That F-ing Newsletter
by Alex Kapp Horner ‘91

A few weeks months ago, John Pepper, our esteemed Class of 1991 Whatever He Is, basically told me that if I couldn’t take over “that f-ing newsletter” and get it out by December 31, 2015, that we wouldn’t have one, and that it would be my fault.

Never one to bow down to pressure (I constantly bow down to pressure, and he pressured me with guilt), I said I’d do it.

Unfortunately, I was stricken with what I’m pretty sure is the plague (officially pneumonia and a wicked sinus infection), making a December 31st deadline virtually impossible.

So, on the mend, and on this January March 13th, 2016, I am making my attempt at the first 2016 Class of 1991 Newsletter leading up to our 25th reunion.

Now, based on what I see on Facebook, these last 25 years have been painless and problem-free for all of you. You have all by now most certainly achieved one or all of the below:

(a) Pursued a career    (h) Joined a country club
(b) Gotten married      (i) Bought a second home
(c) Made money          (j) Participated in a charity
(d) Had a child         (k) Won an award
(e) Invented something  (l) Stayed in excellent shape
(f) Founded something
(g) Had the other two children for the total of three
However, so as not to leave out of the few of us who may not have achieved the entire list above, the last 25 years have presented us with some other scenarios. These are listed below:

(a) Ousted from a job  
(b) Actively fired  
(c) Haven’t figured out exactly what you’re great at professionally  
(d) Gotten divorced  
(e) Realized you'll never be a great cook  
(f) Realized you may never be rich  
(g) Realized you’re never going to be a parent  
(h) Gotten sick  
(i) Realized that if losing ten pounds means being on a diet, you’d rather be ten pounds overweight  
(j) Realized that life is short  
(k) Realized you’re just grateful for what you have  
(l) Realized that all the things you thought were important may not be so important anymore.

Here we are in 2016, 25 years since the year we graduated. And for those of us who align more with List B, the idea of a reunion is a little daunting. It means we either have to lie about how well we’re doing, or tell the truth about how well we’re doing. But what I’ve found in the last year or two is that there is no greater human bridge than sharing the truth of who we are. I know I sound a little Oprah here, but hey. There are a lot worse people to sound like.

So, in the spirit of honesty, I’ll go first. If Facebook is a guide, EVERYONE is doing better than I am. Everyone is making billions of dollars, is creatively and spiritually content, and everyone, and I mean EVERYONE, has the most athletic, brilliant, well-travelled, well-educated children in the world. You have all moved through the last 25 years on a constantly upward track. No one is ever sad or worried or sick. It’s just one giant salad of success. Hell, even I’m a success on Facebook.

“"There is no greater human bridge than sharing the truth of who we are”

- OLD CHRISTINE

Now for the honesty part. Last year threw me for a loop. My marriage ended. I had to sell my house, move my kids to a new neighborhood, I barely had enough work to call what I do a career, and to top it off, the changes in my skin have resulted in strangers calling me “ma’am”. It was a trying year to say the least.
But out of the ashes, something wonderful rose up. My friends from Dartmouth, some of whom I hadn’t talked to in years, came back to me, and came back strong. I didn’t even know I missed them, or they, me. These friends picked me up and dusted me off and invited me back into their lives. No questions asked. Some of these people weren’t even particularly close friends in college but showed up and stood behind me as I carefully picked out the pieces of my old life that I wanted to keep, and discarded the pieces that no longer serve me. What strikes me the most is that these people seem to KNOW me. And I know them. And as it turns out, their lives aren’t perfect either. In fact, surprise of all surprises, it turns out that no one’s lives are exactly how they appear on Facebook and Instagram. And although I still feel like everyone in the world is more successful than I am, I no longer turn that against myself. I am actually and truly happy for them. And much more importantly, grateful for them.

So for the first time since 1991, I’m going back to Hanover. Flaws and failures and all. Because here’s what reunion looks like to me.

I feel pure joy at seeing people I haven’t seen in 25 years, and I see the same look in their eyes when they see me. We share stories we haven’t thought about since we were in our twenties. We play pong and break our gluten-free diets to drink gluten-laden beer and eat chicken sandwiches from EBA’s. We try to hide our shock at how much older we all look but realize after five minutes, we are all 25 years younger on the inside. We don’t care who makes what and how, but we ALL brag about our kids, or our dogs. We sing at least two Dartmouth songs around a fire and don’t care if we don’t remember all the words. We share the truth about ourselves, not the Facebook version. And we all feel proud and honored to be part of something that despite miles and years, will always be a part of who we are.

Oh. Also, a lot of people do really dumb things because of alcohol and we all talk about it for years to come. And yes. I think it’s safe to assume that I will be one of them.

So, see you in June.

AK
Have you registered for reunion yet?
Thursday, June 16 - Sunday, June 19, 2016!

Here’s what $450 gets you — 4 full days of fun, food & entertainment on the Hanover Plain....

Dartmouth ’91 Swag
Custom ’91 souvenirs for all attendees – adults and kids!
Includes down vests, zippered canvas totes & drawstring bags

Recreation
• Class Fun Run
• Full access to fitness facilities at Zimmerman Fitness Center
• Nature walks, local hikes & canoeing: Balch Hill, Occom & the River

Meals and Beverages
• 3 delicious dinners, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and one brunch
• Unlimited beverages, including good cold beer and fine wines at lunches and dinners
• Local craft beer and cider tasting on Friday night
• Authentic gelato from the Morano Gelato Cart on Saturday

Entertainment
• Friday dinner entertainment with JD Optekar ’91 and Tweed Funk
• Tent party with College favorite band, The Barley Boys
• Saturday night “On The Green” show with live entertainment and FIREWORKS – for the whole family!

