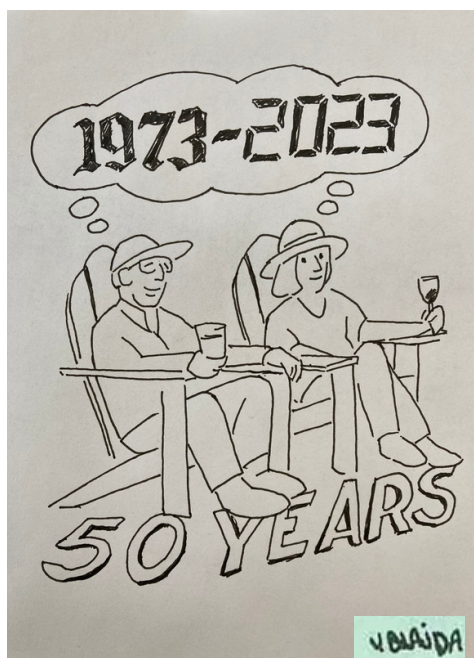




'73 ALUMS GATHER FOR 50TH

Kim Samara has this Reunion all sewn up



The chairman of the reunion committee and our class secretary began this venture over a year ago along with Jan Gruczka and Class President Steve Grzywacz. It started with locating a venue in the post-COVID era and finishes with the setup that took place this afternoon with a smattering of balloons, signs, flowers and displays here at the Derryfield Country Club. Logistics are the key, and that's where Kim fit right in. "I was a project planner at the end of my career, and this was

a project that needed to be ... planned," said the Class Secretary. With the help of her husband, one of the first things she did was to develop a website which she finds basic, but utilitarian. The site has served to keep class members in touch and informed... that is, once they were found. "That was the nastiest part of the job, trying to locate people." Beginning with a list provided by past reunion planners Paula

Continued on last Page

Reunion Attendees Get Tour of Central's "new" campus

Attendees of the Class of 1973 50th Reunion were able to catch up with friends at three different events/venues. On Friday (the 13th!) at 4pm, many saw a much-changed Central campus with tour guide and fellow '73 grad Joe O'Neil.

Joe knows Central. Following graduation from St. Anselm's College and a taste of law school, marriage to his high school sweetheart, Cynthia Statires, nudged both to settle down with jobs to start a family. A Political Science major, Joe applied for and was enthusiastically snatched up as a member of Central's faculty, becoming a social studies instructor, soon concentrating on teaching

Government courses. After some 29 years in Central's classrooms, Joe spent another nine as one of three Central High Assistant Principals. His love and participation in track, both at Central then at St. A's, led to his 25-year Central track coach career as well. Asked if his pride and enthusiasm for Central were the impetus for his stepping up to do Reunion tours,

O'Neil quickly answered "no" adding: "Cynthia came home one evening after a girls' night out with (fellow '73 grads) Marty Dobens, Barbara Parker, Ellie Gordon, Marcy Katz and Debbie Duskin and told me they decided to volunteer me!"

Continued on page 10



NHIAA Sees Too Much Green, No Controls Put on Organization

Take the Money and Run.

This had to have been the slogan of the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association when they drew up the blueprint for the new divisional system in the football schedule this year.

Walter Smith, executive director, and the rest of his NHIAA executive board had visions of green when they proposed plans almost a year and a half ago for the innovative setup which would provide for three lucrative championship games throughout New Hampshire.

No one, not even the Manchester School Board bothered to review the plans. What did it matter? Just another football game or two.

Three weeks ago, though, there were fireworks on Lowell Street. The school committeemen could see red. Who was this Walter Smith and what right did he have to run this game in THEIR city, in THEIR stadium, and then take all the fun out of it by taking 100 percent of THEIR money? Not even their athletic council had checked into the matter.

Had the school board not pulled something just as fast as the NHIAA had, this city might have been left with nothing to show from the Bonus Bowl of two weeks ago. Their requests and threats to the Smith Family gained 10 per cent of the profits for Manchester and the cities of the other five post-season contestants. All this change of fund distributions occurred just four days before the playoffs.

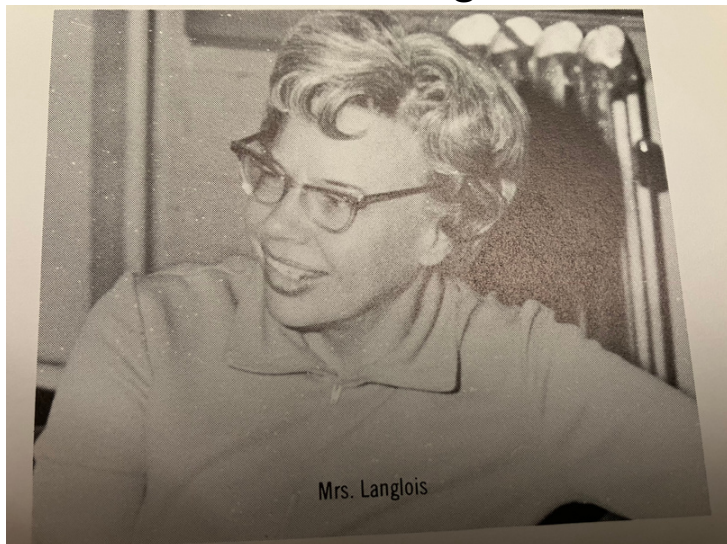
And all was well...until you reached the gate and discovered that the governors of schoolboy sports had another one up their sleeves. This game was their baby, their own little Super Bowl. An admission price of \$2 was in order, more than double that of a regular season ducat of 75 cents.

