REMEMBER WHEN WE ALL USED TO BE THE SAME AGE?

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN GUILTY OF LOOKING AT OTHERS YOUR OWN AGE AND THINKING, "SURELY I CAN'T LOOK THAT OLD!"
WELL...YOU'LL LOVE THIS ONE!

I WAS SITTING IN THE WAITING ROOM FOR MY FIRST APPOINTMENT WITH A NEW DENTIST.

I NOTICED HIS DDS DIPLOMA, WHICH BORE HIS FULL NAME.
SUDDENLY, I REMEMBERED A TALL, HANDSOME, DARK-HAIRED BOY WITH THE SAME NAME HAD BEEN IN MY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS SOME 40-ODD YEARS AGO.

COULD HE BE THE SAME GUY I HAD A SECRET CRUSH ON, WAY BACK THEN? UPON SEEING HIM, HOWEVER, I QUICKLY DISCARDED ANY SUCH THOUGHT.
THIS BALDING, GRAY-HAIRED MAN WITH THE DEEPLY LINED FACE WAS WAY TOO OLD TO HAVE BEEN MY CLASSMATE.

HOWEVER, AFTER HE EXAMINED MY TEETH, I ASKED HIM IF HE HAD ATTENDED MORGAN PARK HIGH SCHOOL.

"YES. YES, I DID. I'M A MUSTANG," HE GLEAMED WITH PRIDE.
"WHEN DID YOU GRADUATE?" I ASKED.
HE ANSWERED, "IN 1959. WHY DO YOU ASK?"
"YOU WERE IN MY CLASS!" I EXCLAIMED.

HE LOOKED AT ME CLOSELY.
THEN,
THAT UGLY, OLD, WRINKLED, BALD, FAT, GRAY, DECREPIT SOB ASKED,
"WHAT DID YOU TEACH?"
Good Evening, Fellow Graduates

On this special occasion,

I welcome friends, classmates, and guests of the

1969 Graduating Class of Taylor Allderdice High School.

Thirteen years have passed since we last gathered
together to celebrate the joys, memories and friendships of our high school days at Allderdice. The road leading to the success of this weekend is a result of the inspiration from a few classmates and the hard work and dedication of many. The seed of this Reunion was planted on April 27, 2006 when the core of the Planning Committee gathered to discuss whether we should hold a 38th Reunion or hold out for the 40th. It was decided that sooner was more favorable than later. We have
come a long way since that night. We knew it would be difficult to find the addresses of many of our classmates after so many years of dormancy. And so we just rolled up our sleeves and faced the challenges.

We, of the Committee, hope that our 38th Reunion is being sparked with youthful thoughts, many varied activities and walks down memory lane. We also hope that our initial gathering last night -- a Mineo’s Pizza Party held in the cafeteria at Allderdice; along with tonight’s dinner dance here at The Westin; and culminating with a farewell brunch tomorrow morning here in the Orchard Cafe, will help to cement friendships that will go on to last for many more decades.
As you know, the inspiration to hold this Reunion came from the realization of loss. We have taken into our hearts, the memories of our 30 deceased classmates, and in so doing, have collected donations for Make-A-Wish in their honor. With tremendous pride in the generosity of our classmates, as of today, I’m able to report that over $3,200 has been collected. The average cost of granting a wish is $6,200. Our class alone has provided over half of the necessary dollars needed to grant a wish. That’s incredible! Thank you so much for your amazing generosity. I recently learned that our classmate, Ann Kareltiz Laaff, has a daughter who several years ago was granted a wish by this foundation. Sarah has since survived her illness and is doing well.

We felt it was most appropriate in selecting Make-A-Wish over other well-deserving charities because it is about helping children. And after all, it was as children that we all
came to know one another. So, once again, many, MANY thanks for your generosity.

My dear friend, Celeste Ward-Tamiggi, has reminded me many times throughout the planning of this Reunion, that things ALWAYS work out. So it is with the prudent decision NOT to print a souvenir booklet. Not only is the printing of it unnecessary, but from that dilemma came the creation of our own website on which we will be able to post all of the information that would have gone into the booklet…and so much more. The website will be the instrument which will keep us informed, enlightened, and connected. Please join me in appreciative acknowledgment of our Webmaster, Barry Specter. Barry, please stand up and be recognized for the wonderful gift that you have given to us. Thank you so much! I look very forward to working with you on this project.
As you mill about this ballroom, please take a moment to view the poster boards that have been created to help remember those classmates that have passed away. They’re displayed on easels all around the room.

There are ten identical photo albums being circulated this evening so that you can enjoy updated photographs of many of our classmates – some who are here and others who could not be. There are also some group photographs towards the back of the albums. I’m sure they will create much laughter. These albums are not to be taken with you when you leave here, but if you would like to have a copy, please talk to me about it.

There are also Tribute booklets that ARE available for you to take with you. We’ve printed enough so that each classmate can have one. Copies have already been set aside to send to family members.
I want to take this time to graciously and sincerely thank all of those on the Planning Committee that have overseen projects, done research, offered their time, services, and resources to make this weekend the extraordinary time for us that we are enjoying. Would those of you on the Planning Committee, along with Beth Frankel, Patti Cartiff, Larry Greenberg, and Daniel Meyers, please stand so that you can be acknowledged for all you’ve done to help?

I would also like to thank my husband, Bob Melick, for his patience and tolerance of my many hours devoted to the Reunion, and not given to him! Thank you <wink>!

Most of all, thank you so much to each of YOU for attending this Reunion. It is YOUR participation here that makes it so special for everyone. God willing, I’ll see you again
at the 50th Reunion in, brace yourself, 2019! Until then -- take care and stay well! God bless.