

LIONS PRIDE

Virtus Repulsae Nescia Sordidae



GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

(A memoir of Walter Stewart, 1931-2004 written by his classmate, Bill McMurray)



Walter Stewart, class of 1949, died on September 15,

2004 at his home in Sturgeon Point, Ontario following a tough battle with cancer. He was 73. Extensive obituary notes with appreciations of his impact upon Canadian life and mores have appeared in the *Globe & Mail* (Sept 16) - "Few other journalists were able to combine wit and irreverence with such deadly accuracy as did Mr. Stewart in his broadsides against Canadian shibboleths.", and in *The Toronto Star* (Sept 18) - "A fearless journalist and author, Mr. Stewart was

not afraid to take on the high and mighty and bring them to their knees."

Walter and his family were among the most memorable people whom I came to know at *South Collegiate* in the 1940's. There were four boys: Dave, the eldest; Pete, Walter's sole surviving brother; Sandy (Alexander); and Walt, the youngest, all of whom attended *South*. Miller & Margaret (Peg), their parents were heavily involved with the CCF party, forerunner of the NDP, Miller as a candidate in London and Peg as Ontario party executive member, as well as co-writers of their nature book *Bright World Around Us*, and they both applied their love and knowledge of wildlife as broadcasters on this theme on CBC radio. Sandy, another close friend of mine, ultimately became a producer at CBC. Birthday dinners or other gatherings at the Stewart household in their home on Grand Ave just to the east of the original Parkwood Hospital site were guaranteed to evoke uproarious critical encounters, on an infinite range of controversial subjects. Walter once described his hobbies as - "Reading, writing and arguing." We also shared eventful holidays with the kind hospitality of Miller and Peg at their marvellous old summer cottage. Later a nearby property adjacent to the cottage was to become the permanent residence for Walt and family while he was a free-lance writer in Sturgeon Point near Lindsay, Ont.

Walt was probably the most original and brilliant person among our contemporaries, and a highly accomplished, although unorthodox, student. I recall one final exam when he answered with a single three hour dissertation on only one out of the five required questions, and was awarded a mark of 110% by our equally unorthodox, highly re-

spected history prof, Mr. W.G. "Moose" McNeil. Not all high school teachers responded in the same positive manner to Walt's uncompromisingly critical approach. Years later, in an affectionate tribute to his early inspirational instructor, Walt related: "- we learned - that a teacher did not have to follow the curriculum to impart knowledge. During the 1948 U.S. presidential election, which all the wise birds were saying was a walkover for Thomas Dewey, we abandoned set lessons and studied the fascinating, if bizarre, operations of the American electoral system. When Harry Truman won we nodded wisely. We had had a notion that all was not going according to plan down south. A notion we gained from a moose."

When we were in Grade Eleven, *The London Echo*, which was a 40's version of *The Londoner* newspaper, hired us as non-salaried reporters of the high-school scene.

The Editor of the *Echo* encouraged us to write a number of critical columns under the byline "The Lads Who Know" about failings in the curriculum and methods of teaching English, Politics and World Events. These tirades had little perceptible influence upon educational matters, but gave us a grand experience as prospective journalists. When *The Echo* folded the following year we filled the gap with initiation of our monthly school paper, *The South Wind*, for which we alternated over the next two years as Editors-in-Chief. We also co-wrote a musical sketch for

South's Variety Night in an effort to overcome the deficiency of school emphasis upon the burgeoning Cold War, "Gremlins in the Kremlin", with ourselves as the imps of the title.

In Walt's case, the rest is history. He went on to become Washington correspondent and Managing Editor of *Maclean's Magazine*, Director of the School of Journalism at the University of King's College in Halifax, the Max Bell Chair in Journalism at the University of Regina and Editor of the magazine on public policy, *Policy Options*. In a recent letter Walt told me of his trip to Hong Kong where he was accosted by "a giggling gaggle of school girls" wanting to know - "What does an Editor do? Wrecks the writing of others, I said." Although most of his journalistic talents displayed anger and concern that ordinary Canadians were being shafted every day, Walt also produced gently humorous portrayals of his neighbours whom he represented as mildly ironic, but sympathetic, characters in his Monday reports in *The Toronto Sun* about activities of the Debating Society in his fictional Kawartha community, Bosky Dell. These found immensely entertaining life in the light relief of his murder mysteries *Right Church, Wrong Pew* and *Hole In One*.