We would never have been confronted with these situations if the NHIAA was responsible to an elected body: currently THEY ANSWER TO NO ONE. They make the rules, they set their budget (they are not supported by state funds). The Manchester school board as well as others statewide should have been on their guard for this, but by neglecting the NHIAA's actions these elected officials put themselves in a sticky situation.

Another valid possibility would be the seating of a student on the NHIAA to advise on such matters as price of tickets. We guarantee that with such an adviser there would have been no \$2 tickets.




Dedication: Alma Langlois 1920-2013



The Little Green's Class of 1973 Editors dedicate this Extra to their teacher and mentor, Alma Langlois, or "Mrs. L." to her students and Little Green flock. Under her leadership and guidance, The Little Green became one of the top student newspapers in the country, routinely coming in with the highest honors bestowed by the Columbia School of Journalism and other national and regional press organizations. The paper was ultimately used in textbooks as the example of how to publish a high school newspaper.. Mrs. L was not your prototypical journalist. She didn't drink, swear, smoke, or appear hardened in any way. She never raised her voice. What she did was to mold scores of Centralites to excel at a craft. At a gathering held to honor her shortly before her death 10 years ago, there were testimonials written by friends, peers and former students. Amongst them was one from a colleague praising her for holding her ground when the newspaper was criticized or under attack from the higher ups on Lowell Street. This was news to her former students (no pun intended). But it came as no surprise both she and Principal William Burns were staunch advocates for the paper.

So, to Mrs. L, a big "30," and thanks for the memories.

This editorial was amongst those that may have caused a stir on Lowell Street. Joe Blajda's artwork helped drive the point home!



The LITTLE GREEN, published twice monthly by the students of
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EDITOR-IN-CHIEFHoward Gross
MANAGING EDITORChris Wyrkiel
SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER.....Charlie Felton
BUSINESS MANAGER.....Cathy Moutfarge
SPORTS EDITOR.....Mike Gregorios
ART EDITOR.....Joe Blajda
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR.....Dave Clements
EDITORIAL BOARD.....Andy Danforth, Andy Lackoff,
Myla Padden, Lenore Sullivan

STAR REPORTERS
Carol Milden, Anmarie Sassi, Mark Szpak

CUB REPORTERS
Connie Annas, Karen Baraniak, Kris Baraniak, Margaret Baumeister, Tom Bois, John Christy, Cathy Cuddy, Sue Glas, Rick Glennan, Dave Harrison, Dawn Hyman, Cynthia Koperwas, Sharon Len, Gary Murphy, Alice O'Connor, Judy Reardon, Miriam Sargeant, Marcy Schwartz, Paula Shapazian, Alison Snow, Rick Szpak, Maury Tautkus

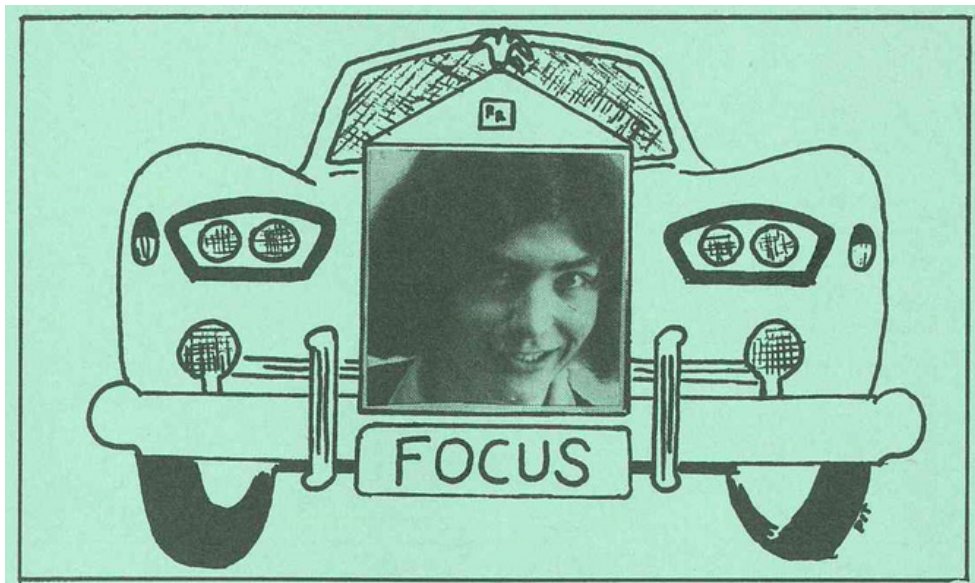
ADVISERMrs. Alma Langlois

PRINTERRoyal Press, Inc., Manchester, N.H.

