

PROGRAM SCRIPT

50th Class Reunion, Gateway High School Class of '71

April 30th, 2022

"All Together Now"

An Evening of Celebration

By

Stu Wolpert

FINAL DRAFT (4/10/22)

PROGRAM SCRIPT

7:30 DINNER concludes.

PROGRAM BEGINS.

(Reunion Chairman, PETE ZELINSKY, ENTERS THE STAGE.)

PETE

Good evening, everyone. I'm Pete Zelinsky and welcome to The Lamplighter to celebrate Gateway High School's Class of '71 and our 50th Class Reunion. I'd like to begin by thanking the members of Reunion Committee and everyone who worked so very hard over many months and three variants of the Covid 19 pandemic to help make this very special occasion possible. We couldn't have made this 'once in a lifetime' event happen without you.

(APPLAUSE.)

This is indeed a very special occasion and moment in our history and it's so nice to see such a wonderful turnout. Before we kick things off, I'd like to ask all of you to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Morning announcements will follow before first period.

(The CLASS stands, ALL turn to flag and recite PLEDGE.)

I'd like to take a moment to recognize and honor the members of the class who have served in the military and who are members of our Gateway Veterans Facebook group. I'd like to ask those veterans to please stand and be recognized. And if you're the spouse of a veteran or the son or daughter of one of our veterans, who has served or is serving, would you also please stand...

(They stand for APPLAUSE.)

We thank all of you for your service to our country.

If any classmates would like more information on joining our Veteran's Facebook Page, please see me after the program.

And now... On to our presentation of our survey 'awards and raffle drawing'....

(PETE conducts the presentation of AWARDS and RAFFLE drawing. Awards: "Most marriages, longest married, most children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, children who attended GHS, most eligible bachelor, bachelorette, classmate who traveled furthest"...

(PETE EXITS as KATHY WOODHALL ENTERS STAGE.)

Hi, I'm Kathy Woodhall Atkinson...

The Reunion Chairperson. These industrious, energetic and courageous class members step forward every ten years to take on this mad challenge. Along with their dedicated Committees, interrupt their lives to plan and stage an event that not only serves as a nostalgic reminder of our shared good times at Gateway, but to keep

the special connections to each other alive for all the years to come.

We'd like to offer our thanks and appreciation to the Class of '71's past

Reunion Chairpersons... The 10th, 20th AND 30th Class Reunion

Chairwoman, Kathy McNamara Svilar...

(KATHY MCNAMARA stands to APPLAUSE.)

... Chairman of the 40th Class Reunion, Rick Stacy...

(RICK STACY stands to APPLAUSE.)

KATHY

We thank you and your Committees for all your efforts in making

these occasions such an outstanding and memorable part of our

legacy.

(APPLAUSE.)

And now I would like to ask you all to bow your heads for a

moment of silence to remember our classmates who are no

longer here with us. We will always remember these cherished

members of our class and keep them close in our hearts.

(KATHY leads the CLASS in a moment of silence.)

... Thank you, everybody.

(KATHY EXITS as TOM STRIENER, walks ONSTAGE in his iconic Homecoming "Boy on the Float" costume, short-panted lederhosen, suspenders, cap and carries a large silver spoon.)

TOM

Anybody seen my float?? It's about ten feet high, chocolate ice cream soda, with whipped cream, a straw, a big cherry on top...

I parked it outside and I think it might've been towed...

Well, here I am again after fifty years... And if you thought I felt ridiculous THEN!...

But being famous in high school as "The Kid on the Ice Cream Float" had its upside and led to bigger things. I had a long and lucrative career as one of the Keebler Elves... I was a "Pinocchio" at Disney World for ten years... I even dated Snow White...

Call me sentimental, but I kept my original hat, my silver spoon...

And after all these years I'm proud to say I kept my 'cherry'...

But tonight, I want to say I still have plenty of school spirit.

And school spirit is what these next ladies are all about... Let's give a big class welcome to our Gateway High Cheerleaders, Kathy

McNamara Svilar, Barb Ciao Behrle, Mary Crnic, Alex Milianowicz and

Pat Downey!

