

# REDCOAT RUMBLINGS



Volume I

June 1989

No.8

## KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE

On June 3 the Class of 1989 became the 24th and last class to be graduated from Gerard Catholic High School. Though the circumstances of Gerard's closing have been painful, we are left with fond memories.

Many of us feel our lives were shaped, in part, by Gerard. Many of us formed lifelong friendships, and many of us also carry warm feelings for those with whom we may have lost touch.

The Gerard Catholic High School Alumni Association was formed in Spring of 1987 in recognition of these things and with the hope that, ultimately, it could help support and promote the future of the school.

Unfortunately, the latter goal is not possible. However, we can preserve a little bit of the sense of community that made Gerard a very special place. The Association has been successful in re-establishing contact with 2,500 Gerard alumni, sponsoring four all-alumni events and assisting with the 10-year and 20-year reunions in 1988 and 1989.

The Association also instituted the Spiritus Award to recognize the achievements of Gerard Alumni.

Although much of the Association activity was self-supporting, the Diocese of Phoenix subsidized it by paying a small salary for the alumni director and all

of the newsletter expenses. Not surprisingly, we can no longer depend on this same level of support.

The diocese has agreed to give the Association continued use of a personal computer to keep accurate alumni records. The Association, however, will be depended upon to cover the expense of all other activities, including publishing a newsletter two to four times a year, and providing seed money and support for an annual all-class event and the 10- and 20-year reunions. The budget is modest, but the expenses are real. For example, a single newsletter costs about \$1,200 to typeset, print, and mail.

We can cover these expenses easily--if we all contribute something. Please support this effort in one of three ways:

- \*Make a minimum annual contribution of \$10 a year starting today and using the enclosed envelope!

- \*If you have a product or a service to sell, purchase an ad in your newsletter by enclosing a check for \$50 and a copy of your business card or other info.

- \*Or...for \$20 you can add your name to the list of Alumni Association Families listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Please help! Let's not lose this opportunity to preserve in our own way a little bit of what was.

**REDCOATS FOREVER!**



## Father Hanley's Comments

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Dear Alumni:

This is my final letter to you as Principal of Gerard Catholic High School. I want to thank you for the wonderful support you have given Gerard over the years, especially these past two years since Nancy Contadino reorganized the Alumni Association.

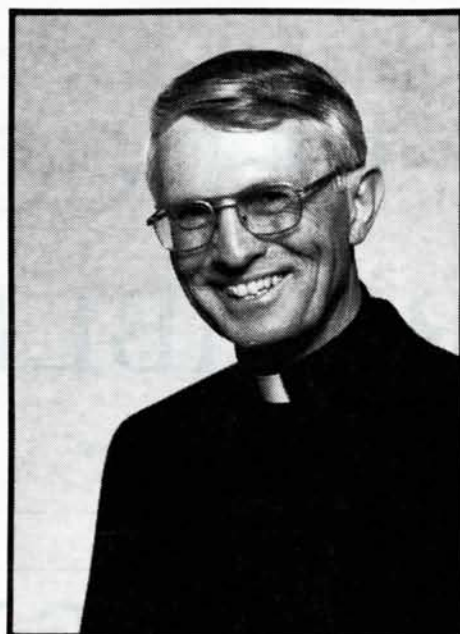
One of my greatest concerns is that you feel there is nothing of the past which remains. Yes, Gerard Catholic at its present location is ended. But what the future holds is quite positive. I am sure that with the continued growth in the Valley of the Sun the future of a new Catholic high school is a definite possibility. That it might bear the name of Gerard is also probable and worth working for.

Most immediate is to keep the Alumni organization alive and working to serve as a clearing house for information about graduates and class reunions. The Alumni Newsletter can be a valuable resource for this kind of news. I am asking each of you to take time to let Nancy Contadino know by letter that you support her continued efforts to keep the newsletter as a link for all Gerard grads. She needs to know your wishes.

Again, thank you. I would like to end with a partial quote used in the preface of the Mass for Christian burial that "life is not ended, only changed...." So be it with Gerard Catholic.

May God bless you.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Father John Hanley  
Principal




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### F.Y.I.

**IMPORTANT:** The official closure date of Gerard will be July 14. Records and transcripts can still be obtained from Gerard until then. After that date, contact the Diocesan Office at 400 E. Monroe, Phoenix, Arizona 85004. Tel: 257-5578

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### T-SHIRTS FOR SALE!