Mark Szpak: *Still in Focus*

FOCUS had been a favorite Little Green feature for many years. Upholding that tradition, the Class of 1973 editors focused on senior class leaders including, in the first 14 of that year's 16 editions' publishing order: Cheerleading captain Stephanie Forseze and majorettes captain Kathy Crofut (together), pep club and cheerleading "Indian" Mike Lafond, Agalaia layout editor and majorette Kim Samara, football/track stars Mike Rainey and Steve Hall (together), Sr. Class secretary Debbie Duskin, Sr. Class president and football/baseball starter Steve Grzywacz, Student Council "fifth member" Madelyn Theodore, football/baseball standout Pete Salo, Central National Honor Society Chapter president Jane Clark, Sr. Class vice-president Jan (pronounced "Yahn," please) Gruczka, Oracle co-editor in chief Kristin Baraniak, Student Council treasurer and track/XC star Joe O'Neil, Student Council secretary "Cynthia" Statires and the other Cynthia on Student Council "Cindy" Thibeault (together), and the forever running George Reed.

The Graduation edition featured senior class editors (another Little Green tradition): Editor in Chief Howard Gross, Managing Editor Chris Wyskiel, and Editorial Board members Mike Gregorious (sports), Joe Blajda (art), the late and beloved Charlie Felton (subscriptions and business manager) and Andy Lackoff (champion headline writer: "what's another name for bowlers?").



Interviewing and writing about all the above, but not his own 15th edition Focus, was Class Valedictorian, Student Council president, prolific contributor to and editor of the Oracle, National Honor Society member and Masker: Mark Szpak. In jest, that May 21, 1973 article began: "... and on the seventh day, God created Mark."



The Little Green surveyed Mark's legal career achievements on-line and interviewed him for a more personal account of our class go-getter's past 50 years. A Phi Beta Kappa

graduate of Harvard College, Mark pursued his thespian talents as a member of Harvard's world-renowned Hasty Pudding Institute. Awarded a Michael C. Rockefeller Memorial Fellowship, Mark spent a post graduate year living/traveling in southern Poland, immersing himself in the Polish culture. Then Harvard Law School. Never an underachiever, he served as Articles Office Co-Chair of the Harvard Law Review and continued his Hasty Pudding involvement, joining in reunion shows and serving on its graduate Board for much of his legal career. "My wife and I enjoyed meeting many celebrities at fancy events in Cambridge," said Szpak. Mark remains involved in a local theater group.

He was recruited and joined the then 200 plus attorney ("now maybe a thousand in multiple cities" answered Szpak when asked) Ropes & Gray Boston law firm where

Continued on last page 12

Senior Editors Publish Reunion Edition

Intrigued by the Class of 1973 Reunion Committee's website and reach out e-mails, former Little Green Editor-in-Chief Howard Gross had an idea. He met with Reunion Committee members to pitch his vision of a 50 Year Reunion Edition of the school newspaper, telling committee members he'd volunteer former Managing Editor Chris Wyskiel to help.

The Committee loved it. Gross, still practicing law in Dover NH, called his fellow Dover attorney to share the news. With different areas of practice, their professional paths never crossed but they'd begun to meet for occasional "let's catch up" lunches pre-Covid. "Really?" answered Wyskiel, also still working full time, wondering how they'd have the time and ability to pull off his goal.

By e-mails, texts and calls, both decided to first survey their 16 senior year issues. Then they had to find them. Thanks to Don Hunter (fellow Dennis Bellemare Memorial Boys Day at the Beach lunch attendee) and Mike Rainey (for keeping that summer drink toasting get together going), missing issues Wyskiel hadn't kept in his attic were found. Hunter had them all.

Gross found a software program to assist in the laying out of stories, pictures and artwork he and Wyskiel hoped could come together. Both discussed copy to write (newsworthy and nostalgic), decided who'd reach out to whom using contacts the Reunion Committee shared, and started making calls and sending e-mails. Howard



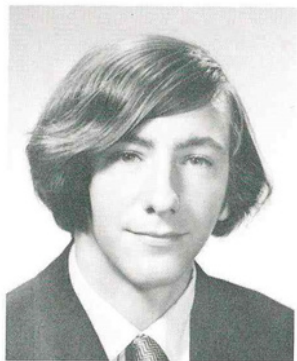
Charlie Felton shown voting in November 1972, the first time 18-year-olds could cast ballots. He was a vital member of The Little Green staff. Though his title was "subscription manager", he sold countless ads, raising dollars for more pages, more stories, more success. He will be missed.

contacted ACK writer, now book author, Tony Tremblay (see related article) and sports editor Mike Gregorious. Chris connected with fellow editor Andy Lackoff and easily convinced art editor Joe Blajda to draw another gem. Then just as they did at Central, both Gross and Wyskiel procrastinated until deadlines loomed to write copy and figure out how to put together a Volume X, Special 50 Year Reunion "extra" to be distributed reunion weekend and posted on the Reunion Committee's website.