(TOM leads the APPLAUSE, then EXITS as the CHEERLEADERS run ONSTAGE.)

(The CHEERLEADERS perform a cheer and an encore.)

(As the CHEERLEADERS EXIT to APPLAUSE, classmate RICK SHRUM ENTERS STAGE.)

RICK

Good evening, everyone, I'm Rick Shrum. As the United States put a man on the moon in 1969, Gateway High School was reaching new frontiers on earth by putting its mighty Gator football team on the field in November to play the Altoona Mountain Lions for the W.P.I.A.L. Championship at Pitt Stadium...

(FOOTBALL PHOTOS UP.)

The Gateway Gators had run the table in the regular season and was now about to claim its first state title ever by beating Altoona 22 to 15, under the leadership of our beloved Head Coach "Pete" Antimarino. Gateway had indeed, reached the "highest high" in our football history.

It was a special season with exceptional players, including starting tight end, sophomore Vince Lamberti, from the Class of '71.

The Gators repeated the feat again in 1972 and 1974, but the 1969 team will always be the first, with an action packed, white knuckling victory that we will forever remember.

(PHOTOS OUT.)

We'd like to celebrate our Gator football team with a round of applause for all the players, coaches, trainers and staff. If any members of our team are here tonight, please stand and take a bow.

(APPLAUSE as they stand.)

The Gateway Basketball team was also making a lot of noise in the city of Pittsburgh...

(BASKETBALL PHOTOS UP.)

The Gator team had "championship" on its mind in the fall of 1970 under the command of Head Coach Art Betts.

The Gators won a sectional title over Penn Hills and advanced to the W.P.I.A.L. Finals in the spring of 1971, but lost in a heartbreaker to Farrell, 50-49, in the final seconds that was watched by over 11,000 fans at the Civic Arena. A remarkable run it was and we commemorate their amazing championship stand tonight.

(PHOTOS OUT.)

Please stand if you were a member of that historic Gator team...

(APPLAUSE as they stand.)

Gateway High School was unique as a breeding ground for exceptional athletes, a deep pool of talent of every stripe. At this time, we'd like to recognize all the members of the men's and women's varsity athletic teams for their accomplishments and participation at Gateway. When you hear your sport please stand and take a bow...

(TRACK & FIELD PHOTO UP.)

Track& Field...

(Stand and APPLAUSE.)

Baseball...

(BASEBALL TEAM PHOTO and APPLAUSE.)

Wrestling...

(WRESTLING TEAM PHOTO and APPLAUSE.)

Men's and Women's Swimming teams...

(MEN'S AND WOMEN'S PHOTOS and APPLAUSE.)

Men's and Woman's Gymnastics...

(MEN'S AND WOMAN'S PHOTOS and APPLAUSE.)

Girl's basketball...

(GIRL'S BASKETBALL TEAM PHOTO AND APPLAUSE.)

Tennis...

(TENNIS TEAM PHOTO and APPLAUSE.)

Golf...

(GOLF TEAM PHOTO and APPLAUSE.)

Cross Country...

(PHOTO and APPLAUSE.)

The Rifle Team...

(RIFLE TEAM PHOTO and APPLAUSE.)

And the Chess Team!

(CHESS TEAM PHOTO and APPLAUSE.)

(PHOTOS OUT.)

We thank you all of you for your dedication, blood, sweat and tears
and the many great seasons you've given us.

(After APPLAUSE, ALL are seated.)

Where there are great teams, there are great coaches...

(COACHES PHOTOS UP.)

Gateway's multitude of victories and championships reflect more than what's in the trophy case. Our coaches understood there was more to their role than just the win column. Athletes learned the fundamentals and skills to compete, but they also learned sportsmanship and fair play, which the ancient Greeks envisioned as the Olympian ideal.

They imbued in our competitors the importance of integrity and character, attributes that they would carry throughout life.

And we thank them.

(PHOTOS OUT. APPLAUSE.)

The man at the top in sports was our Athletic Director, Mr. Furrie...

(PHOTOS OF MR. FURRIE UP.)

