



Benedictine High School

Class of 1957 Quarterly Newsletter

WINTER 2009 ISSUE

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THE CHOP BLOCK

Bill "Chopper" Bain, Editor

"Benedictine - The Best on the East Coast"

The BHS Vision 2012 report with final recommendations was made public in October, 2008. It proposed a bold and comprehensive list of "upgrades" in preparation for the next one hundred years. It has the lofty overall goal of elevating Benedictine to the best catholic high school on the East Coast. The complete 30-page report is available on the BHS web site under the Vision 2012 tab. For a complete copy of the report, go to:

www.BenedictineHighSchool.org/Files/Vision2012Recommendations.pdf

Below is a summary of the Vision 2012 Recommendations;

- Attract and retain the best teachers available.
- Strengthen academics and the military program.
- Maintain our strengths in the Theology and Athletic programs.
- Increase the focus on community service.
- Renovate the Sheppard Street facilities. Research means to add an auditorium facility.
- Develop a stronger and more coordinated marketing program.
- Increase charitable support by alumni and the business community.

(Continued on next page)



Benedictine H.S.
Sheppard St. View

Bill Bain,
Editor



These recommendations come with a sizeable price tag estimated between \$3.5 Mil to \$7.4 Mil just for the Sheppard Street renovations. Add to that increases in the teacher compensation and benefits package plus a new auditorium facility and you begin to get some idea of the capital needed to meet these recommendations. Notwithstanding the current recession and a sharp fall off in charitable giving and you quickly see the formidable challenge ahead.

Most importantly, the report strongly advised, "Alumni engagement is critical if Benedictine is to reach the vision of becoming the best Catholic school on the East coast". With a current giving rate from the Cadet alumni at approximately 20% compared to a national private school average of 43%, there is obviously room for a sizeable improvement. It is recognized in the report that a better relationship building job needs to be done between the school and the alumni. Only in the last five years through the alumni office efforts of Tom Lukish, Advancements Director, has BHS alumni began to be better informed and motivated to support scholarship and capital campaigns. This success proves that the alumni will respond if properly engaged.

Class News and Notes

The time and date for the next Class of 1957 luncheon has not been set at this time. However, the location will be Extra Billy's , located at 4899 W. Broad St near Willow Lawn. Call Chopper at 804-740-1818 for further information.

SAVE THE CAKE! There happens to be no "Big 7-0!" class member birthdays in March, April and May.

Stay tuned! There are a dozen more to celebrate in the months from June to December.





Website Bytes

Bob Ayres, Webmaster

Contact information

Staying in touch requires having current contact information. In the last six months, you should have received an email requesting you update the personal contact information for our class website, www.bhs-class1957.com. This information is our "lifeline" for keeping you up to date with everything that's going on with our class. If you have not responded yet, please email me at rbayres@earthlink.net and we will quickly get it done.



WANTED: More Class Wisdom and Life Stories

One dividend "survivors" of our vintage can draw from is the many life stories and wisdom learned along the way. Maybe, your story is one we can all gain from and you would like to share it with the class. Just like Tom Dunne's article about "*Triumph & Disaster*" which follows in this newsletter issue, we are interested in hearing from you. Maybe it is something learned from your career experience or a life principle you were taught and want to share. Or it could be a simple "how to" you want to contribute to the class.



If so, email me your offering. Keep it under 500 words. Those articles selected will appear in the next quarterly newsletter and on our class website.

**Next Quarterly eMail Newsletter: Spring Edition,
May.,2009**

"In his Own words"

THE INDIAN CHIEF'S VIEW OF "TRIUMPH" AND "DISASTER"

Tom Dunne, BHS Class of '57



An old legend: One morning a revered Indian chief was riding his horse out on the plains when he spied in the distance a beautiful wild mustang. Using all his skills, patience and wisdom, he pursued the horse all the day long, and finally caught him. When the chief returned to his village with the beautiful horse, all the people gathered around and said: "How fortunate that you were able to capture such a creature!" To which the chief replied: "Perhaps."

The next day the chief's son asked his father for permission to ride the new horse. His father consented. But no sooner had the son mounted than he was pitched to the ground, breaking his arm. When the people learned of this they approached the chief with their condolences, saying what a misfortune it was. The chief replied: "Perhaps."

A few days later war broke out with a neighboring tribe. All the young men rode off to do battle – except for the chief's son, who was not able to because of his broken arm. "How fortunate!" said the people to the chief; "Your son will be spared the risk of death!" And the chief said: "Perhaps."

For me, the moral of this story is the same as the advice given by Rudyard Kipling in his poem "If". He counsels there that we strive to ". . . meet with triumph and disaster, and treat those two imposters just the same." I have discovered that when things go well in my life, it is good to be joyful – but also it is very important that my happiness comes first from deep within myself, and not from outside events alone. I have discovered as well that when things do not meet my expectations and I am feeling disappointed, it is important for me to remember the old saying that when one door closes, another opens – but only if we ourselves are open to that happening.

BHS Class of '57
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