The Little Green was not a typical high school publication. Its editors over decades, most products of English teacher Alma Langlois' Journalism course, enjoyed a special relationship with their much loved "Mrs. L." The Class of 1973 editors enjoyed particular success and were given the top

honor "Highest Achievement in Journalism" award by the New England Scholastic Press Association at its 25th Annual Fall Conference in November at Boston University, a "Medalist" rank among First Place ratings by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association in April (the highest award a school newspaper could receive and the second time awarded to The Little Green in its then ten year history), and five more awards to editors and the newspaper itself at Press Day activities at St. Bonaventure College in June.

The 1972-73 editions of The Little Green were not just read by Central students. Reprinted on page 2 is the editorial Gross authored illustrated by artwork Wyskiel imagined that art editor Joe Blajda drew which no doubt caught the eye of Manchester School Board members and top brass of the NHIAA .



The Tony Tremblay Saga: From ACK to **AAH!!**

It's been fifty years since this joke column has appeared in print. That's an ACKing long time, but you know, time flies like an arrow, and fruit flies like a banana...yes, we're all getting old. I was out to dinner with my wife and glanced at her. I was startled. I said, "You know you have a suppository in your ear?" "Oh," she replied, "now I know where my hearing aid is"....my kids admonish me to only have one alcoholic drink a night. So, the other day, I walked into a bar with a slab of asphalt under my arm. When the bartender asked me what I wanted, I told him I would like a scotch, and ah, one for the road...while I was in that bar, a waitress screamed, "does anyone know CPR?" I yelled out, "I know the entire alphabet!" We all laughed and laughed,



except for that one guy...my mom passed away a little while ago. At the hospital, I couldn't remember her blood type. "Be positive", she kept saying. I try, but it's really tough for me now that's she gone...my lumberjack friend told me he ran into a talking tree in the forest. "I'm a talking tree!" it said. My friend responded, "you may be a talking tree, but you will dialogue"...I'm still deep into the hippie culture of the early 70's. Someone asked me what I call my wife. Mississippi, I told him...I saw my wife putting on her sexy underwear this morning. It could only mean one thing. It's laundry day...she told me to stop acting like a flamingo, so I had to put my foot down...it's hard to believe that this is my final column for the Little Green. I enjoyed writing it 50 years ago, and it was a blast revisiting it. Before I go, I do want to mention the reason Dick Horan and I had a falling out all those years ago. I never knew he was a road construction thief. I should have, all the signs were there...

Tony Tremblay went to college at NHTI and was working at New England Plastics as the V.P. of Manufacturing, when a colleague who knew he was doing some writing suggested taking steps to get his work published. After publishing dozens of short stories in the U.S. and abroad, his first book was published in 2016. Since then, he has



published four books, with a fifth on the way. Tony has been published alongside many well known authors, Stephen King among them. Few of his readers know that Tony got his start writing the highly sophisticated jokes column "ACK" for The Little Green. On the following page are excerpts from his breakout novel, "Moore's Court," a Bram Stoker Award finalist, and "Do Not Weep for Me," a top ten pick on the Horror DNA list. "The Damage Done" will be published in June 2024. Tony and his wife live in Goffstown. They have two children and five grandchildren, all of whom are very frightened!

Excerpts from the Tremblay library...

From The Moore House

As soon as Father MacLeod drove off, the officer left his cruiser and approached them.

“Are you guys ready to leave now?”

Celeste, confused by the Priest’s abrupt departure, looked to Agnes for guidance.

“Yeah,” Agnes answered, “I guess so.” She was staring at the parking spot the priest had vacated. She adjusted her gaze to the Moore house. “That black door creeps me out more than anything else about this house. I’m glad to take leave of it.”

Celeste’s head shot up. “Black door? What black door?”

“Right there.” Agnes pointed to the front door. “That one.”

Celeste took in the door for a few seconds. “I don’t see a black door. I see dark red.”

Agnes frowned. She addressed Nora. “And you?”
Nora was staring at the door. “It’s blue. Dark blue.” Her voice was distant.

The police officer shook his head. “Is this a game? Are you ladies playing with me?”

“Why?” asked Agnes.

“It’s green,” he said, “And an ugly shade at that. It reminds me of vomit.”

Celeste was aware of all four of them maneuvering, standing side by side to face the door. They all stared. How can we all be seeing different colors?

No one moved, until the door did.

From The Damage Done

(novel to be released June 2024)

The spinning had slowed, and after a few moments, images sharpened. Trees, he thought. Why am I seeing trees? The ground, littered with pine needles and small branches, stood above the trees. Where’s the sky? What’s going on? His confusion cleared as quickly as his vision. I’m upside down. His view was spinning because he was tied up by his ankles, twisting in the air. Jerking his hands confirmed that they were also bound. The throbbing ache in his head now made sense to him. He had been hit, knocked out. But, why? Whom?

He tensed. There was a crunching of twigs behind him. Then, a steading hand on his back. His view, now stationary, settled on a copse of oak trees.