Mr. Henry Furrie. Just the mention of the name makes our spines straighten while putting on our best behaviors. Mr. Furrie was loved, respected, admired by all. And sometimes a little feared as we all tried to stay in line and on his good side. Towering at six feet four inches, barrel chested, wearing a crew cut that never seemed out of style, he was a rock who kept order and the faith at Gateway High.

And though he was tough as a Woolworth's steak, you knew his door was always open and that you had a friend in Mr. Furrie.

(MR. FURRIE PHOTOS OUT.)

As I close, I'd like to add that my love of sports and career as a sports writer has been inspired and forged by the many fine men and women who participated in Gateway's outstanding athletic program. You truly made them 'Glory Days' for all of us. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE AS RICK EXITS STAGE as KATHY MCNAMARA SVILAR ENTERS.)

Can we all give another hand to our returning cheerleaders for getting their pom-poms out of mothballs to cheer for us one more time...

Barb, Alex, Mary, Pat,... And the entire 1971 varsity squad, JoAnne Enterline and Sue Gibson, our Gateway Cheerleaders...

(APPLAUSE.)

"School spirit." What is it? How do you get it? And why is it important we have it? A good question because in a school with over two thousand students there are about THAT many expressions of it.

Is it only about pep rallies, proms and homecoming or can it be food drives, trash pickups or volunteering for the yearbook committee?

I guess school spirit is a lot like faith, in that it embodies both an inward, personal feeling and an outward expression. For me, I guess I've always had it. "Once a cheerleader, always a cheerleader." Even today, I'll go into a Starbucks and yell... (MAKES A CHEERLEADER "T" WITH HER ARMS)... "GIMME A TEA!!"

School spirit does do one essential thing. It unifies us as a class and a school. It is a direct reflection of our values and what we want our school to say about us. "This is who we are, this is what we stand for." In a way, the "great dress code walk out" was school spirit in action. One thing for sure is that it's alive in this room tonight by the fact you're all here fifty years after graduation. I think that deserves a cheer... (Leads CLASS in a "YAY FOR US!")

Gateway's great feats on the playing field are a team effort and our Marching Band played its part in many a victory...

(MARCHING BAND PHOTOS UP.)

The Gateway Marching Band... With plumed caps and braided epaulets, marching bands are a staple of high school sport. Marching in formation with piccolos, woodwinds and tubas with synchronized steps to Beatles medleys and homages to Mary Poppins, they had everyone's adrenaline pumping and spirits soaring.

(PHOTOS OUT.)

Please stand if you were a member of our great Gateway High Marching Band...

(They stand for APPLAUSE.)

And leading the charge for the Marching Band every Friday night were Gateway High's Majorettes...

(PHOTOS MAJORETTES UP.)

Our team of outstanding, charismatic and athletic girls, who probably dated a LOT, all marching in time, in unison, while tossing batons high in the air then catching and twirling them without a fumble.

Try THAT sometime!

(PHOTOS OUT.)

Our Head Majorette, was Michele Macha.

(PHOTO OF MICHELE UP.)

... A marching, 'twirling Dervish' with charm and a smile that could light up a stadium, and did for us our all season long.

(PHOTO OUT.)

Let's all give a big shout out to Michelle and Gateway's Majorettes...

(APPLAUSE as MAJORETTES stand. MICHELE gives her baton a twirl.)

... The School Mascot is a widely loved, oversized member of our high school community. They exist to represent the school, show pride and build spirit. Mascots can be anything, Warriors, Vikings, Giants, Minute Men... Though if I were a guy on the football team I don't think I'd like it getting around that I was a "Minute Man."

But mascots usually come from the animal kingdom; Bulldogs, Bears, Wolverines, Ducks... Most of which are ill tempered, mangy with terrible breath. They represent valued sporting traits such as fierce athleticism, speed and grace, which in our case, are one in the same
- Bobby Grace.

(PHOTOS OF 'GATOR' BOB GRACE UP.)

Bobby played a key role in boosting our team's confidence and personified the fighting spirit, pride and unity that stated loud and clear that Gateway's could not be tamed. Gators eat, but are rarely eaten.

Please give a hearty hand of appreciation to our school mascot, the Gateway Gator, Bobby Grace...

(PHOTOS OUT.)

