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# ALUMNI NEWS

Bellarmine-Jefferson High School

Winter 2005

## Surfing Vs. Stuffing & Stamping

### **The World Wide Web is giving a World Wide Reach to organizers of BJ class reunions.**

As with many Internet antics, BJ users find ingenuity counts. From finding classmates to communicating with them, the only limit so far has been individual imagination.

With growing frequency, alumni are saving time and money by using the Internet and e-mail.

#### **Transcontinental**

Each group of organizers develops its own approaches. Most say Classmates.com and similar sites are useful. Others say person finder services do not live up to their promises.

**Paula Montgomery** ('77) was one of the first to jump on the web. She arranged her 25<sup>th</sup> in Oxnard, from her home in Colorado and rounded up classmates wherever e-mail reached.

**Jose Diaz** (Los Angeles) and **Simone Karakash** (Florida) spanned the continent electronically and

reported good results for 1993's 10-year reunion in Burbank.

So far, no one has reported finding a way to escape at least one postal mailing. That one generally comes early in the planning process, establishing contact, asking for an e-mail address and seeking leads to those not current in the alumni database.

#### **Time and Money**

When it comes time for speed, though, there's no way that stuffing and stamping envelopes can match e-mail.

For his 50<sup>th</sup> last year, **Bill Clotere** ('54) claimed "big savings in time and money" by using e-mail. **John Agaman** ('74) established a reunion web site, as well as using e-mail extensively.

**Vince Cantella** ('68) found that only one of his classmates had no e-mail address. While Vince concentrated on reunion organizing, **Alan Valvo** drummed up interest with a series of funtime, promotional e-mails.

#### **When All Else Fails**

Along with the post office for early mailings, organizers report one more old-fashioned service that helps out in latter stages: the telephone, to convince the reticent how much fun it will be.

When all's said and done, it needs saying again. Organizers summon one last burst of flagging energy. One more time, computers and the Internet provide new ways of memorializing the reunion with CDs, photo web sites, computer-generated booklets.

#### **A Gentle Reminder**

Their campaign concluded, most organizers see the wisdom of sharing their new contact information with the BJ Alumni Office. Virtually the only sources for keeping addresses current in the school's alumni database are alumni themselves and the post office.

*Staff Sgt. Jerry Van Dyke's '94 classmates set up his Iraqi photo at their reunion and wrote notes to him. (See Pages 4 & 5)*

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Casino Night, March 19; Alumni Golf, May 13, '05