“Who’s there? Please, help me out of this!”
Officer Woods pleaded.

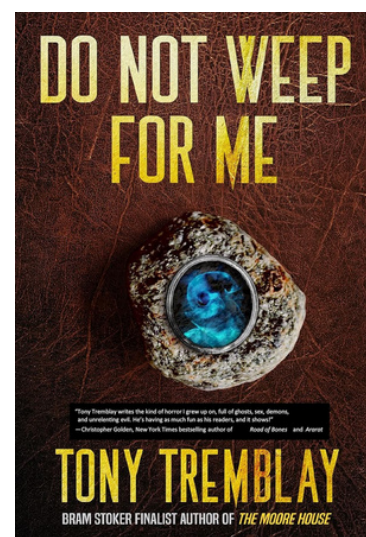
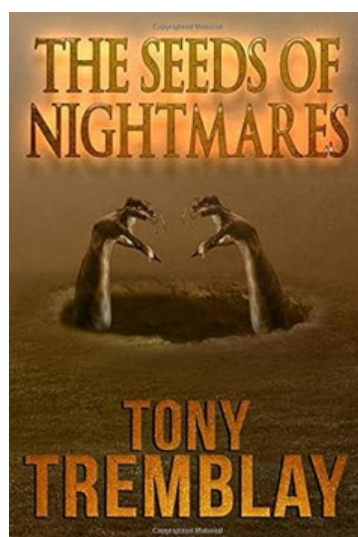
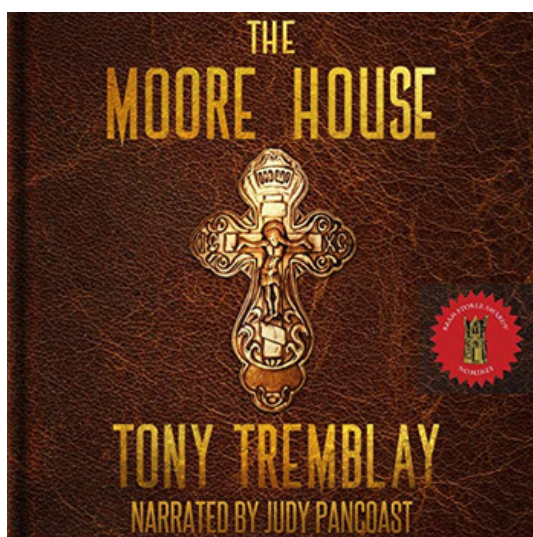
The response to his request confused him at first, but then he relaxed. Instead of a verbal reply, the hand on his back lifted, and an arm encircled his legs. He’s going to lift me up to untie whatever is holding me. “My God, thank you.” Woods said softly, his voice breaking.

It happened so fast that it didn’t register for a few seconds. An arm, larger than any he had ever seen before, covered with thick, coarse hair, snaked into his line of sight. In its hand, a knife, the size dwarfed by the fist that held it.

More info on Tony and his work can be found on Facebook and:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYtCE65l1cc>

<http://www.tonytremblayauthor.com/>



Classmates leave city footprints

*Anagnost rocks development world,
Fire Captain Jim Roy cited for heroism*



Dick Anagnost

Dick Anagnost has been building new, restoring old, and saving historic structures in Manchester, and many other cities and towns in NH and Northern New England for decades. President of Anagnost Investments, Inc., Dick grew various subsidiaries, known collectively as The Anagnost Companies, from a small real estate brokerage firm in the late 1970s into a private investment and real estate developer employing thousands involved in projects from NH to FL and even up into Canada.

Earlier in his career, he partnered with the City of Manchester to revitalize Elm Street properties including the Chase Block, Bond, Dunlap and McQuades Buildings, as well as several large Millyard sites. The Elliot at River's Edge, the hospital's expansive ambulatory care center & urgent care facility with adjoining medical office and apartments is another one of Dick's can't miss city projects.

He's partnered with city and state agencies to create hundreds of workforce housing units in Manchester and around NH, developed gobs of market rate housing and retail/mixed use development, and has sat on various housing and finance boards and councils. By Governor appointments, he's served on the NH Housing and Finance Authority for 20 years. His companies have received multiple civic awards.

Dick was named Manchester's Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the year in 2009, and Business NH's Business Leader of the Year in 2016.

"I've been busy," admitted Anagnost, "but I've had lots of fun too," making time to coach youth football for the Bedford Jaguars and CYO basketball for St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral.



Jim Roy

Jim Roy has left city footprints of a different type. Becoming a master plumber after high school and marrying high school sweetheart Joanne Guimond, Jim left his trade behind to join the Manchester Fire Department, retiring as a captain after a 30-year eventful career. He was

recognized three times in the Union Leader for his heroism, twice involved in saving youths stranded on rocks in raging rivers, and once for carrying a survivor on his back out of a burning smoke-filled building. "The smoke was so thick, you couldn't see a thing," Roy told The Little Green. "You count the number of doors as you crawl in so you can count 'em to get out."

