

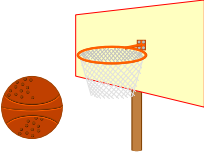
## Irvington Varsity "I" Club Newsletter

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**NEWSLETTER # 67**

**DEC. 2001**

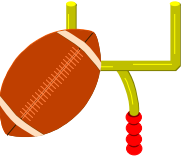


**HI FOLKS;**

It is now 2; 30 am on Friday morning on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> I could not sleep so I thought I would get up and write something that I have been thinking about (I figured that was why I could not sleep) Since 1988 when I ran the first Reunion to the present, I did it all alone, now after fifteen attempts, I find I cannot do it anymore. I have informed the Committee, last year was my last and no one stepped forward and said they would take over.



I am of sound mind and will continue my NEWSLETTER; because I believe you folks enjoy it as much as I enjoy publishing it. It is the physical work I am unable to do. All the small details you have in running a Reunion. The mailings, the writing for prizes, the following up, pick up the prizes, the caterers, making sure of the number of people attending, purchasing sufficient Beer and Liquor. Carrying it to the affair, getting a loud speaker system, getting into the building a few days before to get the beer cold, having birthday cakes made up for the birthday boys, purchasing name plates and many other small minor details. Details that this 85-year-old gent cannot do physically anymore. My mind is sound but my legs tell me a different story. The free prizes are the backbone of the affair; they have been the profit makers all the past years. To do away with the free prizes would necessitate higher cost to all participants to cover expenses. O yes, I almost forgot, getting a bartender to make sure you all get your fill of beer and liquor all during the affair.



Now for the serious stuff. Isn't it awful what the terrorist have done to us by hijacking our planes and flying them into the World Trade Buildings killing all those innocent people. It is awful, and I know many of you folks are also disturbed by the many emails I have received regarding this situation. I wish to thank all you folks for writing to me concerning this matter. Space makes it impossible to print all your messages and feelings that you have conveyed to me, so please keep sending your email, some will be published.



Now we got this Anthrax business and it is getting disturbing. All these things bother us, as we get older. They bother us, because we cannot do anything about them. Perhaps that is why we should get in that easy chair, relax and read this Newsletter. Let the politicians work it out. However it is disturbing to see this maniac create such havoc in this country because he is jealous of our freedom and success. It is our children and grandchildren who will suffer for his deeds and in turn we will agonize over this situation.



Now get into that easy chair, close your eyes, put your head back and think of something pleasant. Something that has happen to you in the wonderful Irvington High School years. Was it that home run you hit in one of the games, or was it the

tackle made on the three yard line that stopped your opponents from making a touchdown, perhaps it was that last second shot that beat Bloomfield in basketball, or was it that last minute bit of energy you asked the Lord to give you so you could win the 100 yard dash. Speaking of energy, especially in track, do you recall in your day in high school or college how many of the track people needed help after completing a mile run, not today, all athletes are in better physical shape or condition than we were, they are better, bigger and stronger physically thus more records.

### **Bits and Pieces.**

We saw this as humoresque and many of his players also did. For all the football fans among you, you have heard of the football coach of the N. Y. Giants Jim Fassel on Thurs. Oct 11 had his car stolen that night. As the report say, " he left the keys in the car" an amused veteran on the team said, "Do you believe that?"

Another player suggested making flyers for Giants fans, offering the opportunity to meet Fassel, steal his car and receive phone call from him – as the culprit did- - all in one night. The report goes on to say, Fassel was good natured about the incident and laughed while retelling the tale of the stolen Mercedes E430 which he had all of two weeks.

Here is irony of this whole situation, the following day, he got word that they found the car and where do you think they found it. They now have the car in the IRVINGTON police compound. Asked if it was in one piece, Fassel said, "I think so"

The theft occurred after Fassel left Giants Stadium and stopped for gas at an Exxon station on Route 17 in Hasbrouck Heights. There is a lot banter with the players and of course the Coach. He, the Coach, taking it all in stride.

What has intrigue me was the fact that the Car landed in Irvington, our Town, which now rates as the second highest Town for Stolen Cars in New Jersey, HASBROUCK HEIGHTS TO IRVINGTON.

Speaking of football coaches, Irvington H. S. has a new football Coach this year and of all names, his is Jeff Weiner, We thought that perhaps he was related to our Mickey Weiner, former coach in my day or perhaps the son of Bernie Weiner brother of Mickys, who we also played with on the '34 football team. But no, Mick was quite surprised when we told him of this situation. Mick on Oct. 26, will be celebrating his 93 birthday. Mick and his lovely wife Ginny will be spending the month of December in Florida.

JOHN BISSET '38, after many years of mixed emotions of which to root for, living in Union and an alumnus of Irvington finally moved to Basking Ridge to be closer to the Grandchildren. Well I must tell you Irvington defeated Union for one of the few times under new Coach Jeff Weiner this year on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>.

STAN WNEK '38 Got a note from Stan who heard from his classmate SKI KSYCEWSKI '38 now living in California. Ski went into the service and made the service a career, retiring as a Lt. Col. in the Usmc. Ski was recently informed that he would be inducted in the Catholic University Hall of Fame on Oct 26<sup>th</sup>.. Ski in a letter to me says that he does not feel that he will attend as in his retiring years he is plague with arthritis and has had a bad back that was developed while he was in service. >>>> Ski, congratulations on the recognition that your school is given to you now. We in Irvington, who knew you, always felt you were worthy of Hall of Fame recognition. Again congratulations.

Stan Wnek in his letter tells me that his Grand daughter graduated college in May. His other grandson will be graduating from San Diego State in December. He joins his older brother who graduated from Tusculum College and lives in San Diego. One of my younger grandsons is entering Seton Hall Prep and he plans to make the swimming team.

