duppel, BB and the Duck Pond, visiting where the Wall used to be, celebrating birthdays, late night Weiner Schnitzel, Currywurst mit Pommes and mayo. While I personally left very early that Friday morning, I was told the gang enjoyed many more fond memories that weekend. One of the best memories and biggest regrets I have is missing the soiree Bobby Harrell '83 threw at his house on Friday night. Many folks from times past were able to attend and much fun and memory sharing was done. Also visits to Potsdam, the unified Berlin and the Love Parade were enjoyed by all. When the time came for the Flashbackers to part ways, tears flowed and promises to keep in touch were made and have so far been kept. Oh yeah, and Cate Speer's bike showed up 4 days LATE!!

I would like to summarize by saying this was one of the BEST trips I have ever taken and I have taken some good ones. But being back in Berlin with people that cared and grew up in the city and the culture just as I had made it even more special. While the city is united again between East and West, many of us remember the trying times that were indeed the times we lived there and have used those circumstances to mold us into the strong and quality individuals I was privileged to share this trip with. Some of the names have changed, governments have changed, cultures have merged but it's still Berlin - the Finest City in the World - and Home Sweet Home.

As is common in reflective moments

in high school, I have taken the liberty to "will" my fellow Flashbackers with some of the memories and other notable items in no particular order...

To Bobby Harrell '83.... what an incredibly generous man and considerate soul you are. You opened your home and your family to us, coordinated travel plans, activities and reunions with other Brats. Absolutely a fantastic human being (with a beautiful family!) I hereby bequeath all my BAHS memorabilia to add to your ever-growing shrine of stuff....



Flashbackers 2002: L-R top row-Bobby Harrell 83, Jessy "Frank" Green 79, Marcel Harrell 82, James Miller 83, Mark (Chris Moss's hubby), Ralph DeGruy 85, Chris Moss 84, Rick Kuhlbars 78, Herr Prigge, Mr. Blum, Kelly Murphy 82, L-R Bottom: Roy Hawkins 82, Yhoshikia Loftin 83, Larry Speer 83, Cate Speer 85, Ari Jaffe 84, Tanja (Ari's wife), Janine Halter 83.

To Larry Speer '83.... the man who started the idea of driving straight through to Berlin from Venice.... it was a pleasure being your navigator from 1am to 4am in the winding mountains of Austria at 160 km/h. I would trust my life with nobody else than you. P.S. You look HOT in that leather jacket baby! I hereby bequeath to you enough stamps to send Mr. Mercedes all the letters you wrote in your mind on the trip...

To Yhoshikia Loftin '83.... the most complete packer I know.... there is nothing she forgot, even Lysol! Your organ-

izational abilities never cease to amaze me...thank God for you! It was great to spend the time getting to know you and I look forward to many more fun ventures. I hereby bequeath to my GINOR-MOUS bag for the next Flashback tour.... perhaps you can put my stuff in the pocket? :-)

To James Miller '83...my "back of the bus buddy"... where would be without you and your ability to take the perfect shot...I hereby bequeath to you a recording of my voice advising you. "You have 100 meters before a tunnel screws up your picture!"

To Kelly...my roomie....you Murphy sisters (Kelly (Murphy) Benton '83) are so fun to room with!! This reminds me of a song....[Note: Pick one of any 200 we sang last week]...you're an awful lot of fun to hang out with and possess incredible charisma.... you just exude Fun...I bequeath to you...GIG!!! (not that I have it nor have found it either!!) Haben Sie Gig?

To Cate Speer '85...for whom we all united for...thank you for being who you are and inviting us to share this WUNNERFUL milestone with you. I bequeath to you my continued love, admiration of your outlook on life and my friendship....I can't think of anything else you need...you have it ALL my friend...the world is your oyster...

Love you All...thanks for making this trip to Europe fabulous!!

Jenni Hewitt
Class of 1985

ARE YOU READY?!!!!

The 2003 REUNION will date place on May 23rd thru May 25th, 2003. Fri, Sat and Sun of Memorial Weekend
As has become our custom we will have an off site early arrival dutch treat dinner on Thursday, May 22nd for those who come in early.

REGISTRATION packages will be mailed out month end August.

If you don't think you are on the Berlin Brats database, or if you have been out of touch for awhile, and/or recently moved please submit your complete snail mail information to us at BerlinBrats@juno.com to ensure you receive a package.

The REUNION will take place at:

THE RAMADA PLAZA HOTEL

435 Smoky Park Hwy
Asheville, NC 28806
1-800-678-2161

Our room rate is \$79 per night....less than our '99 rate in Breckenridge!
Additionally, this price will be honored for 5 days before and 5 days after the REUNION
for those who want to come early or stay late and make a vacation out of this time.

GO AHEAD AND MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW!

the Ramada is waiting to hear from you.....

Just mention the BERLIN BRATS REUNION!

(the Ramada will accept cancellations up to 24 hours prior to arrival before any charge is incurred).

Our last REUNION in Breckenridge was our largest ever with 246 attendees.

With so many of us Brats living on the east coast, we expect ASHEVILLE to strip Breck of it's title!

WE HOPE WE WILL SEE YOU THERE!

In Memory: Molly Kate Clenaghan '69

A funeral was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3, 2001, at Skyline Funeral Home for Molly Kate Clenaghan, who died Oct. 25, 2001 at age 51. Ms. Clenaghan was born Sept. 16, 1950, in Berkeley, Calif., and lived in Germany before moving in the late 1960s to Beaverton. She was a homemaker. Survivors include her sixteen year old daughter, Shannen Kate Holtry; and brothers, Frank and Corey. The cause of death was Anoxic Brain Damage. A lack of oxygen to the

brain.