Roy was awarded The Paul W. Sypek Medal of Valor by NH's Fire Standards & Training Commission, an award given for conspicuous bravery at risk to life above and beyond the call of duty. With fellow firefighters, he traveled to New Orleans to join in the help after hurricane Katrina.

After hanging up his boots, Roy had time for more deep-sea fishing, but also a career in city politics. He was repeatedly elected to the Manchester Board of Alderman, representing Ward 4 for ten years. He was the focus of Union Leader stories and its endorsement for his independence and common-sense leadership.

Anagnost and his wife, Demetria, continue to make their home in Bedford and Dick, his mark on Manchester. Jim and Joanne sold their home in town to enjoy the warmer weather, and fishing, of Ormond Beach, FL, and summers in northern Maine. "I don't miss shoveling snow," said Roy.

Central then and now: a talk with a current editor of the Little Green

50 years is a long time. It's hard to imagine what it would have been like if the school newspaper's editor, Class of '23, had called and asked to discuss the newspaper, the issues of the day back in the fall of 1972.

But in response to our inquiry, the paper's co-Managing Editor, Colleen Stankiewicz, responded immediately. Stankiewicz, a senior, was genuinely excited when talking about Central. The school could not have a better ambassador.

Here's what she had to say about a few random and not-random topics:

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Q: I think one thing that concerns us is that Manchester schools used to dominate the high school sports scene....

A: "We're not as competitive as we once were," she said. Stankiewicz plays two sports and considers herself an avid enthusiast. She said one reason is that participation in sports is down due to commitments that compete for students' time such as academics and work. Travel teams play a part, despite NHIAA attempts to curb interference with varsity sports, she said.

"ONE SUPER HIGH SCHOOL"

Manchester's previous superintendent formulated a plan which would result in the shuttering of at least one high school, and Central was mentioned as a possible target. Alternatively, "one super high school" – in Stankiewicz's words – would be built at the former Youth Development Center (YDC) to house all Manchester high school students.

"I've abandoned the issue," Said Stankiewicz. "I don't think the School Board has made much progress on it."

NO MORE "HOME ROOMS" OR STUDY HALLS

"Advisory" is a fancy word for what used to be called home rooms, Said Stankiewicz. Study halls are for freshman, everyone else opts out. As in former years, club members, newspaper staff and student council members congregate elsewhere when scheduled for study halls. The Little Green has no office, just a section of the Computer Lab



The Little Green today. Photos by Colleen Stankiewicz '24.

LITTLE GREEN

It's no longer on green paper. But, surprisingly, it's still printed on paper, broadsheet like a regular newspaper. And it's not even available online.

"We were online during COVID. But when everyone came back, they said, 'Hey, where's the paper?'" said Stankiewicz, as poised an 18-year-old as you'd want to speak to. "So we started printing it again."

The first issue just came out. It's 12 pages.

STUDENT POPULATION

Stankiewicz said her class is at 278, down from 500 in her freshman year. (The Class of 1973 began with about 600, and graduated 462). All the Manchester schools suffer from the difficulties affecting inner-city schools, said Stankiewicz. "And because Central is the most visible and most open about it," draws more than its share of the criticism.. "But this (the smaller class size) is why Central has given me so many opportunities," Stankiewicz said.

CENTRAL WEEK

There is no longer just one Central Week. It's more like four a year, marked by an assembly at the beginning of the week, a Spirit Day, and a pep rally at the end of the week.

Sports Line

By M. G. Gregorious



Welcome back to Sports Line! In this column, we'll focus on a number of our classmates active on the Manchester sports scene.

From within the public sector, we've seen classmate Joe O'Neil rise from Central High student, teacher and successful cross country coach with numerous championships, finish up his career as Assistant Principal with over thirty-five years of service. Steve Hall and Mark Ouellette have taken the private sector route to make their contributions and have been recognized for their commitment to sports and academics. While at Central, Steve was an All-State fullback and Mark was a stellar offensive threat and captain on the hardwood for the Little Green.

STEVE HALL

With 35 years and counting of officiating high school football for the NHIAA (NH Interscholastic Athletic Association), Steve has recently been inducted into its Hall of Fame for his contributions refereeing.

At the prompting of classmate (and Steve's roomie at UNH) Jan Gruczka, Steve began reffing high school football in the late 1980's and is still at it today. (Jan threw his final flag only a few years ago.) In 2001, he became a NH Referee Rules Interpreter, and in just five years became New Hampshire's representative to the National Rules Committee, which meets annually in Indiana.



Steve Hall



In 1973, Mark Ouellette '77 embarked on his college journey, enrolling with then-New Hampshire College (NHC) to pursue his bachelor's degree in business management. nearly 50 years later, the outgoing Board Chair joined his alma mater on that very same campus for a special celebration in his honor.

With 22 Championship games under his belt, Steve has also become chairman of the Official Football Manual and part of a five person Editorial Committee. Due to the critical shortage of game officials, Steve has been working with fellow alumnus (and former mascot) Mike Lafond the past four years on the Refereeing Apprentice program on the recruiting and training of officials.

