

...'best apply that ice water directly....there's more than summer that's hot around here...



July-August 2016 AHS '63 Newsletter

The Elephant-Donkey in the Room

Austin, August 1st. Time was, we could watch these shenanigans and not reach for a shot of single-malt to numb the sensibilities. Time was, all the bunting and balloons were hoorah and hullabaloo and the two sides acted more like civilized clowns with good intentions. But we don't talk politics at the dinner table. Ruins the digestion. However...we *have* noticed—in the wake of two conventions—the elephant-donkey in the room. It has taken the national conversation to a whole 'nother level about this democracy.

Any time you want to know what people are thinking, forget Twitter and media wordclouds—instead, check for spikes in Google searches. After Orlando, there was a spike in gunshop background check applications nationwide, marking June 2016 the 3rd highest month in history for gun sales (there is no reporting required for actual gun sales). During the final Thursday night of the Republican convention, there was a 1,150% spike in searches for a third-party candidate. Today (Monday) on Amazon, \$1 copies of the pocket Constitution are *the #2 best selling book overall*, topped only by the latest Harry Potter. Really. *waaaay too many ironies to explore down THAT rabbithole* [BTW: see postscript below.]

Actually, we think it's high time we start talking ... we are old, we are old, let's dare to eat a peach, Prufrock. So, is democracy still alive and well? are we already pawns of the oligarchic overlords? what? we think it would be rare fine to publish some short, pithy paragraphs from the peanut gallery in the **September issue**. Submissions will be received up to September 15th...or so. We are not slaves to publication dates, so we do not enforce submission dates either. Just please let us hear back with comments, poems, limericks, songs, rhyming algorithms, whatever moves your inner Mr. Maroo.

For the **November 11th Issue** *are you paying attention? we are offering to do back-to-back publications* we are going to feature a special issue honoring our fathers and mothers who were veterans. After the Memorial Day issue, many of you wrote in to tell of your own parents' recollections of WWII stories and to ask for more of that. It will be done. The most sought after material by veterans would be jpgs (picture format - you can even use your smartphones), of original letters, journal entries, blogs etc. by your family's ancient Revolutionary forefathers, Civil War, WWI & WWII, AND ESPECIALLY entries that are **by you — from Vietnam to Afghanistan**. The only requirement is that it must be veterans' words/pics/memorabilia related to our class. Aim for getting those in by November 1st or there'bouts.


We recall that this was the brainiest class ever to take the SAT, beating out the buff class of '56 by one point. After that, nobody came close, and our record will stand for all time because they changed the test in 1996. So fire up your laptops and fire off your responses. We wait. *taptaptap* —TLHH.

Postscript. Circulated today was a remarkable [statement](#) by Sen. John McCain relating the little-known facts of Captain Humayun Khan's valor: After ordering his subordinates to stand back, he ran toward the suicide bomber ... thus causing early detonation, and saving the lives of many others.



The Maroon News Page

Here's the last sportspage for the year - June 1. If you didn't read it, it's still news to you, right? And just for the record, when was the last time you knew ANYONE who did synchronized swimming? Ha. WE have a whole team. Go [HERE](#) and be amazed.



CLAUD'S LITTLE BIRTHDAY LIST OF HOT SUMMER BABES



- 03 Dana McSpadden Blaylock (45)**
- 07 Mary Frances Mercado Guerrero (45)**
- 08 Cheryl Lucksinger Sassman (45)**
- 14 Kathryn Huss (45)**
- 15 BECKY BROWNLOW STEINBACK (45)**
- 17 Caroline Jenkins Ragsdill (45)**
- 17 Mollie Gregory Tower (45)**
- 19 Bruce Lindsey (45)**
- 22 Linda Burk Kemp (45)**
- 22 Barbara Keller Visage (45)**
- 23 Saralyn White Stewart (45)**
- 23 Ralph Bailey (45)**
- 24 Charles Taylor (45)**
- 26 Lucy Ross (45)**
- 27 Margery Kengla English (45)**
- 28 Leslie Robinson Moeller (45)**
- 30 James Means, Jr. (45)**
- 31 Jeanne Richey O'Meara (45)**



Today the tower carillon bells tolled and the UT Tower clock was stopped for 24 hours at 11:48a — the time Whitman fired the first shot. And tonight the tower is dark. It's been 50 years since the University of Texas Tower shooting – long considered the first modern mass shooting of its kind. On Aug. 1, 1966, a sniper made his way to the top of the UT clock tower. He killed 16 people, wounded dozens and left many, many more with memories scarred with the events of that day. Though it's been five decades, the people who experienced that event have not forgotten it. Close to 100 people shared their memories in the Texas Standard oral history "Out of the Blue: 50 Years After the UT Tower Shooting." You can



- 03 Bobby West (45)
- 04 Mina Hawkins Doshier (45)
- 07 Michael Pendley (45)
- 08 John Calhoun Miller (45)
- 15 Carl Beck (46) YOUNGSTER! only just now 70...wow
- 18 Bob Schoen (45)
- 19 Ed Hamby (44)
- 22 Roxanne McCown Keel (45)
- 23 Jo Ann Johnson Weston (45)
- 25 Bonnie Isaac (45)
- 28 Mary Jo Culp Parker (45)
- 30 Georgia Lochridge (45)
- 30 Kathy Shive Matthews (45)

Most preshuss apology: We are still sorry as all get out if we lost your birthday...please send it again if you don't see yourself here and you just KNOW you already sent that thing once or maybe 10 times. Hit reply and tell us all about it and we'll get it right...one of these years.



LOYAL FOREVER

listen to the radio
documentary and explore the
stories online
at www.towerhistory.org Thanks
to Tina Houston for sending in
the link.

Y'ALL

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You are on this list because you are brilliant & still drink from the fountain of youth known as Loyal Forever - the AHS Class of 63

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