

Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XIV No. 3

July 1995

WELCOME GRADUATING CLASS OF 1995

Congratulations to the graduating class of 1995. You are now part of a special group of men and women known as the alumni of Taft High School. The purpose of the Taft Alumni Association is to provide means for Taft alumni to continue or renew friendships begun at Taft, provide service to the school and most importantly to preserve its history. We publish a newsletter four times a year to let you know what other alumni are doing, keep you informed of activities affecting the Taft community and to invite you to special events at Taft. As you continue your education, work a full time job, or get married, remember us. Drop a line to let us know your new name or address and what you have been doing since graduation. This information will be very helpful for your first class reunion five or ten years from now. An application form to join the Association is on the last page of this newsletter. The membership fee is \$10 - which covers two years of dues. Considering the rising costs of printing and postage of these newsletters, that's a pretty nice bargain! Best of luck to you. Hold your head high and be proud to say you came from Taft High School.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

Membership dues to become a member of the Taft Alumni Association is \$10, which covers two years. Why bother? What do I get from it? Yes, I'm already an alumni, so why do I need a "membership card"? The Taft Alumni Association is run by a group of dedicated volunteers who continue to hold a special attachment to Taft, even years after graduation. The

membership dues are used to cover costs of maintaining alumni records, publishing quarterly newsletters and coordinating reunion plans. We endeavor to furnish an annual scholarship to a deserving senior financed through special donations. Through membership dues, fund raisers and donations, we sponsor productions at Taft to encourage continuing interest in the drama department. Some of the most recent efforts have been "Mame" (1991), "Play on" (Fall 1991), "Bye, Bye Birdie" (1992) and "The Dining Room" (1993). A special drama workshop headed by a Taft alumnus and specially written play was performed by Taft students in 1994. Also, we have provided funds for buying hats and overlays for the marching band and a laser printenr for the journalism department. It is an advantage to have your name listed in our alumni file, so it will be available for a class reunion when one of your class members (or even you) decide to probe such a possibility, with Alumni guidelines and assistance, this venture is much easier to arrange. As "Sponsoring Alumni", you can help make this association the largest, most responsive group of high school alumni in the area. It is a fact that Taft graduates are dedicated to the school's principles and carry forth a tradition with which no other high school can compare. We got our roots at Taft and they are strong and enduring. We urge any non-paying Taftites to join the 3,500 supporting Eagles. We are going forward with pride and determination. Helping where needed, the Association works closely with the PTA and Local School Council. Your financial aid will strengthen our treasury and give additional confidence to our alumni volunteers. were in Eagle in high school. Now join the Alumni Association and soar like an Eagle for the rest of your life.

ALUMNI CHORUS SETS DATE

Set aside the evening of December 1, 1995 for Taft Alumni Chorus' Fourth Annual Holiday Concert. Each year's performance gets bigger and better in terms of quality and attendance. We almost had a standing room only crowd last year. We will have a ticket order form in the next issue of this newsletter, so plan ahead and get your order in early.

Rehearsals start right after Labor Day up to Thanksgiving. All voice ranges are needed. Don't be concerned if your voice isn't what it used to be - we won't tell. Just come and join the fun. Time and location are still being settled as of this printing, so if you are interested in joining us on stage this year, contact Mike Guercio (Class of '78) at 312/775-4356 for details.

PLEASE HELP US HELP A FRIEND! To the Class of 1972:

One of your fellow graduates is waging a battle against cancer. With today's health care costs skyrocketing, some of his friends and family are planning a benefit dance, silent auction and raffle at the St. Juliana Parish Hall, 7200 W. Touhy in Chicago on July 29, 1995.

If you would like more information on the benefit or wish to make a donation, please contact:

George Stewart - 708/551-4116 (days) 708/394-4418 (evenings) OR Bill Martin - 708/577-4602 (evenings)

TO ALL FLORIDA TAFT ALUMNI:

If you would be interested in getting together with other Taft graduates living in Florida for a luncheon? If so, please send your name and address and your graduating year to:
Nancie (Sedor) White (June, '57), 412 Firethorn Ave. Englewood, FL 34223 - OR Willie (Munk) Murphy (June, '57), 1031 Gondola Drive East Venice, FL 34293.