Arts, Innovation and Information
• Dartmouth-led tours of public art and architecture on campus
• Presentation by Buddy Teevens ’79 and Mobile Virtual Player CEO John Currier ’79 on the groundbreaking introduction of their nationally acclaimed tackling dummy
• Navigating College Admissions workshop for families

REGISTER BEFORE JUNE 1 TO GET THE LAST EARLY RATE!

FROM THE PREZ:

Fellow members of the Class of 1991,

When I got back from Class Officer’s Weekend in Hanover last fall I realized how excited I was for our upcoming 25th reunion. I was reminded of how much I love both the place and the College and how much I value both the time I spent there, and the strong bonds I forged with my classmates. The opportunity to reconnect with the College and with each other is always incredibly special, and I know the short time we spend together this June, will leave memories that will linger forever. I hope that, like me, all of you are planning on being in Hanover June 16th to 19th to celebrate together.

Our reunion co-chairs, Heather Lane Spehr and Sarah Barton Gardella have spent a lot of time in the Upper Valley the last few months getting all the logistics nailed down and I can confidently say they have put together a fantastic experience for all of us. In fact, the College was so excited about the work they have been doing, that they got Heather and Sarah rooms at the Hanover Inn that weekend, while sticking the rest of the class officers in hotels in Lebanon and White River Junction.

The schedule includes lectures, panel discussions with distinguished members of our class, athletic and outdoor events, as well as a few special surprises I’ll let them share with you over the next few weeks. Whether you’re coming by yourselves, or with your families, there will be plenty to do for everyone, including the regular roster of fantastic meals (this year’s Saturday dinner will be on the Baker lawn) and plenty of time to socialize with your classmates at our class tent.

As always, please check the Class of ’91 Facebook page and our website for updates.

On behalf of the entire Class Executive Committee, I want to thank you all for your continued commitment to Dartmouth and to the great Class of 1991. I look forward to seeing all of you at our 25th in June.

All the best,

Scott Magrath
President, Class of 1991
A Message from our Class Head Agents:

The Dartmouth College Fund supports Dartmouth and the current students by supplementing the budget for important components of the Dartmouth experience, such as the financial aid that allows for need-blind admissions and the faculty that provide small classes and great teaching. The Class of 1991 is continuing the long-time tradition of honoring the 25th reunion with a gift to the Dartmouth College Fund.

So far, we have raised over $5 million from 320 classmates, with many classmates stretching their budget to make a special gift in honor of our reunion.

Our phenomenal group of class agents has been a key part of this success – 46 classmates are hard at work on this effort.

In these final few weeks leading up to reunion, we hope many more classmates will join us in making a gift to the Dartmouth College Fund. The actual amount raised is important, but so is broad participation, so we hope each classmate will participate in whatever way feels right individually. Gifts can be made online at dartmouthcollegefund.org. The Class of 1988 achieved 79% participation – let’s see what the Class of 1991 can do!

We look forward to seeing you in Hanover in June!

For Dartmouth,
Dave Cogar and Robin Bryson Reynolds, Head Agents
25 YEARS AGO

The Dartmouth

The oldest college newspaper in America • Founded 1799

XLVIII No. 57 Hanover, N.H., Thursday, April 18, 1991 TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

STATIC CLING

By JAKE TAPPER

WHY AM I FOOLED AROUND WITH THIS PERSON? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHICH HEID I'M SUPPOSED TO KIS!

OH...UH... BABY

JEEZ...I DON'T EVEN KNOW HER NAME, JANUS? NO!

WHAT AM I DOING HERE KISSING A WOMAN WITH TWO HEADS?

JANICE. GONNA REMEMBER THAT.

THIS IS SUCH AN INCREDIBLY UNSATISFYING, SHALLOW EVENT! I DON'T WANT TO SLEEP WITH THIS PERSON! I DON'T EVEN WANT TO KNOW HER!!

OH, ERI S. SOB?

THE CONDOMS ARE UNDER THE NIGHT TABLE.

OKAY.

You Said It

What is your reaction to the choice of Elizabeth Dole as commencement speaker?

Lee Burns '91

I think it's good to have someone who is both distinguished and well-known. In years past we've had people who have been distinguished but not necessarily well-known.

Shari Carver '91

I think it's good. It's a name that people recognize right away.

Eric Schwartz '91

I think it's good that we got someone that has so much experience—first as a cabinet member and now as president of the Red Cross.

Dartmouth Class of 1991 Newsletter
# Class Officers

**The Dartmouth College Class of 1991**

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<th>Position</th>
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<td>T.B.D.</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Karin Jonas</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Sara Burbine Potter</td>
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<td>Newsletter Editor</td>
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<td>Dave Cogar</td>
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<td>25th Reunion Chairs</td>
<td>Heather Lane Spehr</td>
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<td>Alumni Council Rep.</td>
<td>Sarah Barton Gardella</td>
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<td>Webmaster</td>
<td>David Hillman</td>
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