Thank you very much, everyone. And may we all stay of 'good cheer.' ... (PERFORMS A JUMP...) AND GO GATORS!!

(APPLAUSE as KATHY EXITS STAGE as BERNIE MUKO ENTERS.)

Good evening, I'm Bernie Muko and I'm here to pay tribute to our Gateway High teachers. Fifty years ago, that line would've been met with a chorus of boos at any assembly. And it's a credit to their influence that we have matured enough to refrain.

They are, as a group and individually, largely responsible for who we are today. They've had a lasting impact in ways we never dreamed. Einstein said, "An education is what is left after the lesson is over."

We all had our faves and we all had some whom we'd draw unflattering pictures of in our notebooks. They were as varied a group as we were as students, all with different personalities, looks, quirks, moods, good sides and bad. Mr. Maxwell, Mrs. Bash, Mr. Moody,

Mrs. Sproul, Mrs. Baldy, Mr. Vrable, Mrs. Neff and our eccentric social studies teacher, Thomas Boory, who is immortalized by reciting, "The Night before Christmas" and cutting off his own tie with a scissors... Each one of them knew their subject and had their unique way of teaching it. Some drilled, some encouraged, some cajoled, some were funny, some even threatened with eighth period detention. They all had their own method and style of imparting their lessons and were effective and united in one objective, to teach us something of value. But we learned, in spite of our young, restless and fidgety selves. We knew something about the world we lived in. I am proud of my early public school education and wouldn't trade it for anything. We were a well-rounded bunch. We could read and write -- in cursive! We could spell, diagram a sentence, add, subtract, multiply and divide. We can work a drill press, speak French, climb a rope, carry a tune and tell you who invented the light bulb, and what AU is on the periodic table.

(To the CLASS) AU... Anybody??...

(The CLASS replies) ...GOLD!!

Right! Uranium, magnesium... chiseled into our memories for all time.

Naming the states and their capitols??... Not a problem.

Try asking a high school senior today to find Kansas on a map.

Classrooms at times may have felt like a penal colony, especially those first periods on cold February mornings. Roomfuls of dazed, glassy eyed kids and teachers trying to get them to focus. To us, yeah, a penal colony. To them, it was sacred ground, and on those cold February mornings they were there freezing along with us.

Teaching is a special calling. They sure weren't in it for the money. But they gave their best to us every day. And tonight we honor them. One of the greatest educators of all came from Pittsburgh and you all know him as Mr. Rogers. And when you think about your early educators, he offered this... "Take a second to think about your teachers, and how pleased they would've been to know the difference you feel they've made to you." They truly cared and wanted the best for us. And every one of them is part of us today. Ladies and gentlemen, to our teachers.

(APPLAUSE.)

Throughout our entire history of attending school, from kindergarten to graduation, each of us had a silent fear of being sent to the Principal's office. And for good reason as this was the seat of all authority. You were coming face to face with "THE ENFORCER." And if your offense was worthy of his attention, start genuflecting!

(MR. O'TOOLE PHOTO UP.)

We were fortunate to have Mr. O'toole as ours as he had the right mix of attributes to be an effective Warden -- Principal, excuse me...

He was all that a Principal had to be, no nonsense, strong, fair, tough, but reasonable. In his rumpled dark suit, white shirt and tie, he was a fixture at all functions, games, ceremonies, plays, concerts. And once you got past the intimidation factor he was very approachable and a really terrific guy.

Mary Tyler Moore had her "Lou Grant," we had Mr. O'toole. And he didn't have it easy dealing with such a big school, students, faculty, parents, School Board and the community. But he kept order, and his cool, all during the turbulent sixties with its protests, sit ins and walkouts. Mr. O'toole believed a good Principal follows good principles. Mr. O'toole was a good Principal and a good man. We thank and salute our Principal, Mr. O'toole.

(PHOTO OUT. APPLAUSE.)

Just outside his office, sitting at her desk was the warm and cuddly face of authority, Mrs. Hackman.

(PHOTO OF MRS. HACKMAN UP.)