Previous respondants are already on file, so you do not need to reply again unless your address has changed since last year.

Dear Kay,

I want to thank you and all the others who put together such a wonderful newsletter. Through it I have learned so much about Taf. t, its history, present and future mission in the community...

Yours truly, Dave Pfender (Jan., '63)

TAFT WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

April 29, 1995 was the 42nd Annual Taft Women's Luncheon, held at Brigantes Banquets in DesPlaines, IL. Approximately 90 ladies attended this year's event and enjoyed a great afternoon of food, reminiscing and fun. The luncheon committee is already planning for next year. Efforts to bring attendance up to 300 are in the works. If you did not get your personal invitation this year, call or write now to be sure your name is included in the list for next spring. We will announce the details as soon as they are set. Contact: Dawn (Rolla) Reid (Class of '81), 754 Algonquin Rd., Apt. 1 DesPlaines, IL 60016





SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Congratulations to 1995 graduate and this year's recipient of TAA Scholarship Award, Brian Hitchins. Eastern Illinois University is the school to be honored this fall with Brian's presence, as he works toward his goal to become a physics teacher. Brian ranked #3 in his class and was active in several extra-cirricular activities including Student Council, Senior Council, Academic Decathlon, National Honor Society, Math Club and Drama Club. We wish him well.

EVERY PERSON:

All the events of your life are there because you have drawn them there.

What you choose to do with them is up to you.

by Richard Bach



YEARBOOKS FOR SALE

Currently we have the following yearbooks available for sale: 1981, 1982, 1985, 1986 and 1987. If you misplaced yours or it got caught in a flood or fire, now is the time to recover! Cost is \$25 each (which includes postage and handling), available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Send your check to Taft Alumni Association, c/o Kay Kuciak, 47 W. Lancaster Lane, DesPlaines, IL 60018. 708/824-4747.

OTHER REUNIONS NORWOOD PARK GRAMMAR SCHOOL CLASSES 1935 - 1940

Date: August 2, 1995 Location: Olive Garden

Niles, IL

Contact: Nina (Christensen) Hansen

312/282-3910

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CLASS OF 1965

Date: November 24, 1995 Location: Scandinavian Club

Arlington Heights, IL

Contact: Deb (Kalteux) Paddack

708/364-4973

GARVY GRAMMAR SCHOOL CLASS OF 1975

Date: Plans for 1995

Location: To be determined Contact: Nancy (Clark) Flynn 708/372-6245 HAPPENINGS

CLASS REUNIONS

CLASS OF JAN./JUNE 1945

Date: August 26, 1995 Location: Clarion Hotel Rosemont. IL

Contact: Tom Leach 708/620-7046

CLASS OF JAN./JUNE 1947

Date: July 17-19, 1997

Location: Holiday Inn - O'Hare

Rosemont, IL

Contact: June (Baley) Brinkman

708/540-0796

CLASS OF JAN./JUNE 1950

Date: October 7, 1995

Location: Best Western - Midway

Elk Grove, IL

Contact: George Williston 708/665-5891

CLASS OF JUNE, 1955

Date: October 28, 1995 Location: TBD

Contact: Class Reunions, Inc.

708/677-4949

or

CLASS OF JANUARY, 1957

Date: 10/96 or 5/97

Location: To be determined Contact: Leo Drummer 708/208-1637

Irene (Boer) McInerney

708/437-0367

CLASS OF JANUARY, 196

Date: Plans forming - 9/95? Location: To be determined

Contact: Lee Marsh

708/359-1115

or Paula (Steen) Williams 708/397-1985

CLASS OF 1985

Date: September 9, 1995

Location: Schaumburg Marriott

Contact: Class Reunions 708/677-4949



1994 NEWSFINDER OF THE YEAR

Taft alumni and WBBM Newsradio 78 reporter Don Mellema (class of Jan., 1955) has covered the Chicagoland streets reporting news as it happens for the past 25 years. He was honored by the Illinois Associated Press at the Illinois News Broadcasters Association convention for his individual contributions to the AP report by being named "1994 Newsfinder of the Year." Mellema is the second recipient of this award. Jim Wilson, Illinois AP Chief of Bureau said, "Don's outstanding coverage of Chicago and his willingness to share his reporting with the Associated Press members personifies the AP's cooperative spirit. Hs is most deserving of this award." Mellema's reports can be heard daily on WBBM Newsra- dio 78.