There are still lots of T-Shirts left. We have reduced the price to \$5, and the money will help offset Alumni Association operating expenses. There are two styles. To order call Nancy Contadino at 998-2933 or mail your check and order to:

Gerard Catholic High School Alumni Association  
P. O. Box 80126  
Phoenix, Arizona 85060.

#### GERARD CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL Alumni Association

President .....	Terry O'Neill '69
Vice President .....	Rose Sieczkowski '68
Treasurer .....	John Sizer '80
Secretary .....	Kathy Arnold Byrne '68
Ad Manager .....	Nena Henry
Director .....	Nancy Contadino



## JON HUBBS EARNS '89 SPIRITUS AWARD

On Wednesday, April 19, a distinguished panel of judges voted unanimously to bestow the 1989 Spiritus Award to Jon Hubbs, Class of 1968. Jon was honored for his far-reaching involvement in the community and the parish of St. Agnes. The following is Jon's acceptance speech when presented with the award at graduation ceremonies for the Class of '89 on June 3:

"I would like to thank the Committee for this great honor. I am very proud to receive this award among so many outstanding graduates from Gerard.

I began at Gerard 25 years ago. I decided that this would be a good time to evaluate my Catholic education; and besides, it's just good to evaluate your life every 25 years anyway. I asked myself, 'What is the real value of my Gerard education?'

First, I received a diploma as you are doing today. This diploma represented a complete high school education, an education good enough to prepare me for college. It helped me receive a college degree. I also received a baseball scholarship that helped me pay for my college education. It would have been very difficult for me to go to college without it.

At Gerard I also made what have turned out to be life-long friends. Life-long friends are hard to come by. Friendship is something that you cannot put a price on. Many of the friends that are sitting next to you now will be your life-long friends. They are few to come by--keep them--value their friendship.

I am also a lifetime member of the Gerard Family. Regardless of what class you are from, when you meet a Gerard graduate, there is a friendship because we both know we shared something special. I met my wife Laura at Gerard. I have been married to her for seventeen years, and we have five children. They are most important to me. How can you measure their value?

Most importantly, I developed my conviction to be a Catholic and accepted the responsibility that goes along with being a Catholic. It has been the foundation



for my being an employer, an involved parishioner at St. Agnes parish, and a community volunteer. How do you put a price on all this? You can't. It is priceless. My education at Gerard has been invaluable.

I congratulate your parents for their sacrifice and conviction. They did not settle for the cabin up North or the second car and public school education. They have provided for you a priceless Catholic education. Catholic schools will only survive if Catholics seek a deeper love and understanding of God. Catholic schools will survive if we listen for our vocation as Religious, as parents, teachers, aides, volunteers, and as financial supporters.

This award is not for the famous actors, actresses and athletes that have come through Gerard. They have their awards. The true honor of this award is for those graduates who have given themselves to their parish and community as volunteers, coaches, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, etc. I am one of hundreds of graduates who have taken our Catholic education out of the classroom and used it in the parish and the community.

I ask the Class of '89 to join us in preserving our Catholic Heritage and not to be known as the last graduating class of Gerard, but rather the class of Gerard graduates. It is time to use your skills of prayer, of work, and of thought that you have developed at Gerard. I welcome you graduates to the Gerard Alumni Family. I accept this award for all graduates, living and dead, who love and serve Jesus Christ."



## Alum Notes

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### CLASS OF 1967

**Bruce Spotleson** was recently named president and publisher of Cape Cod Newspapers, which is a 12-newspaper group serving the Cape in Massachusetts.

**Eileen O'Keefe Richardson** lives in West Palm Beach, Florida with her husband, Stephen, and their three boys. Eileen is an instructional aide for DropOut Prevention Program. Stephen is a technical rep for U.S. Gypsum Co. They enjoy sailing on their cabin cruiser, "My Three Sons."

### CLASS OF 1968

**Sally Lahm** wrote to catch us up on her life over the past 21 years. After graduating from ASU with a B.A. in anthropology, she became the first female keeper in the history of the Phoenix Zoo. After working in other zoological parks, she joined the San Diego Wild Animal Park in 1980. She developed an interest in a species of monkey called the mandrill. In 1982 she took a one-year leave of absence and flew to the research station in Gabon, Central Africa where she is presently based, to study the ecology of the mandrill in its natural habitat for her master's thesis. After receiving her M.A., she entered the Ph.D. program at NYU where she completed her course and exam requirements. Since 1987 she has been in the rain forests of Gabon studying the effects of human activity on wildlife. After a two month visit to Phoenix and San Diego this summer, she plans to return to Gabon for another year of field work.

