

High School Reunions

by
Tom Holbrook

5/30/06

High School Reunions... an event that becomes seemingly more important in one's life the older one becomes. The two most popular years for a high school reunion are the 10th and the 50th for obvious reasons. My high school, which is really no longer in existence since it's been consolidated with a school that once was our bitter enemies on the football field, now holds an annual reunion for all graduating class years, spotlighting the class that is celebrating its 50th year. It works out very well since fewer and fewer of us are around to attend any given class celebrations.

I was fortunate to be chosen the MC for the first four reunions my class of 1958 held, which consisted of only the graduates of our class. The 10th was the heaviest attended and a lot of us were surprised by those attending and those who didn't attend. My take on those who attend the 10th reunion is that those who were deemed losers while in school and had done better than expected after graduation wanted to come back and show their newly acquired "successful" status to everyone else... Or those ladies and gentlemen who, while in high school, didn't quite fit the mold of one of the "beautiful" people because of coke bottle thick glasses, or greatly overweight, made sure they came back to show what the miracle of a regimen of proper exercise, liposuction and contacts can do for a person. In our class some thought of as nerds and wallflowers had been transformed into hunks and foxes. Who wouldn't want to show that off?

Then there were those who were always living hand to mouth and never had any money to be able to enjoy the extra curricular activities that their classmates did, made it big in the working world and came back in their most stylish clothes and cars and let everyone that they were one of the regular people now.

Then there were the ones who didn't come back.... who knows why? Those who were voted the most likely to succeed hadn't... Those voted the best looking no longer were... and then there were the ones who were always on the outside at their choosing and decided to remain there. I realize the reality of high school and how vicious and cruel we teenage idiots can be toward our fellow students and I'm sure

many of those who don't attend a class reunion feel that they were bullied, bruised and belittled and ignored by their "friends and classmates" while in school so why come back and relive the whole thing again.

We are now two years away from our 50th reunion which, regardless of who you are, should be a momentous enough event for as many people as possible to attend. Of course since I graduated at age 10, I'm so much younger than many of my classmates that we don't have as much in common as most but it's still interesting to see how everyone evolved through the years.

I know the majority of those who read this column have been out of school for at least 4 decades and if you've never been to one of your classes reunions I would encourage you to take the time to go back for at least one... maybe your 50th is coming up soon? That would be the one to make if you can't or won't go to any others. You will be surprised just how much fun it is to see all the gang with their new faces and bodies.

And, of course, there is the chance you will find that person with whom you were meant to spend the rest of your life with, as Judy and I did at our 45th reunion. Believe me folks, it's worth the trip.

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