IN OUR MEMORIES

DONALD LOEW (June, 1948) passed away suddenly in May, 1993 at the age of 62.

HONORS CLASSES RESTORED

Under the new principal, Thomas Cunningham, Taft is refocusing on enhancing the curriculum by restoring the honors program that had been cut last year. Previous limitations imposed by the Chicago Board of Education's sevenperiod day schedules and Taft'[s School Within a School format resulted in not enough time available in the day to accomodate these specialized classes. This fall should again see classes such as Journalism, Speech-Drama nad Creative Writing/Mass Media, Band, Mixed Chorus, Advanced Math, Law in American Society, African American History, Advanced Placement Political Science, Drafting, Carpentry and Electronics shops, Computer Programming, Desktop Publishing, etc.

Through the use of Chapter I funds, a summer school will be available this year offering a summer geometry course, enabling special students to earm five years of math in the space of four. Also to be offered are introductory

high school math and english classes. Students who need only one or two credits to complete graduation requirements can attend. The program is available for Taft student only for a nominal fee of \$10.

PRIDE IN OUR YOUTH

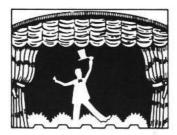
Occasionally we hear comments like, "Taft isn't what it used to be," or "The kids today don't care any more." But looking back on the achievements of this past school year, we see things differently. In both academic and athletic endeavors, Taft traditions of dedication, pride and perseverance still hold. Some of the highlights of honors earned this year are:

- Girl's Swim Team 8th place Overall in citywide competition;
- Boy's Swim Team 5th place Overall in citywide competition;
- Luis Vasquez won first place in 140 lbs. class, making him a state qualifier;
- Varsity football team beat Lane on October 7th (Homecoming game) with quarterback Marcus Stennis scoring a touchdown in the final seconds of play to win 7-0. This broke a 30-year losing streak vs. Lane in football.
- Academic Decathalon team earned 5 medals for individual excellence in January. Senior Brian Hitchins won a bronze medal in the math competition and two silver medals infine rts dscience. Senior John Wayne wo a bronze for language and literature. Junior Linda Wyant won a bronze medal for her skills in interviews. The team earned 7th place overall
- Mock Trials competition earned Taft's team a first place in Citywide competition.
 Carry on, tradition, carry on...

DRAMA CLUB CONTINUES

Another tradition that we personally encourage, support and help nurtureat Taft is the Drama Club. This year's effort was another excellent example of talent in writing, directing and acting. Sponsoring teacher, Kathy Klink directed the performance, entitled "Variations





on a Theme Called Love". Technical Director was Jay Katzman and Student Director was Brian Hitchins. This was a collection of skits written or adapted by Taft students and performed by them. One exception was the addition of alumnus Pat Benson (class of 1994) who volunteered to help and would up as one of the performers in the show. Keep up the good work!

FACELIFT PLANNED FOR SUMMER

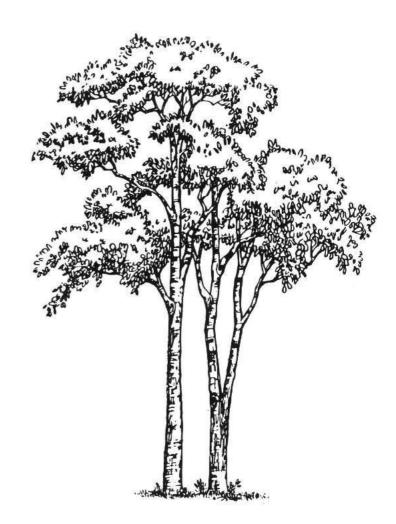
Plagued for years, Taft's malfunctioning roof-top air conditioning units will finally be replaced. Public Building Commission (PBC) has allocated \$900,000 for this project. Also planned for the sumomer is a refinishing of the floor in the large first-floor gum, including sanding, repairing warped boards and resurfacing and repainting lines. As a result, summer school will be located in the old building only (along Natoma) where windows still open. Does that bring back memories to graduates who attended prior to the two additions?!