The latter, he told me, had its origins in an idiosyncratic golf round we had played at the Sturgeon Point golf course in the 1940's. His book for the millennium - *My Cross-Country Checkup* (2000) was a reprise of his coast to coast to coast trip with family in the sixties. Walt, with his

Continued on page 2...

Inside this Issue:

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN	1,2
EDUCATION WEEK DISPLAYS HONOUR	2
BALDWINS DEBUT	2
SOUTH'S PRODUCTION: 42nd STREET	3
AND THE WINNER IS...	3
CLASS REPS AND THE ALUMINI DATABASE	3
WHO'S WHERE	4

A MEMOIR OF WALTER STEWART continued...

wife Joan as driver through space and time ("she drove me to it"), gave us a reassuringly optimistic portrait of the present strengths of Canada's people and place in the world.

During his highly productive career Walter was author of critical political biographies: - Shrug: Trudeau in Power in 1971, and, most recently and favourably - The Life and Political Times of Tommy Douglas in 2003. I could hear in my mind's ear Walt's sardonic giggle in

November of 2004 when CBC TV announced that T.C. Douglas had been named in their contest as our "Greatest Canadian", two places ahead of P.E. Trudeau. He also wrote many other topical books over the years scathingly critical of the behaviour of giant corporations and our mainstream politicians (But Not in Canada; Towers of Gold- Feet of Clay; Hard to Swallow; Paper Juggernaut; Divide & Con; and one my favourites, True Blue the story of the United Empire Loyalists, their suffering and unique contributions to the distinguishing,

independent national character of this country). Walt attacked the victimizers in politics or high finance, becoming the remorseless enemy of cant, pomposity and hypocrisy, and the champion of the little guy par excellence. According to Michael Enright - "He wanted to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. He was righteous about that." There is probably no-one in Canada today who can replace Walter Stewart adequately as the acerbic and witty conscience of our country.

Bill McMurray, '49.

SOUTH ALUMNI PUB NIGHT

Saturday, May 7

7:00 pm until ??

Wortley Roadhouse

(190 Wortley Road, London)

All former students and staff of

SCI are welcome!

Let us know if you're coming:

(e-mail: wordsmith@sandyross.ca)

Phone: Sandy Ross ('79)

At 474-9931)



Laura Hibbard, displaying her talent on the grand piano.

"The quality of the piano was overshadowed by the talents of the artists..."



Gregory Oh



Kevin Wild accompanied Frauke Jurgen on the piano.

EDUCATION WEEK DISPLAYS HONOUR SOUTH GRADS

The Thames Valley District School Board has selected "Inspiring Excellence" as its theme for this year's *Education Week* (May 2-6). It is their intention to identify, and honour with a public display, an individual from every school in the district who exemplifies this theme.

South grad **Todd Gamble ('95)**, who is now a member of the teaching staff, has

challenged his grade 10 History Class to produce 10 such displays, honouring the accomplishments of ten *South* alumni. Twenty students, working in pairs, are preparing display boards (16" x 24" - school board dictated size) featuring **Greg Curnoe ('54)**, **Kee Dewdney ('59)**, **Chris Doty ('85)**, **Robert Ford ('33)**, **John Kent Harrison ('65)**, **John W. Holmes ('28)**, **Jane Pepino ('65)**, **Earl Plunkett ('41)**, **Jill Ross ('76)**,

and **Walter Stewart ('48)**.

In accordance with the school board's plan, ONE of these displays will be chosen and featured in the Board's foyer at the Education Centre on Dundas Street from May 2-6. *South* will mount its own display, in the front foyer of the school, featuring the other 9 projects, during the same week. Both of these displays should be well worth a look!

BALDWIN'S DEBUT

You could have heard a pin drop in the South Auditorium on the evening of February 24th as performing artists **Laura Hibbard ('89)**, **Gregory Oh ('92)** and **Frauke Jurgen ('93)** held an audience of over 300 spellbound as *South* unveiled its new \$15,000 *Baldwin* grand piano. Current *South* Music Teacher **Kevin Wild**, who accompanied Frauke's vocals called this instrument "probably the top piano in all the schools in London".