Mrs. Hackman was an institution in her own right, known and loved by every one of us. Part assistant, part mother figure, part friend, confidante and problem solver to all students whose requests and demands on her time were endless, but she juggled it all flawlessly.

But most of her time seemed to be taken up waving back to the hordes of students passing by her office window. Thank you and bless you, Mrs. Hackman.

(PHOTO OUT. APPLAUSE.)

Our class was many things in many areas. One thing it definitely was was smart. Our Class Valedictorian, Marica Gottfried...

(MARCIA GOTTFRIED PHOTO UP.)

The smartest of the smart, the brightest of the bright, straight A's every semester, aced her SAT's, Ivy League scholarships pouring in. E=MC squared??... Kid's stuff. If "Jeopardy" was on back then she'd STILL be reigning champion. Not only was she brilliant, she was a wonderful, kind and popular classmate person to boot. Please join me in recognizing our Class Valedictorian, Marcia Gottfried.

(APPLAUSE. PHOTO OUT.)

It was customary for many high schools to have Foreign 'Exchange Student' programs where students from other countries to come to the states for a year to study and learn about our culture. And vice versa.

(PHOTO OF BJORN FORNANDER UP.)

Gateway was the host high school to a Swedish student, Bjorn Fernander, who had the coolest hair on a guy at school. It's a good thing Bjorn didn't arrive at Gateway a year earlier during the 'Dress

Code' crackdown... "Welcome to Gateway, Bjorn. Now go home for three days, you're suspended." We tried to contact him and invite him to the reunion but 'Fornander' is like 'Smith' in Scandanavia and we never could find him. But Bjorn, we're glad you were a member of the great Class of '71. And I'm glad to be one too. Thank you.

(BERNIE EXITS STAGE to APPLAUSE as BARB CIAO BEHRLE ENTERS.)

Hi, I'm Barb Ciao Behrle. Gateway High School made history again in 1971 with its production of the hit Broadway musical, "Brigadoon." Never before had Gateway High School produced and performed a musical on its stage, as "Brigadoon" was not only the first musical, but the largest theatrical undertaking presented before the Monroeville community.

(BRIGADOON PHOTOS UP.)

As we all remember, for five consecutive nights in March of 1971 sold out audiences were thrilled, delighted and enchanted by the story of a mythical Scottish town that comes to life every hundred years.

(PHOTO UP.)

This stellar production came to life under the direction of Gateway's own Musical Director, Mr. V. Lee Harrity. (PHOTO UP.)

The cast included singers, dancers, musicians and actors from all three grades. But our production of "Brigadoon" achieved something beyond five glorious nights of entertainment. (PHOTO UP.)

The abundant proceeds from the musical funded the Senior Choir's participation in the International Festival of Music being held in England in the summer of 1971. Little did we realize at the time that Gateway was making so much history that year.

(PHOTO UP.)

Our production of "Brigadoon" starred Peggy Wilhite as Fiona McClarin and David Hughes as Tommy Albright with David Ledgerwood accompanying on piano. (PHOTOS OUT.)

Tonight, we have a very special treat for you as Peggy Wilhite Rowe reprises her role as 'Fiona' singing the show's hit number, "Almost Like Being in Love"... Hit it, Peggy!!

(APPLAUSE as VIDEO UP.)

(APPLAUSE as the VIDEO concludes and PETE ENTERS the STAGE.)

PETE

At this time ,we'd like to present a special award to a classmate who has taken "school spirit" to new heights. That classmate is Rick Stacy and his brainchild is the Gateway High School Web Page.

In 2009, as Chairman of the 40th Reunion Committee, Rick was looking for the fastest, most efficient way to find, notify and inform members of the Class of '71 of all particulars for the 2011 event, keeping everyone current and on the same page until post time.

It worked brilliantly. Then this internet Webmaster had another idea. With his own seed money, along with contributions from other Gateway alums, created a "digital home" where Gateway grads could stay informed of all class news and information. He built a class roster and a membership that has now grown to over two hundred active members, who can log in and check out what's officially happening in "Gatorland" and in the lives of our members. It's informative, interesting, fun, with more members joining every day and has earned a reputation as a reliable, consistent and valued Gateway institution, which Rick continues generously to fund and maintain. As a class, we wouldn't know what to do without it or him. We sincerely thank Rick for his achievement and continuing efforts to keep us all informed and connected. Ladies and Gentleman, Rick Stacy.