1995 TAFT HALL OF FAMERS

Seven distinguished finalists have been chosen by TAA Board of Directors to be added to Taft's Alumni HALL OF FAME. At the present time we are busy contacting each honoree to advise them of the award and determine if they are able to attend the induction ceremonies in person. Our plan at present is to hold the ceremony during half-time at this fall's football homemcoming game.

Watch for the date in October and plan to join us to celebrate this momentus occasion. We plan to have a special alumni section in the stands.

Former cheerleaders and pon pom team members are encouraged to contact us to organize a special cheering section for the alumni. Call Jerry Bloom (312)774-5320 for more information.







1940s

FLOYD GILBERT (JANUARY 1941) fives in Chicago and is retired VIVIAN (MORRIS) HORN (JANUARY 1941) lives in Ingleside, IL, has twin daughters and 5 grandchildren and is retired.MARIE (HAUCK) RUEHL (JANUARY 1941) MARRIED BILL (JUNE 1941) they have 2 children and 4 grandchildren and live in Elgin. IL where she is a housewife ADOLPH PALUCH GUNE 1941) graduated from Parson College BA lives in Cincago and is self employed and acrive in American Lesgon Post 1119 MARY (NEMETH) KOVACS (JUNE 1943) lives in Arcadia, CA, has 1 child and is a bookkeeper. DICK BRETWISCH (JUNE 1944) has 2 children, lives in Coral Springs, FL and is retired. **EDWIN HILDWEIN** (JUNE 1945) graduated from U of WA BS Acct 1949, MARRIED JOAN CZIRAK (JUNE 1947) they live in Boise, ID, have 2 children and both are retired, Joan an RN, Edwin a financial exec.from Boise Cascade. WALTER KOSMEN (JUNE 1945) graduated from Walton School of

Commerce BSA 1951.

LATINER (JUNE 1949)

MARRIED BARB

CLASS NOTES

they ave in Park Ridge, IL and less a controller JAMES PEMBLE (JANUARY 1946) graduated from Amer Acad, of Art, U of I BFA, Mc Corrack Seminary M. Divinity, lives in Rockford, IL and is a retired teacher. ELAINE (RUBOYIANES) BLAZEK (JUNE 1946) graduated from Wright, has 1 child and is a housewife living in Chicago. FRED JOHNSTON (JANUARY 1947) lives in Clearwater. FL and is a credit manager. HAROLD CICHOWSKI **JUNE 1947) MARRIED** MARILYN HAYOR (JUNE 1947), they have 3 children, live in Beverly Hills, FL and are retired. CATHERINE (HALL) MEGARGEE (JUNE 1947) lives in Poway, CA and is a retired librarian clerk ROGER NEWMAN (JUNE 1948) graduated from Wright and Elhmhurst College, lives in Miami, FL. has 3 children and is in real estate. He was the Captain of the 1948 Baseball Team STEPHEN NITSCHNEIDER (JUNE 1948) graduated from Wright, lives in Denver, CO, has 6 children and is retired WILLIAM PEESEL (JUNE 1948) has 2 children and 3 grandchildren, lives in Chicago and is retired from the

State of IL. (CMS)

CAROL (LARSON)
LOSW-KALBAS
(JANUARY 1948) was
married to DONALD
LOEW (JUNE 1948) who
passed away in May 1993,
temarried WILLIAM
KALBAS (JANUARY
1948), they live in Twin
Bridges, MT, have 7 chitdren and 15 grandchildren