If anything, the

quality of the piano was overshadowed by the talents of the artists, each of whom has risen to positions of prominence in the music world. *Laura Hibbard*, a grad of the *Juilliard School* brought *Chopin* and *Maurice Ravel* to new life. *Greg Oh*, who holds graduate Music degrees from both *University of Toronto* and the *University of Michigan* treated the audience with his mastering of *Robert Schumann's Car-nal op. 9*. *Frauke Jurgen*, currently on the Faculty of music at *McGill University* mixed some poetic Ger-

man vocals by *Hans Pfitzner* and *Enrich Korngold* with 2 program-ending humorous numbers by *Benjamin Britten* and *Kurt Weill*.

By contributing their performances, these *South Grads* have enabled the proceeds from this concert to form a Maintenance Fund for the piano- which now for many years will be available to allow *South* to be a venue for top-level concerts in London.

SOUTH'S PRODUCTION: 42ND STREET

Under the teaching instruction of Alison Gamble, Kevin Wild, and Jane Alexander, South S.S. has successfully run a musical theater course this year.

South Secondary School and its new musical theater class are proud to announce that they have acquired the performing rights to the hit Broadway musical 42nd Street.

42nd Street is a song and dance fable that tells the timeless story of the start-struck kid from Allentown who arrives in New York to get into show biz. She gets a bit part in a real Broadway show, and when the leading

lady can't make it on opening night, our youngster not only saves the day... but "goes out on that stage a nobody and comes back a star!"

The show premiered in New York in the 1940s, but in 1980 it was revived on the Broadway stage by legendary producer, David Merrick, where it swept the Tony awards and ran for the next 8 years to sold-out houses. A new revival of the show opened in the spring of 2004, and is scheduled to continued its successful run through all of 2005.

The show is an extravaganza of song and dance with such famous numbers as "We're In the Money", "Shuffle

Off to Buffalo", "Lullaby of Broadway", and, of course, the title tune "42nd Street". Our talented 27-member cast has been taking tap lessons since last June, and rehearsing since September, in preparation for the big production numbers in the show.

This is the first time this acclaimed show has ever been performed in a high school anywhere in Southwestern Ontario, and is only the second time it has been performed at all in the area (the last being when London Musical Theatre staged the show at Centennial Hall with the very best of London's amateur and semi-professional performers.)

The show will be presented in the South auditorium on the evenings of: Wednesday May 4, Thursday May 5, Friday May 6 and Saturday May 7 all at 7:30 p.m.

All seats are \$12.00 and are RESERVED.

Advance ticket sales begin on April 18th in room 212, and a special box-office phone line is 452-2255 EXT. 6190, just for the event.

For further information about tickets, please contact Norma Evans at South Secondary School (452-2860) during regular school hours.

"this award now bears the name of *South* Head Secretary **Bev Baines**, the 2004 Winner!"



Shown above is Bev Baines with her award, she is the second winner of the 75th Anniversary Award given annually.

AND THE WINNER IS...

At the *South* Commencement, held in October (2004), the *Alumini Association* announced the second winner of its 75th **Anniversary Award**—given annually to a staff member "who contributes significantly to making *South* an excellent school".

The stylish plaque commemorating this award now bears the name of *South* Head Secretary **Bev Baines**, the 2004 Winner!

The elaboration of Bev's contributions ranged from her total professionalism and efficiency in running an effective administrative office to her well-known involvement in many aspects of school life beyond the bounds of the secretarial role. Whether it be making chili for teachers on Parents' Night, running the make-up crew for all the school shows since she came to *South*, dashing to office-supply depots to solve teacher emergencies, serving on staff social committees, or patiently explaining

policies or procedures to new staff members (or old ones who haven't been paying attention), Bev has earned the respect of teachers, administrators, custodians, kitchen staff, and students.

The nomination procedure, which involves both the staff and students of the school, reflects the fact of how appreciated the role of Bev Baines has been in the continued evolution of *South* as an excellent school.

