

The Leprechaun

A Publication of the Harper Woods Notre Dame Alumni Association

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MAY 2010 EDITION



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Graczyk '67 Holds Unusual Record

According to the state of Texas, it takes seven minutes to execute a death row inmate. At that rate, **Mike Graczyk '67** has spent about 40 hours of his life watching men – and a few women – die.

Graczyk, a correspondent for The Associated Press, is believed to hold a macabre record. He's almost certainly watched more executions than anyone else in the United States. "I can't possibly imagine there's been someone present at more than Mike," said Michelle Lyons, the spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, which uses lethal injection at its execution chamber in Huntsville.

Since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976, no state has executed more inmates than Texas. And no one has witnessed more of them than Graczyk. He's on the witness list for 315 of the state's 439 executions - more than any other reporter, prison employee or chaplain - and no records were kept for another 80. In his early days, he kept count, but he eventually stopped. He didn't want to know how many executions he had witnessed. "In one circle, I was perceived as putting notches on my gun belt," the reporter said. "I did not like that."

Prison regulations in Texas



Mike Graczyk '67 outside the Texas execution chamber prior to an execution in January 2010

require The Associated Press to be given one of the five designated media witness passes for each execution. Graczyk works in the AP's Houston bureau – its closest bureau to the state's execution chamber in Huntsville. Since the early 1980s, he's made the hour-long drive north almost every time an inmate has faced the needle.

The first was March 13, 1984, for the execution of James "Cowboy" Autry, convicted of shooting a female store clerk between the eyes with a .38-caliber revolver while arguing over a six-pack of beer. She died, along with a former Catholic priest that Autry killed at the crime scene.

"The first time definitely leaves an impression on you," Graczyk said. There are others that stand out along the way. Graczyk remembers Bob Black, convicted of killing his wife and trying to collect the insurance money. "I walked into the death house, and he was strapped to the table and he said, 'Hey Mike, how are you doing?' It threw me for a loop, said Graczyk. Graczyk said it's normal for him to know the name of the condemned and not uncommon for the reverse to be true. There have been others who greeted Graczyk by name with a needle in their arm.

Once, while waiting to be let into the death house, a prisoner phoned him in the media holding area. It was the inmate whose execution Graczyk was about to witness. "He said, 'I just wanted to call and make sure you were OK.' I was flabbergasted," Graczyk said. Over the years, the inmate's name has slipped from Graczyk's memory, but not the unexpected phone conversation. "I don't think he had any family to call," he said.

There was Ponchai Wilkerson, who once nearly escaped from death row and, years later, coughed up a handcuff key as he lay dying from his injection. There was the "Candy Man," Ronald Clark O'Bryan - convicted of poisoning his child's Halloween candy with cyanide - and the

gauntlet of college students wearing Halloween masks who showed up to cheer. And Karla Faye Tucker, the first woman executed in Texas since the 1800s. He remembers a network correspondent crying after her death - and another blow-drying his hair.

Of the entire death chamber ritual, Graczyk said, the final statements are what stick in his mind. Some have been confession. Some have been denials. Others wrote poetry, prayers, bible verses, or curse filled rants. Emotions ranged from defiance to resignation.

There was Jonathan Nobles, an electrician who stabbed two people to death. He sang *Silent Night*. "Ever since then, I think of him on Christmas or Christmas Eve when I'm in church," Graczyk said. "That's the kind of thing that haunts you."

The person who ranks closest to Graczyk's status also felt things that haunted him. Don Reid, a writer for the AP and, before that, a Texas newspaper, witnessed 189 executions in the 1960s, when Texas still strapped inmates to "Old Sparky," the nickname for the state's electric chair.

The experience changed Reid, who died in 1981, from a

Continued on page 3...

Graczyk '67 Continued from page 2...

supporter of the death penalty to an opponent. He wrote a book, *Have a Seat, Please*, chronicling that transformation. Graczyk said he doesn't worry about the mental toll of watching so many deaths. His bosses with the AP have offered counseling, but he has declined. "To see someone go to sleep, not to sound insensitive, but the carnage at the murder scene is harder than what you see in the death house in Huntsville," he said.

Over a 25-year career, Graczyk said, the executions have only been a small portion of his work. He finds balance in those other stories. As a journalist, Graczyk never answers the question when friends ask his own views on the death penalty. "I'm not sure I really know," he said, but as long as Texas keeps executing people, Graczyk said, it's important that he keep showing up. "I would hate for the state of Texas to take someone's life and no one be there," he said.

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Maloney '64 Hired to Coach Dundee Football

Dundee has hired a Hall of Famer to guide its football program. Ed Maloney '64 was approved by the Dundee board of education to replace Ryan Irwin, who stepped down at the end of the 2009 season to concentrate on his duties as athletic director and assistant principal.

