

eco-heavyweights to celebrate President Carter's 93rd birthday. Sometimes I wonder if that solar job was my "Eighty-Yard Run." If I create an energy army and get to a million buildings, I won't worry about it.

1971

Class Secretary/Head Class Agent:

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Andrew Isaac will fully retire after he wraps up one more case for the Humboldt County (California) District Attorney this winter. He and his wife, Denise, sold their house there and will start splitting their time between Dataw Island, South Carolina (December through April), and Moultonborough, New Hampshire (May through November). Andrew has really pulled the plug and resigned/retired from the bars in Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, and he is looking forward to adding California to the list.

Sam Stanley attended a one-week program at the Interlochen Center for the Arts Chamber Music camp. He attended with the other members of a string quintet that he is in. In October, Sam is giving two seminars at the annual meeting of the International Foundation of Employee Benefits in Las Vegas. The seminars concern multi-employer pensions confronting insolvency. **Dunstan Sheldon** reports from New Zealand that his life in retirement continues to be busy. He also notes that his 96-year-old mother misses reading about his father's 1939 class as there are only a few members left in that class.

1972

Class Secretary/Head Class Agent:

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Dance to the memory of the music of your youth. Read your classmate **Bruce Braine's** new book, *I've Got the Music in Me*, available on Amazon. It is an encyclopedia of popular music from 1963 to 1976 with personal commentary by the author. This is a book you can hum along to. I barely knew Bruce at Taft, except to see his name on the honor roll next to **Erik Kitchen's** every semester for four years. Now I know him better, having read his book, which mingles autobiography with commentary about his

favorite songs. Remember AM radio? Bruce listened to it day and night, often after "lights out" in HDT, when it was illegal. It's hard to imagine now, getting busted for listening to the radio. Those were the days, my friends. I remember listening to the Jets vs. Colts Super Bowl game on my transistor radio with an ear plug during winter term Convocation up in the balcony of the of First Congregationalist Church. What was **Esty** thinking? An all-school Convocation on Super Bowl Sunday? I digress. *I've Got the Music in Me* is a very well-researched labor of love for Bruce, a music lover since birth. Growing up in New York with WABC's "Top 20 Survey," D.J. Dan Ingram introduced the author to the British Invasion 1964–65 when he became "officially hooked on pop and rock music." The first section of this 275-page resource is called "Reeling in the Years 1963–1976." Here Bruce gives a year-by-year review of his favorite groups, albums, and songs, including his top 10 favorites and the 10 most popular songs of each year. I surprised myself by remembering the chorus of almost every song, and singing it. The book talks a lot about Taft, too—a formative period for both our classmate and his beloved pop music. Bruce writes, "Music on the radio was the only allowable source of entertainment in the first half of 1969 during the end of my lower middle year at Taft. Fortunately by the fall of 1969, Taft had liberalized its rules and record players were allowed in the dorm rooms." This was the year that the rock musical *Hair* album topped the charts with songs about sex, love, and drugs; the 5th Dimension's *Aquarius/Let the Sun Shine In*, sung by Marilyn McCoo, was the best-selling single of the year. "Oliver recorded *Good Morning Starshine*, which became very popular in the summer and was my favorite uplifting song of the year," Bruce writes. Then he goes on to name, in order of their appearance, all the groups who performed at Woodstock in August 1969. It's a who's who of musicians who dominated our conversations during study hall while the master was out for a smoke. 1970 was the year Bruce returned to Taft as an upper mid. He roomed with **Erik Kitchen**, "his favorite roommate," the same year Paul McCartney announced his breakup with John Lennon. This was also the year the Beatles released their album *Let It Be*. "1971 was a great year for pop/rock music," Bruce opines. "It was a



1972 alums Bruce Harvey, Rocky Marsh, and Al Ritchie met for dinner at Aqua Restaurant in Clinton, Connecticut.

year for excellent rock albums, particularly from the U.K....it was also a great year for me. Prep school actually was fun as I began to engage in all types of extracurricular activities and increasingly began to branch out from my studies." The author is vague about what his extracurricular activities were, leaving this reader to surmise that it was playing bridge (with Erik Kitchen) and switching from AM to FM radio. Led Zeppelin, Yes, Neil Young, and a new group, America (*Horse with No Name*) made the scene in 1972, along with the Hollies, the Eagles, and Loggins and Messina. The latter was the first rock group Bruce ever saw in concert, in the University of Rhode Island gymnasium, with the opening act by an unknown, Jim Croce. The author lists the most popular hits of 1972: *American Pie*, *Alone Again*, *First Time I Ever Saw Your Face*, *Let's Stay Together*, *Rockin' Robin*, *Me and Mrs. Jones*, *Brandy*, *Without You*, *A Horse with No Name*, and *Heart of Gold*. Go ahead, belt them out, it's your senior year! I must admit to feeling validated by Bruce's taste in music. Many of his favorite songs are mine too, even though we never discussed it while classmates. His favorite song in 1972 was Led Zeppelin's *Stairway to Heaven*. This seems an apt metaphor as Bruce graduated with high honors from Taft that year and went to Brown University. Like a song moving up the charts, Bruce went to Stanford after Brown, then to a successful career at American Power. He lives in Columbus, Ohio, with his wife, Anne Kilkenny, who indulges his love of music. His daughter, Maryanne, promotes *I've Got the Music in Me*, on her Facebook page. As for other news, **Rocky Marsh** writes, "**Bruce Harvey**, **Al Ritchie**, and I met