(RICK STANDS to APPLAUSE. As PETE EXITS, RICK SLOAN ENTERS.)

RICK

Hi, everyone, I'm Rick Sloan, Vice President of the Class of '71. Our Student Government was and is the backbone of student life at Gateway. It is modeled after our own democratic institution of government with its own Constitution, by laws and elected officials. Its purpose is to represent the interests and concerns of its students and sponsor events such as Homecoming, dances, pep rallies, concerts charitable events, plus organizing and holding all future class reunions.

Our student government also has a Student Body President, representing all three classes. This office is usually reserved for a Senior. Our Student Body President was Jay Milnes...

(JAY MILNES PHOTO UP.)

... who performed his duty impeccably and served Gateway with the utmost respect and dignity. Jay sadly passed away in 2020, but we would like to pay our respects and recognize him for his outstanding leadership and contributions to Gateway.

(APPLAUSE, then PHOTO OUT.)

Our Class Officers belong only to us...

(PHOTO CLASS OFFICERS UP.)

... Elected by ballot at the beginning of our senior year, they are duty bound to serve the interests of the class by planning and orchestrating all activities for our senior year and beyond. And for over five decades, our Officers have served the class honorably and faithfully and I'm justly proud to state that our administration's record has remained spotless. No sex scandals, malfeasance or conduct unbecoming, not one indictment, motion of censure, nor a single article of impeachment was ever filed against any Class Officer while governing in the 'swamp' that is Student Government politics.' AND not one instance of financial impropriety...

At graduation, the Class of '71 ended up, not only without a budget deficit, but finished in the black with a surplus of thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents...

(APPLAUSE.)

Our Class Officers are... Treasurer, Paula Weissman, Secretary, Jackie Outz Shogan, Vice President, yours truly, and President, Stu Wolpert.

(APPLAUSE.)

Though, with all its achievements and many highlights, the administration did have its moments of controversy...

Like the time during morning announcements, when Stu and Jay barricaded themselves in Mr. O'toole's office, locked the door, then got on the PA and gave a full-throated protest on the length of girl's skirts...

... Mr. O'toole was not happy.

And in 1970, a year after Woodstock, Stu successfully lobbied and produced a 'live' rock concert in the auditorium in the middle of a school day. The concert went off without incident until Warren King's rock band played and sang... "Everybody had a hard year, everybody had a good time. Everybody had a "wet dream"

... Mr. O'toole was not happy.

But though it all, the ups and downs, the shining moments and dark days, from Day One of the administration to tonight's 50th Class Reunion, our Student Government has remained intact, stood strong and kept the faith to provide the Great Class of '71 with every blessing it so richly deserves. In other words, "the State of the Union is sound." But that's the President's line and I'm going to let him tell you himself...

(PHOTO OUT.)

As is tradition at the end of each Class Reunion, the Class President delivers his formal address. As many of you know, due to health issues, Stu could not be with us in person this evening, but has recorded his address and we'd like to present it to you now. It is my honor and pleasure to introduce our Class President, Stu Wolpert...

(RICK EXITS to APPLAUSE. CUE STU VIDEO SPEECH. The speech concludes with an ON CAMERA SEQUE into THE MONTAGE, "The Great Class of '71, "A Look Back, 1968-1971" under Rod Stewart's "Forever Young")

(As the VIDEO FADES OUT, PETE ENTERS STAGE to APPLAUSE.)

PETE

I'd like to thank everyone who participated and contributed to tonight's program and festivities and again thank our Reunion Committee and volunteers for making our 50th celebration a grand success.

(APPLAUSE.)

I hope everyone had a wonderful time and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2031. The bar is open, and the dance floor is all yours.

Thank you, everyone and GO GATORS!!!

(PETE EXITS STAGE as...)

(LOGO UP: BLACK & GOLD GHS LOGO with "GO GATORS" inscription.)

(MUSIC UP: The Beatles, "All Together Now.")

END OF PROGRAM