1950s

MARILYN (WOLF) MASON (JANUARY 1950 lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 3 children and 2 grandchildren and is the owner of Mt. Prospect Employment Services JOHN PETRIE (JUNE 1953) graduated from Elgin Community College and MIT Urban Executives Program, tives in Lake Zurich, IL, has 2 children and is a data processing executive. JOYCE (KIENGLE) ROSSEN (JUNE 1955) lives in Barrington, IL. **BRUCE WEINWURM** (JUNE 1956) graduated from St Olaf BA Chem 1960 Lovola MBA 1976, lives in Middletown, NJ, has 2 children and is a general manager. RICHARD LUTZ (JUNE 1958) graduated from

Northwestern BS 1963,

2 children and is in sales

lives in Barrington, IL, has

1960s

JOAN (WEIGLERY) WELCH CLANUARY 1961) graduated from Elmhurst College Radiologic Tech 1966, lives in Prespect His IL, has 5 children and 7 grandchildren and is an xray technologist. LYNN (ANDERSON) DROST (JUNE 1961) MARRIED RUDY (JUNE 1961) Lynn graduated from St Olaf & Roosevelt BA 1985, they have 2 children. live in Palatine, IL and she is a Psychologist in private practice and a youth conter volunteer counselor. KEN LINDENAU (JUNE 1962) graduated from Northwestern & U of I. lives in Brecksville, OH, has 2 children and 2 granddaughters and is a VP Marketing Services DAVID PFENDER (JANUARY 1963) graduated from U of I BSEE 1968, lives in Clemson, SC, has 2 children and is a VP Engineering, New business ventures, at Clemson Interactive Video Inst. GERALDINE (BERNARD) NIEDER (JANUARY 1965) graduated from Red Rocks Community College, lives in Lakewood, CO and is an office manager KATHLEEN (LUEDTKE) ELLIS (JUNE 1965) graduated from Northeast-

CLASS NOTES

ein BA 1969, Natl. College of ED MA 1980, Northeastern MA 1975, lives in Libertyville, IL, has I child and is an elementary school Principal at Braeside School in Highland Park, IL. THOMAS OFLISON (JUNE 1966) graduated from Wright AA 1969. Wheaton College BS 1971, Natl. Radio Institute 1st. class FCC license 1972. lives in Chicago and is an agriculture inspector in the quarantine office at O Hare Aimort RICK BREESE (JANUARY 1967) MARRIED SUBBERG (1968), he graduated from Wright AA 1969 Southern IL BS 1971 they live in Palatine, IL, have 2 children. Rick is a Natl. Accts. Mgr. at Crescent Cardboard Co Sue helps at a local shelter for homeless and is a recording secretary. TOM BIESCHKE (JUNE 1967) graduated from Wright & U of WI, lives in Minocaua, WI, has 2 children and is President of Superior Masonry and member of the Lakeland Serior Hockey Team. CELESTE (HINCHLIFFE) HENSGEN (1967) lives in Chicago, has 4 children and is a hostess. EDWARD KRZEMINSKI

(JUNE 1967) graduated

from Wright & College of Du Page, Electronics, lives in Countryside, IL, bas 2 children and is an electrical contractor.

PATRICIA (ANDERSON) ROBERTSON (1969) lives in Bolingbrook, IL has 4 children and is a hairdresser

BARBARA (MUSUR) STAEHLE (1969) graduated from De Paul BS finance 1982, lives in Downers Grove, IL, has i child and is a VP Tax Dept. at Northern Trust.

1970s

KRISTINE (RICHTER) BECKER (1970) graduated from Sarah Lawrence, lives in Englewood, NJ and is an art director for Avon. RICH BOLINDER (1970) graduated from 1L State BS Education 1976, Natl. College of Ed MS 1989, lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, has 2 children and is a sales rep. JUDY JACOBSEN (1970) graduated from Wright AA 1973, lives in Hawthorn Woods, IL, has I child and is retired. JANICE KAY (1970) lives in Bensenville, IL, has I child and is editor of "WindyCityFlyer" and an