"Dundee is very lucky to have him as a coach and we are looking forward to a great 2010 season," said Daniel Bolster, who passed for 1,811 yards and 19 touchdowns last season as a junior. Bolster will be among 15 returning lettermen. "We only lost eight seniors, plus the JV team was 8-1. The eighth grade was 8-0," Maloney said. "They've laid a solid foundation right down to grade school."



Ed Maloney '64

This will be the eighth head coaching job in football for Maloney. "There's still the challenge of organizing a program," Maloney said of his latest coaching job. He has specialized in building football and lacrosse programs during a career that began at his alma mater - Harper Woods Notre Dame. He was the head football coach at Harper Woods Notre Dame, along with Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher, Crosswell-Lexington, Pontiac Catholic, Riverview Gabriel Richard and Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard. He was a teacher and assistant coach at Monroe Catholic Central in the 1970s. Maloney played club lacrosse during his college days at Dayton and started lacrosse programs at Bishop Foley, Harper Woods Notre Dame, Ann Arbor Richard and Notre Dame Prep. He is in the process of starting the sport at Siena Heights, which will make its lacrosse debut in the spring. Maloney was named the 2008 lacrosse Coach of the Year by the Michigan High School Coaches Association. He lives in Dundee with his wife, Joan. Maloney was inducted into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame on March 27, 2010 in Ann Arbor.

Recent Passings

Paul L. Garavaglia - Class of 1966

61, of White Township, NJ, passed away on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at the Lopatcong Care Center, Lopatcong Township, NJ, from complications of Esophageal Cancer. Born: May 10, 1948 in Detroit, Michigan, he was a son of the late John Garavaglia and Doris Doub Garavaglia of Brookline, MA. Personal: He and his wife, the former Susan Berger observed their 23rd wedding anniversary May 31, 2009. He has lived in White Township for three years, before that he lived in Watchung, NJ. Paul retired from Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., he was vice-president in Information Technology, working in New York City and Bridgewater, NJ. He graduated from Notre Dame High School, Harper Woods, Michigan as Valedictorian of his class. Under President Johnson's Administration, he was a Presidential Scholar. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University of Michigan. Memberships: Hawk Pointe Golf Club, Washington, NJ, he was on the White Township Emergency Response Team. Survivors: wife, Susan B. Garavaglia, mother, Doris Doub Garavaglia; brother, Steven Garavaglia of Brookline, MA; an Aunt Roberta Doub and an Uncle Mark Doub, both of Chattanooga, TN. A brother Mark Garavaglia passed away earlier. Paul is laid to rest in the Belvidere Cemetery, Belvidere, NJ.

Eugene Raymond Haddad - Class of 1958

Age 69, died on Saturday, March 6, 2010, at William Beaumont Hospital-Troy, Michigan. He was born on July 30, 1940 in Detroit, Michigan, to Sidney Norman and Martha Rita Haddad. He had been a resident of Troy for 40 years, and was a former resident of Detroit. Education: Mr. Haddad graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1958, and attended GMI. Occupation: Mr. Haddad began his career as a draftsman at Time Engineering, and then opened H&W Hardware in Warren, which he operated for about 8 years. He returned to Time Engineering for a short time, and then opened the Sports Forum in St. Clair Shores, which he operated for about 6 years. Following the Sports Forum he began working in Home Improvement. Mr. Haddad was devoted to his grandchildren and cherished time spent with them. He also loved golf, bowling, playing softball, and he was an avid pool player. He was always fixing and working on homes. During his youth he raced cars, and at one time owned his own race car which he built himself. Military: He proudly served in the U.S. Army (October 25, 1961 - September 30, 1967), being honorably discharged with the rank of PFC. During his service time, he was stationed in Germany for a period. Surviving Wife of 40 years: Gina (nee: Cacciapalle) Haddad - they married at Holy Family Church in Detroit, June 20, 1969. Surviving Daughters: Kerry Shaw (Mike) and Kristin Drake (Ryan) Surviving Sons: Gino (Julie) and Eric (Laura) Grandchildren: Luke, Drew, Brendan, Jaiden, Leah, Kyler, Kendall, Hunter, and Gracyn Surviving Brothers: Sidney (Lorraine), Dale (Louise), and Larry (Julie) Interment: Christian Memorial Cultural Center Cemetery, in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Memorial Tributes may be made to: Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, 1421 East Twelve Mile Road, Building A, Madison Heights, MI 48071.

Joseph J. Newman, Class of 1958

Age 71, March 20, 2010. Dear brother of Marilyn Patrus and Karen (Michael) Parenteau. Uncle of five nieces and four nephews.