MARK OUELLETTE

Mark was recruited to New Hampshire College by legendary coach and Athletic Director Lou D'Allesandro, who started the

basketball program at what is now Southern New Hampshire University only ten years earlier when it was called the New Hampshire College of Accounting and Commerce. D'Allesandro left to go into politics, and his next coach lasted only a year, but Mark's star continued to shine nonetheless. Senior year found him captain of the squad under his third head coach, Tom

Sullivan. With the death of his dad shortly after graduation Mark scrapped his plan of playing ball overseas and began his expansive 32 year career with IBM beginning in Manchester and finished his career with eight more at Pitney Bowes.

In the late 1990's, Mark was recruited by a colleague to join the Board of Trustees, opening a window of opportunity that would become his crowning jewel. With a student population, barely a thousand more than Central High in the 1970's, SNHU has grown to a student enrollment of 200,000

Continued on next page

Sports Line continued

worldwide; with 20,000 students receiving their diplomas this past May, ranging from BS's to PhD's. The SNHU Arena (having taken over the naming rights from Verizon) downtown was filled twice each weekend day with friends and family of the graduates with the remaining participating on line during each ceremony by way of the jumbo screen. From 1998 to the present the operating budget has grown from \$40 million to \$1.3 billion. SNHU has become the second largest employer in NH while the main campus has kept the student population capped at 4000 to maintain a small school environment. Mark is most proud that he has been able to be a part of this team of trustees during his 26 years on the board, his last seven as chairman.



Mark Ouellette

Last October during his final monthly meeting, President Paul LeBlanc unveiled a portrait and announced that the school's athletic field would be named Mark A. Ouellette Stadium.



Derryfield Park's cross country course was named in honor of longtime coach Joe O'Neil '73.

JOE O'NEIL: *Running it all*

continued from page 1

When the Little Green reached out to O'Neil near the end of September, he pointed out "I haven't been at Central for almost seven years now. I still need to meet with the principal to get passes and keys!" O'Neil did admit he'd been giving his tour some thought, explaining he hoped to start in the Practical Arts Auditorium and proceed backstage "through the bowels" of the building he loves.

As assistant principal, Joe oversaw the Practical Arts Building and all its departments and programs. "The PA housed Social Studies, Business, Music, Family Consumer Services, you know, what we called home ec, and ELL: English Language Learners," explained O'Neil. "ELL was my favorite. Some 300 kids speaking some 60 different languages, all of them new to America and hungry to learn their new language. Those kids were so

excited to be there! They were great."

"Anyone walking the halls of Central these days would see the faces of a much different, internationally diverse Manchester city core," O'Neil added. "But those ELL kids would remind me of my Greek in-laws reminiscing about their long ago newly immigrated Greek speaking relatives walking the same halls of a smaller Central High." With facts he witnessed first-hand, O'Neil described how the American Dream lives on.

Those on tour didn't need tunnel passes. An underground parking garage has replaced the grass and sidewalks surrounding Abe Lincoln in the center of the three main buildings the Class of 1973 left behind. A major building addition, named after long time Principal William Burns, and a relocated Abe frames a new cement courtyard. But no one got lost with Joe O'Neil.

Classmates gone too soon

Following is a list of classmates who we learned are deceased. Some dates of death and/or obituary links were unavailable

Audrey Avery, 10/5/15	https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/unionleader/name/audrey-holden-obituary?id=17701127
Dennis Bellemare, 6/18/09	https://www.currentobituary.com/member/obit/65398
William Bernier, 2/26/11	https://obituaries.salemnews.com/obituary/william-bernier-772165411
Oliver Brickley, 6/20/21	https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/unionleader/name/oliver-brickley-obituary?id=11684028
Jodi Buciak, 10/5/22	https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/unionleader/name/jody-buciak-obituary?id=36750208
Cheryl Clermont, 4/14/18	https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/legacyremembers/cheryl-mitchell-obituary?id=36776738
Suzanne Croteau, 8/13/2021	https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/unionleader/name/suzanne-langer-obituary?id=14194188
Andrew Danforth	
Paul Demers, 6/16/22	https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/unionleader/name/paul-demers-obituary?id=35274007
Fred Desilets, 8/6/22	https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/unionleader/name/frederic-desilets-obituary?id=36189273
Carol Desrochers	
Don Dickson	
Paul Doumasiaris, 3/16/18	https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/unionleader/name/paul-doumasiaris-obituary?id=11492023
Martin Driggers, 1982	
Camille Duval	
Diane Eaton	
Charles Felton	
Rosemary Fraser	
Richard Frink, 7/12/14	https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/unionleader/name/richard-frink-obituary?id=11121531
David Gagne	
Tom Harris	
Brian Huggins	
Brian Keaveney, 9/18/18	https://www.currentobituary.com/obit/225602
Jane Kelly	
Mark Kenney, 1/15/2006	https://www.currentobituary.com/obit/23556
Jill Kijek, 5/10/15	https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/unionleader/name/jill-crombie-obituary?id=18125601
Yvonne Laflamme, 7/2/04	https://www.currentobituary.com/obit/12094
Barry Leafe	
William Luther, 1/2/22	https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/unionleader/name/william-luther-obituary?id=34141809
Sherry Magnuson, 4/26/08	https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/legacyremembers/cheryl-beach-obituary?id=29413577
June Marshall, 10/17/21	https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/unionleader/name/june-marshall-obituary?id=31178402
Leonard Martin	
Sheila McLaughlin, 6/21/17	https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/unionleader/name/sheila-window-obituary?id=16025221
Tom Mills	
Gary Moreau	
Elizabeth Niemi, 4/12/21	https://www.connorhealy.com/obituary/elizabeth-niemi
Thomas North, 11/7/21	https://www.connorhealy.com/obituary/thomas-north
William O'Connell	
Kathleen Otterson, 8/19/09	https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/unionleader/name/kathleen-barrett-obituary?id=25741977
Cathy Pavelack, 4/26/91	
Robert Perry	
Norman Petrin, 2/3/00	https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Petrin-68
David B Pfaff, Feb 2005	https://www.starnewsonline.com/story/news/2005/02/08/david-brent-pfaff/30773319007/
Michael Richards	
Karen Riley, 12/18/18	https://bringfuneralhome.com/tribute-ajax/print-obituary.html?id=112654
Anne-Marie Roth, 3/27/2008	https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/unionleader/name/anne-marie-cronin-obituary?id=27220687
Michael Roy, 2/12/2020	https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/michael-roy-obituary?pid=195397872
William Sysyn	
Rebecca Tullgren, 3/11/04	https://higginsfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/813/Rebecca-Libutti/obituary.html
Peter West	