CLASS REPS AND THE ALUMNI DATA BASE

Since 1999 the *Alumini Association* has been creating a list containing the names, addresses, and phone numbers of *South* alumni. This database is essential to good communication, and it has grown to more than 5500 names,

dating back to the classes from the 1920's

Andrew McClenaghan (class of 1997), operator of *Echidna Solutions*, has structured the database for us so that it can be periodically reviewed

and up-dated by a group of "Class Reps"—one for each of the 77 graduating classes in *South's* history.

A few grad years have yet to be covered. Please contact us if you are willing and are a

grad from: 1940, 1942, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1963, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1983, 1989, 1992, 1994, 1999. A simple 5—page manual is available to guide Reps through the up-dating system.

WHO'S WHERE

Let us know where you are and what you are doing! Send your update by e-mail to: contact@southalumini.ca or by snail mail to SCAA, 371 Tecumseh Ave E, London ON N6C 1T4.

This past October, grads **Tina Ward ('95)** and **Jon Hill ('95)** were married in the Dominican Republic, and now reside in Boston, where Tina is nursing and Jon is doing a post-doctorate at Harvard Medical School.

Kristen Hales ('88) practices family and children's law with her own firm (Gibson & Hales) in Windsor, Ont. where she and husband Jeffery are raising a son (7) and a daughter (1 ^{1/2}).

After gaining a degree in Medicine at UWO, Dr. **Donald Marshall ('44)** practiced Pediatric Surgery in London until his retirement in 1992. He and wife **Barbara (Blackwell) Marshall ('48)** now live back in the Old South neighborhood.

Playwright and former NDP MP **Wendy Lill ('68)** has won the *Writers' Union of Canada* 2005 Freedom to Read

Award for her work in fighting amendments to the Criminal Code that would have limited the creative rights of artists.

Rob Mizak ('93), a UWO grad in 1997, is a Manager of Residential Mortgages at TD Canada Trust in London. He and his wife Tanya are soon expecting a second child, to complement their daughter born in the summer of 2003.

On Nov. 14/04, as members of the 1952 *Tillsonburg Livingstons* National Basketball Champions, **Chuck Dalton ('46)** and **Gord Davidson ('47)** were inducted into the inaugural *Tillsonburg Sports Wall Of Fame*.

She graduated from the original *South* building on Askin Street, and may have been our oldest living graduate: **Grace (Kains) Bainard ('26)** passed away peacefully in February, at the age of 96.

THE ALUMINI ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU

Our Alumni Association has had many successful projects in its 6 years of existence but as with all organizations it is always in need of new ideas and renewed enthusiasm. The key to this will be the election of a new Executive, at the Annual General Meeting, on Wednesday, May 4/05 (in the Atrium at 7:00 pm)

A few members of the present Executive have served two 3-year terms, and will be stepping down. This is why some new members need to step forward.

The Executive consists of ten members—President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and six Directors. All ten positions come up for election every 3 years, at the time of the General Meeting. Nominations can be made prior to the meeting, by e-mail (contact@southalumini.ca) or by mail SCAA, 371 Tecumseh ave, London N6C 1T4), or at the meeting on May 4th.

Plan to attend the AGM. With lots of people we have more ideas and a greater sense of where the Alumni Association should be going in the future.

Lion's Pride is issued twice annually by the South Collegiate Alumni Association. Content copyright © 2005.

SCAA President: Pete Telford,
petetelford@sympatico.ca
Graphic Design courtesy of : **Norma Evans, Meaghan De Jager and Shantal Laking**

SCAA c/o South Secondary School
371 Tecumseh Avenue East
London, Ontario N6C 1T4
Tel. (519) 452-2860
Fax. (519) 452-2879

Contact @ south alumni.ca
www.southalumini.ca



Count me in!

If you enjoy this newsletter, please help cover our costs.
Join SCAA for just \$10.

Full Name _____ Maiden Name _____
Home Address _____
City _____ Province/State _____ Postal/Zip Code _____
Home Phone _____ Email _____
Graduating Year _____ Clubs while at South _____

\$10 annual dues for a limited time. Please include a cheque made payable to the South Collegiate Alumni Association and mail to the address above. **Thank-you!**