See The Muggs Live!

Ugliest Band in the World...

Friday, May 7, 2010

Billy's Lounge
(Grand Rapids, MI)

Saturday, May 8, 2010

Majestic Café
(Detroit, MI)



Wall of Fame

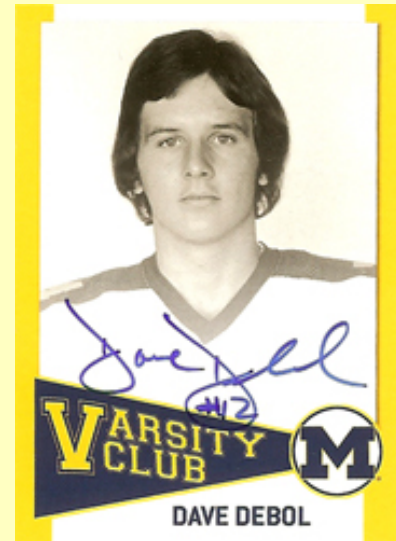
If you see your name listed below, we have your Wall of Fame plaque that hung on the wall behind the gym. We would like for you to have your plaque if you want it. Please email us at jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com, and we will make arrangements to get it to you!

Gary Lytle '61
 Dave Debol '74*
 John Giordano '61*
 John Blum '77*
 David Bonior '63
 Joe Przybycki '64
 Mike Boccia '65
 Chris Hacias '65
 John Kraft '65
 Rick Wenner '67
 Dan Richards '67
 Glenn Radzik '69
 Gary Radzik '69
 Jerry Guinane '71
 Mike McGreevy '73
 Tim Flannery '73
 Jim Romeo '75
 Kevin Flannery '75
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 Brian Monfils '75
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 Marco Caporuscio '78

Dave Wolfbauer '79
 Gary Bass '80
 Kevin Paterson '80
 Jim Forsgren '81
 Craig Mitchell '81
 Walt Dixon '81
 Brett Nowak '82
 Chris Gust '82
 Paul Tripp '82
 Brian Barney '83
 Andy Nanasi '83
 Greg Placidi '83
 Ken Zazula '84
 Bruce Smith '85
 Paul Seibert '86
 Paul Amodei '86
 Joe Trombley '87
 Andy Booth '87
 Scott Klott '88
 Jim Maher '88
 Eric Taylor '89
 Eric Stanczak '89
 DeJuan Reynolds '90
 Matt Ziolkowski '90

Mark Staples, Jr. '91
 Steve Jansen '92
 Anthony Vitale '94
 Preston Brandimore '95
 Phil Ruggerio '95
 Jason Selleke '96
 Jason Stoicevich '97
 James Fields '01
 Adam Fujita '01

* Pictured on the same plaque: University of Michigan Hockey



Trophies

For the past five years, we have been storing over 160 of the school's trophies. We would like to put these trophies in the hands of the guys who earned them for Notre Dame. We have taken photos of all the trophies and uploaded them to the photo gallery on the website. Please browse through them. If you see any that you would like, please contact us, and we will make arrangements to get them to you.



Special Thank You!



We would like to send a special "Thank you!" to the Frank Guastella for a generous donation. The donation was made in the name of his father, Joseph, who passed away January 30, 2010. He was a life-long supporter of catholic education and Notre Dame High School.

You are invited to help support "Super" Eyan Konal in his continued fight against Neuroblastoma Cancer

Eyan is a 4 year old little boy who was diagnosed in 2009 with Stage 4 Neuroblastoma Cancer. He continues to amaze everyone with his strength, courage and smile while beating this terrible disease. Please show your support for Eyan, Jeff, Lori and Caden through this difficult time by attending a golf outing in honor of Super Eyan!!



Date: Monday, June 7th, 2010

Venue: Gowanie Golf Club, 24770 S. River Rd. Harrison Twp. MI 48045

Time: 9:00 a.m. registration, 10:00 a.m. shotgun start

Cost: \$125/person. 4-man scramble. Limited to the first 25 foursomes. Includes 18 holes/cart, Continental breakfast, lunch at the turn, followed by full dinner and open bar. Complimentary beer/soft drinks available during play.

Prizes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, closest to the pin, longest drive.

\$100 Hole sponsorships are available and prize donations are welcome.

For info, please contact: Rob Brinker (586) 362-7520



Upcoming Events

2010 Annual Alumni Softball Tournament

Saturday, September 18, 2010
Save the date!!!

Upcoming Reunions

Reunions in 2010

The following classes are due to celebrate reunion years in 2010:



2005 - 5 Years
2000 - 10 Years
1995 - 15 Years
1990 - 20 Years
1985 - 25 Years



1980 - 30 Years
1975 - 35 Years
1970 - 40 Years
1965 - 45 Years
1960 - 50 Years



Interested in forming a reunion committee for your class?
E-mail Jim Mandl '90 at jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com.