FOREVER
IN OUR
HEARTS

In Loving
Memory

Kim Samara has this Reunion all sewn up

Continued from page 1

Shapazian and Dave Janelle, Marty Dobbins and Cindy DuHaime-Londborg Cindy Thibeault mailed out some 200 postcards, and a full quarter of them were returned due to incorrect/outdated addresses, many of which have yet to be resolved. But as time has passed, word-of-mouth has led people to the committee and/or the website, and as of this writing, last minute entries are still coming in for an event which at \$19.73 costs less than dinner for two at Applebees. How could this be?

“A few of our classmates contributed thousands of dollars. That’s what kept the price down,” Kim said. Other than commandeering a committee which located a venue, planned a menu and scheduled an additional evening of events (campus tour), Kim found satisfaction somewhat outside the box. Having become involved with an organization called “Sewing Seeds of Hope,” a group of refugees who fled after the 2021 U.S. withdrawal from

Afghanistan, she designed and coordinated a group of three women who made tote bags made for distribution at the end of the evening.

“I sew, this came naturally to me,” she said. She noted that the women involved boast families with current and future Central students totalling 16, making it all the more meaningful for everyone involved.

A HEARTFELT THANK-YOU

Members of the reunion committee who have donated their time and effort over the last several months are Class Officers Steve Grzywacz, Jan Gruczka, Kim Samara and Debbie Duskin Davidson, along with Marty Dobens Forward, Cindy DuHaime Londborg, Dick Horan, Dave Janelle, Pam Mitchell DiPreta, Mark Ouelette, Paula Shapazian and Cindy Thibeault, and the anonymous donors who helped make this possible.

Mark Szpak: Still in Focus **Continued from page 3**

He was recruited and joined the then 200 plus attorney (“now maybe a thousand in multiple cities” answered Szpak when asked) Ropes & Gray Boston law firm where his career evolved as a leading data breach and privacy litigator and handler of complex commercial disputes, consumer class actions, securities fraud and intellectual property matters.

Mandatory retirement at age 65, “firm policy” explained Szpak, gave Mark a freedom to travel with his wife, returning a few times to his beloved Poland, visiting his son and his wife and their young kids in Key Largo, FL, and his daughter and her fiancé in New York City. He also does some charitable pro bono legal work as a firm retiree. “With time on my hands, I fired my lawn service started mowing my own lawn and getting to know my neighbors,” he added.

Unsurprising to his Manchester buddies, especially his fellow “flying Polacks,” would be Mark’s affinity for all things Polish. He’s legal counsel to the American Council for Polish Culture, and established the Polish Cultural Foundation, Inc. as a non-profit corporation. Both support and encourage Polish cultural enrichment in the region. “Both my parents came from Poland. I met my grandmother for the first time during my fellowship abroad. My wife and I sent our kids to summer classes in Poland to learn the language,” offered Szpak with some pride. “I know my son can order dzin z tonikiem (gin & tonic) with confidence,” he chuckled.

Surprised to have been contacted by the Little Green for this Special Edition’s Focus, Szpak asked: “me?” Our answer was why not. Many of our classmates have had exciting lives and great accomplishments. Our Reunion’s two-day affair will allow classmates to only scratch the surface of stories unknown. Spotting he who spot lit others long ago seemed fun to do. No Polish jokes!

About this issue

Outreach was the most difficult part of putting this reunion edition together. Although we know many of our classmates have attained great success, we did the best we could with the available time and information. .