Molly's brother Frank wrote: Molly and I played a lot of golf together in the last few years. She was very involved with golf, almost every day. She has been living in Beaverton, Oregon for the last 30 years I would guess. Matter of fact she was how I ended up staying here. She gave me a place to stay when I first came to Oregon. She was a dispensing optician for quite a few years.

Frank (BJ) Clenaghan '67
fcclenaghan@attbi.com

Gary Carpenter '72

Molly was loved by a lot of us!

As we grow older and misfortunes fall to those who are loved, I think it crucial to publicize the appropriate news, albeit sad. (God forbid--or perhaps promote!--that we should attend upcoming reunions carrying canes and adorning Coke-bottle glasses and leisure suits!).

***** IMPORTANT REMINDER *****

KIP TAYLOR MEMORIAL PROGRAM

If you would like to contribute to the Kip Taylor Memorial Fund please detach the form below and submit to The AOSHS Memorial Program no later than October 10th, 2002.

THE AOSHS MEMORIAL PROGRAM
P.O. Box 4312
Scottsdale, AZ 85261

Name: _____

Tele # or Email Address: _____

Address: _____

Enclosed please find my contribution towards the "KIP TAYLOR MEMORIAL FUND"
(make check payable to: AOSHS Memorial Fund and note the honoree on the memo line)

BRAT BIOS

'63

Jeanette "Jan" (Gonzales) White

Vero Beach, Florida

verojan@aol.com

After leaving Berlin I lived in New Jersey. Went to school, married and moved to Florida in 1975. I own my own business "TEEJAYS AWARD" in Vero Beach, Florida.

My hobbies include golf and traveling. I have been married to Tom for 35 years. Tom is Mayor of Vero Beach, Florida. Children: Kimberley (28) and Tiffany (27). Both are married. I have one grand-daughter, Raynn B 7/2000



Grandpa Gary Carpenter '72 with Milo

'72 & '73

NEW GRANDFATHERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

in March and April
Congratulations to:
Gary Carpenter, class of '72
Paul Greer, class of '72
Lynn Comer, class of '73

'73

Susan (Howard) Ford

Indianapolis, Indiana

After leaving Berlin I returned to Michigan, while my father served his 2nd tour in Vietnam. He then retired in Indianapolis, Indiana where I graduated from high school and attended Indiana University and Purdue at Indianapolis. I majored in Business Management. I reside here to day with my family. I work with welfare recipients and individuals in need of assistance in finding jobs and

workforce development.

My hobbies include: After spending a lifetime of living in government provided apartments with no yard or garden; I love to garden!

Accomplishments I am most proud of: I have 2 wonderful children who have the best qualities of myself and my husband. I married in 1977 and have 2 children, Melissa and Michael. They are 18 and 15. Other information you would like to share: I was forever changed by my experiences in Berlin. The people, the place, the time. What a remarkable experience I had.

'82

Robert Colangelo

CONGRATULATIONS to Bob Colangelo '82 on his marriage to Michelle on July 20th, 2002! We can congratulate the happy couple in person at our 2003 Asheville Reunion!

'83

Mina (Buenviaje) Tice

Richmond, Virginia

After leaving Berlin I moved to San Antonio, Texas where my father got stationed at Lackland, AFB. I graduated from Marshall High School, where I was active in the Navy JROTC, and went on to Boston College, receiving degrees in English Literature and Education in 1988. After college, I taught elementary school in Williamsburg, Virginia for eight years.

Accomplishments I am most proud of: Graduating from college, being a wife and mother, and having some of my writing published.

I am very happily married. I have FIVE children! Three boys and two girls. Additional information you would like to share: I am now working as a staffing specialist and managing projects in the information technology branch of a large financial services company in Richmond, Virginia. Who would you like information on: I would love to hear from or about anyone (teachers, alumni, students of any class year) who was in Berlin/at BAHS in 1977-81

'89

Candice Rachelle Howard

The betrothed are Candice Rachelle Howard to Jason Charles Boesch.

Parents are Mr. And Mrs. Derral Howard of Broken Arrow; and Mr. And Mrs. Charles Boesch of Blackwell.



Bob & Michelle Colangelo, 7-20-02

The bride-elect is a graduate of Berlin American High School (Class of '89) and Oklahoma State University. She is a branch administrator with Prudential Securities Inc.

The prospective bridegroom is a graduate of Blackwell High School and Oklahoma State University. He is a manager with OK-RET Credit Union.

The wedding is planned for August 3, 2002, at Messiah Lutheran Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Candice wrote: I am getting very excited. I have my bridal portrait taken tomorrow. All of the planning is going very well. Just the final details to deal with as the day approaches. I really wish that is was sooner than 6 weeks away.

Candice Howard

Class of '89

candicehoward@yahoo.com



Candice & Charles Boesch, 8-3-2002

BERLIN BRATS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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*******For Sale*******

One "official cruise photo" ~ (our group shot) at
the Melbourne, FL regional.

If you didn't get one....and would like one
we have one (1) left!

It's **\$3.00** for a 5 X 7 to the first person
that submits their request to the Berlin Brats.

Remit your payment to:

Berlin Brats
41630 N. Rolling Green Way
Anthem, AZ 85086

We're on the web:
<http://www.BerlinBrats.org>

Other Contacts & Websites:

American Overseas School Historical Society (AOSHS)

Contact: Dr. Tom Drysdale, President

E-mail: overseasschools@juno.com

Website: www.aoshs.wichita.edu

Brat Attack.....a Berlin chat room

By invitation only

Contact: Linda (Waters) Keeler at linda.keeler@comcast.net

Early 60's....chat room

By invitation only

Contact: Jim Branson at jbranson01@hotmail.com

Overseas Brats (OSB)

Contact: Joe Condrill, President

E-mail: JoeOSBPRES@aol.com

Website: www.overseasbrats.com