We are your *only* source for the most up-to-date alumni contact information!

Celebrating 5 Years - Class of 2005

When: Saturday, June 26, 2010
Where: Fishbones in St. Clair Shores, MI
Time: 8-30pm - 2:00am

Celebrating 50 Years - Class of 1960

When: Saturday, September 25, 2010
Where: Best Western Sterling Inn
15 Mile Rd. and Van Dyke, Sterling Heights, MI
Reunion Committee:

Eddie Kay at ewk51110@comcast.net
Gary Wilson at gwdci2@aol.com

If interested in joining the reunion committee, please email Eddie or Gary
For complete reunion information, please visit the class of 1960 web site:
www.notredamehw1960.org

Celebrating 20 Years - Class of 1990

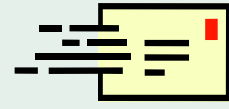
When: September 11, 2010
Where: BlackFinn Restaurant Saloon - Royal Oak, Michigan
Time: 7:00pm
Reunion Committee:

Matt Sokol at mattsokol@gmail.com
Mike Balow at MikeBalow@gmail.com
Kevin Breitshuh at KevinBreitschuh@GlobalCrossing.com
Jim Mandl at jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com

If interested in joining the reunion committee, please email Matt, Mike, Kevin or Jim



We Heard From...



David Doebler, Former Director of Bands - Notre Dame High School

Thank you for your work on the website and The Leprechaun. I remember when we started the paper in 2003. It is neat to see it continue. I only taught there for two years. I thought I had found a school that I could call home for the rest of my career. However, Cardinal Maida had different plans. I am glad to say that I am teaching in Indianapolis, at Father Thomas Seccina Memorial High School. I am happier to say that my son, Paul '07 is serving in the National Guard here in Indianapolis. He will always consider NDHW his Alma Mater.

Pete Klien, Class of 1961

Thanks for your continuing efforts to keep the memory of NDHS Harper Woods alive. Looking back to my years there, I can't help but think the school fell victim to what happened to Detroit. I won't go into that sorry story. When I tell people what Detroit was like for me when growing up there, I have a hard time convincing them it was a great place to live. I lived on Duchess and went to school at St. Jude. I could get on my bike and ride north of 8 Mile where there were still farms before NDH was built. While at NDHS, girlfriends included our neighbors over at Regina and Dominican. I also had many friends at our rival, Austin. It was a great time in a great place at the right time. Need I say more, other than thanks again?

Tom Gallus, Class of 1997

Thanks for all that you do.

John Belloli, Class of 1978

I just read the latest issue of "The Leprechaun"; it was great as usual. However, I noticed you attributed a comment ("Thanks again for a great publication") in the "We Heard From" section to me, when I believe it is really from my brother, Jim ('67). Basically, you had his graduation year right, but with my name next to it. I just want to give credit where credit is due. Unless my brother has dialed 1-800-CALL SAM to file a defamation of character lawsuit, I don't think a retraction is needed here. ;-) This is not to say that I don't think that the publication is great. In fact, I already stated that I do. Specifically, I really enjoyed the article "Five Years and Still Going Strong" article by your dad. It was well put. Keep up the great work!

Jim Belloli, Class of 1967

I caught that yesterday also and figured with all the work it takes to put the publication together it was a minor mistake. It is a very good publication and the time it takes to put together is very much appreciated. Thanks, Jim and thanks, John, for the clarification.

Ron Stempin, Class of 1991

Thanks again for everything that you do.

Carey Grzadzinski - Class of 1972

Read some of the comments in the newsletter. I too am really impressed with what you have done. Most of these school communication come and go as time passed. This has only grown. Saw Srock's mail. Haven't talked to him in..... many years. I have lived out west or over seas since the 80's. Now live in New Mexico, work at Los Alamos National Lab. I get back every year for Christmas. We have a card game - Hergott, Powers, Popp, Orvack, Marasco and brother Gerald.

Paul Giglotti, Class of 1983

Thank you for all your efforts with the alumni basketball tournament. We all had a great time.

Frank Guastella - Class of 1970

I enjoyed the March/April edition of the Leprechaun. Thank you for all of your efforts to keep HWND alive.

Chet Magaway - Class of 1989

Missing our school at 8 mile and Kelly Road.

Carol Golec, - Wife of Gary - Class of 1963

Thank you for your visit at the funeral home and for your monetary donation. I hope you have many good memories of Notre Dame High School. Gary certainly did. He hated to see the school on Kelly Road close down. Thank you again.

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Patrick Stieber '92 - Owner

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