

John Manley Cotsworth

Died: April 26, 1996

John's brother Michael Cotsworth was in the class of 1971, and writes about John's death in Los Altos, California, on Friday, April 26, 1996, when John was 57.

"John died at home," wrote his brother, "in his back yard, listening to the birds and smelling the flowers, holding hands with his wife and daughter, one day after his birthday. He had bravely struggled against cancer for many months. That day 'he was ready'."

The Green Book records John as having gone to high school in Madison, New Jersey, where he was an honors student, on the student council, a soloist in the glee club, in dramatics, and an athlete. He played soccer, was on the track team, and was co-captain of the football team.

His high school nickname, as published in The Green Book at least, was "Cotsy," which proved too long for Tom Conger, who shortened it. After John's death, Tom wrote (in "www") that, " 'Cots' was voted 'Mr. Football' in Missouri, before moving to New Jersey, and almost ended my football career in a two-a-day scrimmage in 1957. Then never played again after freshman year. He kept a live boa constrictor in his closet in South Mass. Hall."

The Aegis reports that John majored in Pre-Med, was a member of Psi Upsilon, and played lacrosse his freshman year.

Our classmate Glenn Gemelli offers this about John. "He was a friendly and gentle giant. Once during inter-fraternity wrestling, I recall him pinning an opponent, who was bear-hugging him from behind, by simply lying back and squeezing the opponent between his back and the mat."

And there the record stops. We know that John was living in Los Altos, California, at the time of our 25th and 35th reunions, but little else. He left behind a daughter named Katie.