### CLASS OF 1969

Due to limited space, Alumnotes about the class of 1969 will be featured in the September issue.

### CLASS OF 1970

**Mary Ellen Trujillo Byrnes** is corporate director of a head injury rehab program in Long Beach, California where she lives with her husband, Anthony. They are in the process of adopting a child.

### CLASS OF 1973

**John Wake** lives in Falls Church, Virginia with his wife, Liz, and son, John. John is an agricultural Economist, and for the next three years starting in August, John and his family will be an Agricultural Attache at the US Embassy in Paris, France.

**Richard Reynolds**, who was a civil service employee and an Army veteran, died on April 16. He left a wife, Charlotte, and four children. May he rest in peace.

### CLASS OF 1974

**Maura Phillips Mackowski** received a first place award at the Aviation/Space Writers Association annual News Conference banquet in Scottsdale on April 30. Her company, American Corporate Communicators, is a writing firm specializing in public relations and per-project writing for technical businesses and small companies.

### CLASS OF 1975

**Cathy Butts Markusic** has written to let us know she has moved to Lake Mathews, California.

### CLASS OF 1976

**Caryn Kirkegaard** was married on February 4 to Jim Haggerty at Brophy Chapel. Caryn is a corporate officer at First Interstate Bank, and Jim is employed by Mesa Community College. They traveled to Sedona on their honeymoon and are Chandler residents.

**Claudia Sletten Campbell** is a Real Estate Broker in Phoenix where she lives with her husband, James, who restores classic cars.

**Pete Schnieders** and his wife, Janet, were married last August and had a great honeymoon in Cancun, Mexico, until it was rudely interrupted by Hurricane Gilbert. They now reside in Tyler, Texas where Pete is an Engineer, and Janet is a legal secretary.

### CLASS OF 1978

**John McAward** wrote to let everyone know that he and three other Durango runners completed a 486 mile, 17-day run from Durango, Colorado to Denver along the Colorado Trail and Continental Divide last summer. They ran at altitudes from 9,000-13,000 ft. and covered 26-40 miles per day. It was the first ever crossing of the Trail, and a documentary film will be completed for this summer. Look for it on TV under the name "One Step at a Time."

### CLASS OF 1979

**Lori Geyer Nosker** and her husband, Rick, are the proud parents of Rachel Noelle, born Nov. 12, 1988. Lori spent four months in bed and one month in the hospital due to complications. Born 3 weeks early, mother and daughter are doing great.

### CLASS OF 1980

**Mike Henry** was recently married on April 22 at Our Lady of Joy in Carefree. Mike is with the Nestle Corp., and he and his new bride, Lisa, are living in Houston.

**Jean Ajamie** was married on February 18 at St. Mary's Basilica to Tim Keenan. Her sister, Jackie Labadie, was Matron of Honor. Jean is a registered dietician at St. Joseph's Hospital, and Tim is employed by Grand American Fare, Inc.

**Janie McMullin** graduated from ASU with a B.S. in nursing and joined the Navy for 3 years. She is now working at Georgetown University Hospital in the Neuro-surgical unit and enjoys living in the D.C. area.

### CLASS OF 1981

**Colleen Byrne Dawson** is Asst. Director of LaPetite Academy & Preschool. Her husband, Gary, works for Allied Signal in Phoenix. They have two children, the youngest of whom was born last November. Colleen hopes one day to be a director of her own school.



## Alum Notes

### CLASS OF 1982

**Phillip Sletten** graduated from ASU in May with a degree in Aerospace Engineering Technology. Phillip was also recently married and is a commercial pilot.

**Dorothy Paytas** has become engaged to marry David Fritz. Dorothy graduated from NAU and is presently employed at a law firm. David served overseas in the U.S. Navy and currently attends NAU. They plan a January 6, 1990 wedding at O.L. P. H. Church in Scottsdale.

**Cathy Colbert** is a law student at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. and will take the Bar exam in July. She presently works for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

**Ken Platek** lives in Huntington Beach, California, where he is an International Communications Manager. Ken expressed his regret over the school's closure and hopes the facility will be used as a retreat center or some other type of facility which will continue the spirit of Gerard.

### CLASS OF 1983

**Helena Wise Newell** wrote to let us know that she and her husband, **Tom Newell**, Class of 1982, live in Scottsdale where she works for Smith Barney, and Tom works for Merrill Lynch Fine Homes.

