

# DUST IN THE WIND

## A Class of '76 Reunion Newsletter

Volume 1  
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2006

## DENNIS BERRY: THE PAST 30 YEARS

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By Dennis Berry

"It has been a long time since many of us have had contact with each other. As part of our 30th reunion we are collecting biographies of everyone to include in the memory book. If you have not sent yours in, please do so. We want to also include some biographies in our newsletter. Since everyone is reluctant to get start, and to encourage you to submit your biography, I decided to take the plunge and get the ball rolling by volunteering to be the first to share my biography.

First a little about my experience at **Las Vegas High School**. I didn't spend a lot of time at the school, (a condensed version will be in my memory book submission), I arrived there sometime in April of 1975. I transferred from a school in San Diego.

Before I attended **LVHS**, I basically hated school. I had no urge to go any further in my educational life. But that changed. Even though I didn't conform to the norm, people seemed to like me and made school an enjoyable experience. I looked forward to going to school and eventually decided to attend college.

I enjoyed the TV Productions Club, The Sun Youth Forum, being on student council and being senior class judge and my time on **The Desert Breeze**.

After graduation I attended the **University of Nevada, Las Vegas** studying communications. I was appointed editor of the school paper **The Yell** my freshman year and started a four-year adventure.

**The Yell** was a great experience for me. I enjoyed my time on **The Desert Breeze** learning a lot from Stu Betterton and my fellow journalists. At **The Yell** I got to attend a lot of fantastic events, met a lot of famous people and year in and year out was selected the worst speller and grammar cist (spell check couldn't even help me here) on the paper's staff.

I spent most of my time working in my father's restaurants and covering sporting events that I forgot I was at school to get a degree. My fourth year of school I was selected editor of **The Yell** and had one of the most exciting but controversial years ever at the college paper.

I was also blessed to attend away games with the different sports teams including covering the UNLV Running Rebels when they went to the NCAA playoffs. I also got to go to concerts all over Las Vegas when I was editor. I was able to meet and interview a lot of them.



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### IMPORTANT

It is not too late to sign up for the Reunion. Contact Judy Newmarker at [jsk9295@aol.com](mailto:jsk9295@aol.com) or 562-508-8481 and let her know you will be attending OR send your \$65.00 per person deposit to her at:

**JUDY NEW-MARKER**  
4009 FIELDING  
COURT  
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90720

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# FOR ALL THE KIDS WHO WERE BORN BEFORE THE 80's

Contributed by Tobey (Katz) Bergen

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they carried us.

They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes. Then after that trauma, our baby cribs were covered with bright colored lead-based paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets, not to mention, the risks we took hitchhiking.

As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags.

Riding in the back of a pick up on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle.

We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this

We ate cupcakes, white bread and real butter and drank soda pop with sugar in it, but we weren't overweight because

**WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!!!**

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on.

No one was able to reach us all day. And we were O.K.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

We did not have Play stations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels on cable, no video tape movies, no surround sound, no cell phones, no personal computers, no Internet or Internet chat rooms.....WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents.

We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

We were given BB guns for our 10th birthdays, made up games with sticks and tennis balls and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes.

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!!

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever!

The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

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# FOR ALL THE KIDS WHO WERE BORN BEFORE THE 80's

(Continued from Page 2)

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned

HOW TO

DEAL WITH IT ALL!

And YOU are one of them!

CONGRATULATIONS!

You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers and the government regulated our lives for our own good. and while you are at it, forward it to your kids so they will know how brave their parents were.

Kind of makes you want to run through the house with scissors, doesn't it?!

Toni Basil was one of new wave's ultimate one-hit wonders, falling completely off the musical radar screen after topping the charts with the ubiquitous cheerleader-chant single "Mickey." Basil was born Antonia Christina Basilotta in Philadelphia (sources listing her birth date range from 1943 to 1950) and **attended high school in Las Vegas, where -- unsurprisingly -- she was a member of the cheerleading squad. Was head cheerleader at Las Vegas High School and wears her actual varsity uniform from those days in the "Mickey" video.**

After high school, she became a go-go dancer and quickly moved into choreography, working on '60s television shows like Shindig and The T.A. M.I. Show; in 1964, she appeared with Annette Funicello in the film Pajama Party, which she also choreographed. In 1966, Basil released her first single, the Graham Gouldman-penned "28"; the B-side was her recording of the title song from avant-garde filmmaker Bruce Conner's Breakaway, in which she also appeared as a dancer. Basil's acting career soon hit a peak with her role in 1969's landmark Easy Rider as a New Orleans hooker; she went on to appear with Jack Nicholson in Five Easy Pieces and Dennis Hopper in The Last Movie. During the '70s, she choreographed films like American Graffiti and The Rose, and also worked on David Bowie's 1974 concert tour.