aircraft maintenance agent for American Airlines. ARLENE (NOTHACKER) MERRIMAN (1970) graduated from Northern BS 1974, MS 1976, Wright AA 1973. lives in Des Plaines. IL and is a human resources director. JEAN (WALSH) KLAMERUS (1971) graduated from Wright AA 1974 lives in Park Ridge. IL and is a secretary at a Utility Co. CRYSTAL (PIEHL) PETERSON (1971) MARRIED TOM PETERSON (1970), they live in Palatine, IL and have 3 children MICHAEL WEST (1971) leves in Chicago, has I child

and is a commercial photographer

BRIAN KULA (1973) lives

in Chicago and works for the US Post Office. LOREN HIZEL (1979) MARRIED DENICE (HERMESDORF) (1979), he graduated from Southern 1984, CPA 1989, She graduated from Mundelein College 1984, they have 2 children and recently moved to North Wales, PA.

1980s

CAROL (RAYE) NYKAZA (1981) lives in

Oak Lawn, IL, has 2 children and is a housewife. LISA RENDER (1981) graduated from Northeastem BA 1987, lives in Chicago and exhibits B/W fine art photography and is a graphic designer LORI (NAVROATZKE) POPPA (1983) graduated from Concordia BA social work/ phychology 1988. lives in Tucson, AZ and is a veterinary technician CINDY NIECIECKI (1984) graduated from Northeastern BS Mktg. 1988 . lives in Chicago and works at Columbia Bank. RENEE KICINSKI (1987) graduated from Robert Morris College AA 1089 and lives in Chicago.

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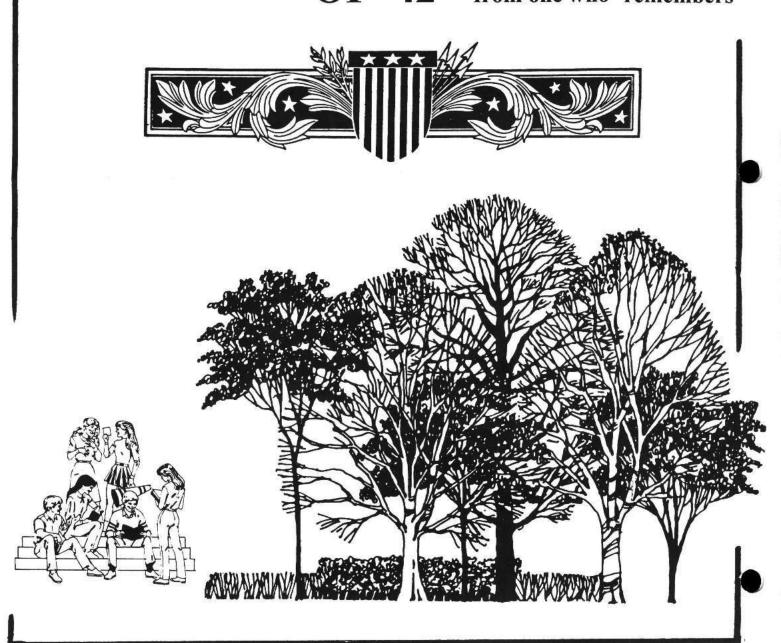
KIMBERLY HUMBERT

(1990) graduated from Bradley Bus. Mgmt. 1994 and is living in Glenview. IL. GREG MARLOW (1993) is attending U of Sioux Falls, Music Studio and Theater AND DOING JUST FINE!





TO THE GREAT CLASS OF '42 - from one who remembers



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT HAS A DREAM

Remember sitting in class on a nice Spring or Fall day, beautiful sunny and your only hope is waiting for gym class to get outside? Well not anymore, the baseball, softball and football fields are in such deplorable conditions that the teachers and coaches are concerned that someone could get hurt. Many practices. especially for baseball and softball, are held in the Kupcinet gym even on good days.

Their dream is to revamp the fields with adequate drainage, new sod, dirt, and diamonds

for baseball and softball. A stadium would also be built for football and soccer

It is estimated they need 20 truckloads of baseball dirt for the diamonds and practice field, the cost is approximately \$2000 just for the dirt.

If anybody can offer materials, time, equipment or estimates for their dream, please call Coach Cliff Wagner (312-582-4417 or Kay Kuciak (708-824-4747) soon. They will begin using the fields again on August 9, 1995.