### CLASS OF 1984

**Scott Henry** is currently stationed at Marine Recruit Depot, San Diego, but will be returning to the U of A in the fall. Scott is working toward his commission in the Marine Corps upon graduation.

**Jill Duggan** lives in San Diego where she owns her own business selling computers to travel agents.

### CLASS OF 1986

**Karen Woods** is a student at the U of A and will graduate this December. She enjoys being a Eucharistic Minister at the Newman Center and is a secretary for three different college organizations.

**Lori Wooton Myers** and her husband, Phillip, are the proud parents of Heather Renee who was born January 6.

### CLASS OF 1987

**Eric Duggan** is a student at ASU and an officer candidate with the Marine Corps. He volunteers as Precinct Committeeman and is active in the Republican Party.

### CLASS OF 1989

**David Wolfmeyer** was honored at a luncheon on May 19 in the Phoenix Room of the Phoenix Gazette. David received a Golden Pen award from the Gazette for his editorial reply that appeared in the March 25, 1989 Phoenix Gazette, entitled "Questions About Gerard," a reply to an editorial that appeared in the Gazette on February 23. At this luncheon David was informed that he is one of the youngest persons to have ever received a Golden Pen.



Caryn Kirkegaard  
and her husband,  
Jim Haggerty



Jean Ajamie and  
her husband,  
Tim Keenan



Dorothy Paytas  
and her fiancé,  
David Fritz



## REUNION REPORTS

### CLASS OF 1969 - April 22

The planning committee of Terry O'Neill, Laura Preach Hubbs, and Cindy Timmons Fassel managed to pull off a highly successful reunion, thanks due in part to Hubbs Landscaping for plants, donations from Bob Weflen and Jerry Koger, and dynamic decorations from the team of Ken Harbaugh and Gary James.

Stepping into their natural roles for Co-Masters of Ceremonies were Nick Toth and Jerry Koger who welcomed back former teachers Fr. Louis Perreault, Fr. Philip Evanstock, Sr. Louise Ante, and Mrs. Marge Schweikert.

After dinner, awards were presented to Terry O'Neill for Most Changed; Tom Dunlavey for Least Changed; Diane Bryant Burns for Youngest Child; Cindy Timmons Fassel for Oldest Child; Laura Preach Hubbs for Most Children; Terry Allen Guzman for Married Longest; Cindy Timmons Fassel for Most Recently Married; and Greg Doran for Traveled Furthest (Hawaii).

### CLASS OF 1979 - May 27-29

The class of 1979 held their 10-year reunion at LaPosada Resort over the Memorial Day Weekend with activities held on each day.

Friday, May 26, about 75 graduates showed up for a cocktail party. Saturday found everyone enjoying a dinner dance. The following awards were presented:

Longest Married - Michelle Baumgartner Scott (9 yrs)  
 Most Children - Therese Letson Bolar (4)  
 Traveled Farthest - Matt Malenfant (Illinois)  
 Still Lives Closest to Gerard - Anna Para  
 Youngest Child - Peggy Stevens Yena (3 wks)  
 Best Dressed - Bill Miller & Fritz Hollaender-Marston  
 Most Changed - Don Kelly, Michelle B. Scott, Lisa Mondo  
 Least Changed - Joe Larkin, Julie Toney-Sherman  
 Most Unique Occupation - Kathy Scholz (Undercover criminal investigation)

Trivia Question Most Remembered: What was Sr. Sheila's general philosophy on blue jeans?

Answer: Blue jeans lead to smoking; smoking leads to drinking; drinking leads to drugs; and drugs lead to sex.

Sunday a picnic was held at Arcadia Park, and there was a great turnout of all alumni and their many children. Looking ahead to the 20 year reunion in 1999, anyone interested in getting the ball rolling, the 10 year committee will be happy to pass on all of their information.

Class of '79 Ten Year Committee:

Melissa Clark Windle	Anne McAninch
Diane Dupey Green	Julie Toney Sherman
Cindy Jay Robles	Joe Larkin
Karen Vandenberg McShane	

### ALL-CLASS REUNION PICNIC - APRIL 23

A good time was had by one and all at the second annual reunion picnic which was held at Eldorado Park. Approximately 300 Alumni and their families showed up for the unseasonably warm day. As usual, Country Fare Caterers did a fine job of providing the good food and beverages, and Abracadabra sent two clowns, much to the enjoyment of the many little children. The following alumni walked off with many fine door prizes:

Peggy Jahntz Driscoll	Bruce Stallman
Ken Nowak	Dennis Nebrich
Jon Hubbs	Lyle Comeau
Mary Pat Hines-Woppert	Joel Sieczkowski
Terri Sieczkowski Bollinger	

Even though he wasn't able to attend the picnic, the Alumni Association would like to thank Mike Tanner, Class of '76, for donating \$10 for "beer money." Thanks also to Millie Hudson Hancock, Class of '70 for donating \$10 to help offset the operating expenses of the Alumni Association.