**FRED KLITTICH '60 and FATHER PAVELA '69 both have found their way to the Ministry. Fred recently got back from a trip to Africa with his wife, Joyce (Reitz)'60 and 15 members of his church, spent three weeks in the African country of Mozambique working with the missionaries in building a Bible School. I have been to other third world countries, but the poverty and hopelessness of that country is overwhelming. The trip really helped me appreciate our country. Fred closes by saying I regret that I cannot be more active in the Varsity I Club but I appreciate your hard work..**

**Father Pavela'69 has become a wonderful advocate of Nebraska football, mentioning to me that every time that they have a home game, 80,000 fans fill their stadium and that is more people than most cities in Nebraska.**

**Both these gentlemen are leading us in prayer for the fallen hero's that have left us in the Twin Tower and now the Anthrax scare that the terrorist have brought upon us.**

**We have, we believe a humorous little bit that relates to most of us as senior citizens. Remember, if we cannot laugh at ourselves, whom can we laugh at. We wish to title this A TRUE SENIOR MOMENT.**

**An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating the wives left the table and went into the kitchen.**

**The two elderly gentlemen were talking and one said, " Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great, I would recommend it highly." The other man said, "What is the name of the restaurant?"**

**The first man thought and thought and finally said, " What is the name of the flower you give to someone you love? You know ... the one that is red and has thorns."**

**"Do you mean a rose?"**

**"Yes!" said the man. He turned toward the kitchen and yelled, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"**

**We received this email from my Daughter, living in California, who received it from a friend of hers. Entitled THIS IS THOUGHT PROVOKING**

**I had a very special teacher in high school many years ago, whose husband died suddenly of a heart attack. About a week after his death, she shared some of her insight with a classroom of students. As the late afternoon sunlight came streaming in through the classroom windows and the class was nearly over, she moved a few things aside on the edge of her desk and sat down there. With a gentle look of reflection on her face, she paused and said, "Before class is over, I would like to share with you a thought that is unrelated to class, but which I feel is very important.**

**Life is a gift and none of us knows when this fantastic experience will end. It can be taken away at any moment. We must make the most out of every single day" Her eyes, beginning to water, she went on. So I would like you all to make me a promise. From now on, on your way to school or on your way home, find something beautiful to notice. It doesn't have to be something you see it could be a scent – perhaps of freshly baked bread wafting out of someone's house, it could be the breeze slightly rustling the leaves in the trees or the way the morning light catches one autumn leaf as it falls gently to the ground.**

**Please look for these things and cherish them! For, though it may sound corny to some, these things are the stuff of life. The little things that are here on earth to enjoy. The things we often take for granted. We must make it important to notice them, for at any time, it can be taken away".**

The class was completely quite. We all picked up our books and filed out of the room, silently. That afternoon I noticed many things on my way home from school than I had that whole semester. Every once in awhile, I think of that teacher and remember what an impression she made on all of us and I try to appreciate all of those things that sometimes we all overlook.

Take notice of something special you see on your lunch hour, today. Go barefoot, or walk on the beach at sunset. Stop off on the way home tonight to get a double dipped ice cream cone.

For as we get older, it is not the things we did that we often regret, but the things we didn't do. Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

#### **GOD BLESS AMERICA**

As we lay to rest the victims of our national tragedy, let us not seek to ask for whom the somber, sobbing bell toll. For they toll for all the sons and daughters of this "Sweet Land of Liberty". They toll for all persons of compassionate and noble heart. Let not the dastardly act diminish our spirits. Rather, let it serve to unite our people and elevate our national character.

We shall never forget the second day of infamy, but we will become a more vigilant people because of it. Furthermore, America's renewed unity and patriotism are more fitting tribute to our fallen countrymen. And as this nation moves forward with purpose and wisdom, may God Bless America.

**Donald F. Perkins**

In our Newsletter we try to give you some thought provoking ideas, many sent to me via email. Space in our Newsletter makes it impossible to print them all so don't stop sending them. We save them all and we will print them when needed. Thank you.

**Happy Birthday-----Happy Birthday-----Happy Birthday**

**Stan Wnek 12/8/19, Harry Michaelson 12/10/18, Ed Baureis 12/12/28, Ray Knispel 12/18/20/, Richard Steffan 12/19/25, Charlie Smith 12/20/19, Al Cimirro 1/10/25, Saul Donner 1/27/19, Norman Reich 1/22/16, Anthony Pilone 1/17/37, Harold Mullen 1/20/31, Dave Lipkin 1/18/10, Donald Pace 1/11/39, Peter Gillecce 1/24/32, Frank Bahlman 1/22/25, Mickey Kott 1/16/, Herb Simon 2/10/30, Rolf Augenstein 2/28/34, Gerhard Bass 2/4/38, Herm Pizzi 2/5/30, Wilbur Hartl 2/8/16, Joe Masterson 2/9/32, Richie Ross 2/19/35, Jack Matthews 2/23/20, Tony Sytko 2/4/29,**

Age seems to be creeping up on all of us. Do you recognize any of your classmates. How about sending them a birthday card, wishing them a happy birthday.

I hope to finish off this Newsletter by having page 5 and 6 with headlines and Newspaper articles concerning our town Irvington . I must tell you that our former Town although the crime rate has gone down we still lead all the Towns in total Crimes. We made it to the Top in Crime. .

By the time you get this Newsletter I predict you will be reading of the decision of former Mayor of Newark, Mr. Gibson found guilty of his taken all those millions from our town for building and repairing our school. I also read recently that the Mayor was involved with Gibson in a Payoff. Like a soap opera, more scandal.

With the Holiday season coming, I wish to extend to you all, a Happy Holiday, a Happy Hanukkah, and for you Muslims a Happy----- ( I don't know what you call it).

**Vito**