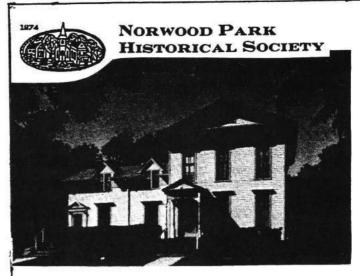
FANTASYWORLD CLUB VILLAS
A Family Swim and Tennis Resort
only 3 miles from DisneyWorld
Full kitchen 2 BR-2 Ba Sleeps 6
The best concept in accommodations
giving travelers the comforts of home.
Special Rates: \$79/nite - \$500/week plus tax
Call Carol Thorson Hildebrand (June 1963)
813-427-0195



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Ocean Gold
CAPE COD
BED & BREAKFAST

Marge & Jim Geisler (508) 255-7045 USA & Canada 1-800-526-3760

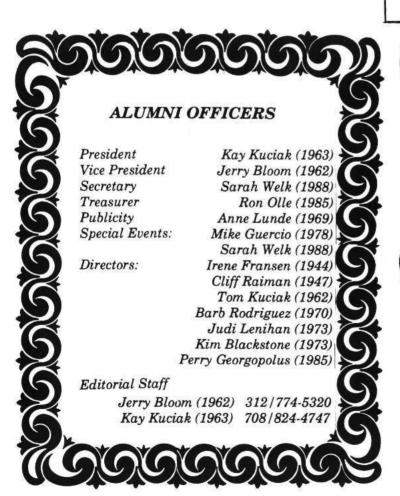


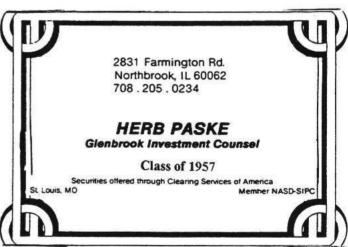
We are now ready and waiting for your private party. Our facilities can accomodate:

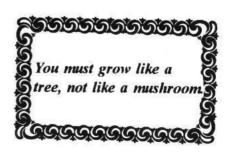
- * A sit-down dinner up to 30 guests
- * A buffet party up to 60 guests
- * An outdoor/indoor event up to 200

Tables and chairs, pots and pans and miscel-laneous outdoor equipment are available for your use. For further information or a donation schedule call Tom Spenny at 312/631-4633 or come during our open house time, Saturdays from noon to 4:00 p.m. We are located just 1 block west of Taft High School at 5624 N.

Newark Ave. (class of Jan., '58)







	CL	EARAN	ICE SALE
Last chance to obtain the follownostalgia at BARGAIN prices!		of Taft	Ship To:
	e Price	Total	
Alumni Recipes			
Cookbook	\$5	\$	M
50th Anniversary			
ceramic Mug	\$2.50	\$	Make check out to:
50th Anniversary			TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
commemorative plate			Mail to Kay Kuciak
with original building	\$10	\$	47 W. Lancaster Lane
Shipping/Handling		\$3.00	DesPlaines, IL 60018
TOTAL		\$	Desi lames, 12 00010

MEMBERSHIP ABOUT TO EXPIRE?

Check your address label on the back side of this page. The upper left hand corner shows the year of your graduation. The upper right hand corner shows the date of membership expiration. If your renewal time is due, cut a check right away. We wouldn't want you to miss any future alumni news!

Name Address: (Home)		Maiden Name	Month & Year Graduated		
		City	State	Zip	
Address: (Business)		City	State	Zip	
Home Telephone No.: ()		Office Teleph	Office Telephone No.: ()		
Name of Spouse:			Year Married	: 19	
Number of Children:	Ages:				
Concide of the state of Dode	colo, carriod, rodr or c	raguation			
College(s) Attended, Degra	oo(e) Lamos, Toal of e	Other Interests:			
Occupation: Other News or Information					
Occupation:	i: to defr				
Occupation: Other News or Information □ I am enclosing \$	to defr 0.00 for membership.	Other Interests:			





Taft Alumni Association 6545 West Hurlbut Street Chicago, Illinois 60631

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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