Everyone anxiously awaits the next number to be called by Bill Bollinger at the All-Class Reunion Picnic.



The clown was a big hit with all the children. (Photos supplied by Mike McNamara).

## Where Are The Teachers Going?

With the closure of Gerard, many have expressed interest about the future plans of Gerard's teachers. To date, here's how it looks:

- Fr. Hanley - After three months studying in Rome, he will await an assignment.
- Fr. Follmann - assigned to Providence Catholic High School in New Lenox, Illinois.
- Fr. Sternemann - assigned to St. Rita High School in Chicago, Illinois.
- Ms. Simons - plans to teach algebra and geometry at Xavier High School.
- Mrs. Dertina - will teach religion and be an assistant tennis coach at Xavier High School
- Mrs. Mazier - teaching General Science to freshmen at St. Mary's High School.
- Mr. Threlkeld - science teacher at St. Mary's H.S.

## Trophy Distribution

Many Alumni have called or written to inquire about the disposition of all of the many trophies, awards, banners, and plaques at school. For those parents or Alumni who wished their own personal trophies returned to them, this has been done.

There were still a great many team trophies whose final disposition seemed uncertain. Just when it looked as though the trophies were doomed to a dark and dusty existence in a locked storage room, Mr. Kirk Kirkegaard, a Gerard parent, stepped forward and volunteered to display virtually all of the awards garnered by Gerard between the years 1970-1982. These will be displayed in his home. In particular, he will be taking all of the Hal Kirkegaard Memorials. Mr. Kirkegaard has supplied the Alumni Association with a detailed list of all of the trophies in his possession, and he invites all the Gerard graduates from that era to come by and see the trophies when they are installed. Mr. Kirkegaard lives at 4707 E. Virginia, and his phone number is 840-1979.

If there are any other Gerard graduates or parents who would like to do the same with the other trophies, please contact the school before July 14 at 275-3683 or call Nancy Contadino at 998-2933.



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Walter Sikora '82

## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 1989

Welcome to a very special and elite group - Gerard Catholic High School Alumni.  
Good Luck and Success to you and the Association in the future!

**Henry**

Bill '77, Mike '80, Scott '84

**Spade**

Geneva '68, Viola '71, Evelyn '76  
Keith, Kevin & Kent '77, Roger '86  
Tina '87

**Bresnahan**

Mike '75, Maureen '76, Rita '78,  
Dave '80, Carole '82, Jeanine '83

**Gourley**

John '73, Suzan '74, Joe '78,  
James '80, Jeff '85

**Kerber**

Chris '75, Sue '77, Jennifer '82,  
Beth '85

**Ajamie**

Thomas R. '78, Theresa '79, Jean  
Marie '80, Jacqueline '82, John '83

**Candelaria**

Christi '88

**Chasse**

Debora '73, Donna '74, Patricia '76,  
Mike '78, George '80

**Carson**

Adrian Robert '85

**Lauringer**

David '84, Paul '85, Mike '89

**Sargent**

Patti '70, Cindy '73, Steve '75,  
Sallie '77, Chris '81, Lia '83

**Hurst**

Barry '89

**Kirkegaard**

Jamie '75, Caryn '76, Rick '78,  
Tom '81, (Hal '74)

**Proctor**

Robert '83

**Sikora**

Elizabeth (Liz) '74, Julia '77  
Stephen '78, Walter '82, Susan '83

**Hawes**

Steve '80, Vince '81, Matt '83

**Sheridan**

Vince '87

**Larkin**

Jim '67, Peter '73, Mary '77,  
Joe '79

**Daley**

John '81, Tess '81, Chris '83

**Parishes**

Our Lady of Joy - Fr. John Vogt  
St. Maria Goretti - Fr. Jack Spaulding  
Blessed Sacrament - Fr. Harold Graf  
St. Theresa - Msgr. John McMahon  
OLPH - Fr. Eugene Maguire

**Any Gerard family or parish wishing to participate, please contact Nena Henry at 948-3768.**

GERARD CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
P.O. Box 80126  
Phoenix, Arizona 85060

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