In 1981, she signed to Chrysalis as a recording artist and cut her debut album, Word of Mouth. Among the tracks was "Mickey," a song penned by the Mike Chapman/Nicky Chinn songwriting team; it was originally titled "Kitty" and recorded by a group called Racey. Word of Mouth had been out for some time when "Mickey" finally began climbing the charts in Britain, eventually peaking at number two; a few months later, helped along by Basil's self-directed, cheerleader-themed video, "Mickey" hit number one in America and became an inescapable pop culture phenomenon.

**FAMOUS  
LAS VEGAS  
HIGH  
ALUMNI:**

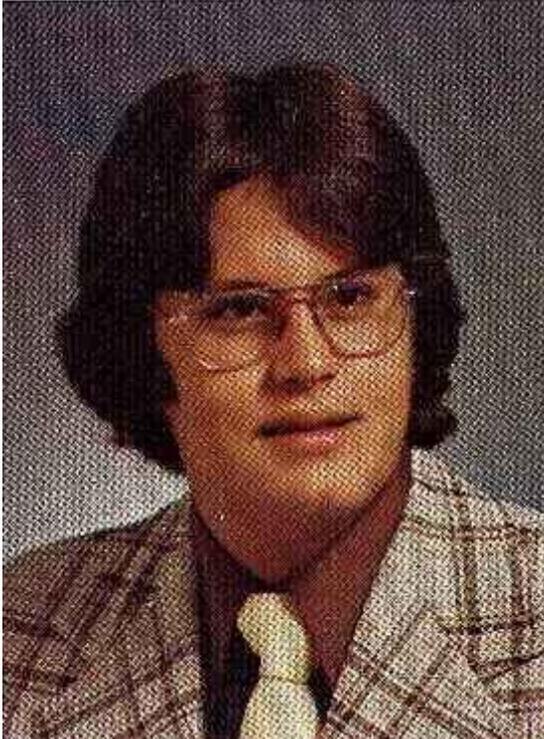
**Toni  
Basil**



# DENNIS BERRY: THE PAST 30 YEARS

(Continued from Page 1)

I was ready for a change after all the controversies and politics that took place in running the paper. I did meet a lot of people who I am still in contact with, stayed in touch with a couple people from high school during my years at **UNLV**. Jim McKusick covered baseball and soccer for the sports section and I remember running into Tobey Katz in the student union and seeing Laurah Holmes at **UNLV** before she transferred to **University of Nevada, Reno**.



**Dennis Berry, Senior Class Photo**

I moved up to a small town in Northern California and decided to try my luck at a community college. I went to **Mendocino Community College** but fell into the same bad trap of getting involved with the school paper.

When I arrived the school paper was xeroxed and stapled for the students. The advisor for the paper made a deal with the local paper, **The Ukiah Daily Journal**, to charge \$100 to print **The Eagle**.

Helping the advisor start up the paper was a great experience and the paper is still around today.

But as at **UNLV**, I spent too much time working a full-time job and editing the paper that I again put school on the after-burner. I met my future boss in Ukiah. We were actually best friends, double-dated and decided to attend **Cal State Sacramento** together. I figured I'd give school another chance.

I decided not to work while at school but that didn't last long. I also ended up joining the school paper **The Hornet**. I started out as a writer and eventually became the sports editor and in

my final year I was selected production manager as we moved into the computer age. We decided to start producing the paper on Macintosh's and I actually was semi-literate back in the 80's. Scary.

I ended up getting a job in the athletic department, working as women's sports information director one year and helping out with men's athletics. I was burned out with Sacramento and my friend Richard (who had graduated a couple years earlier) offered me a job in Long Beach working for him. I was unsure about living down in the LA area but finally made the move.

I am now working in real estate and working in marketing and public relations for the company I work for, **Keller Williams Realty Los Alamitos**, and Richard. It's a job I really love because I can still write and get my work published in newspapers and magazines and I enjoy selling real estate.

I have my adopted family (Richard's two kids are my brats) and love the Long Beach area. Richard's wife Shelly and I love attending concerts at the various venues in the LA area. One funny thing about moving down here is I got to be reacquainted with Judy Freeman. The first five years I was living down the street from her home and didn't even know it. Small world.

**(I hope everyone didn't get bored with my life between graduation and the reunion. I hope someone else will step up to the plate and tell their story. Please include photos. Once you write it, just send it to me at garthfandr@hotmail.com.)**