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LETTERS

KUDOS TO YOU AND YOUR STAFF for the outstanding article about four of the most respected members of the CMC Alumni Association ("The Aviators").

I will admit to a trace of bias inasmuch as I am Pete Welsh's little brother; Jack Croul's brother, Dick, was a close friend and classmate of mine in high school; and Bob Long is a trusted friend and former classmate at CMC. While I don't know Ed Maloney well, I am well aware of his work—I am a former member of his air museum, where I had my first flight as a passenger in a modified P-51 fighter.

Despite being a young college, CMC has a great heritage, and the Pacesetters played a big part in getting CMC off the ground. It's good to see them get the recognition they deserve.

—JOHN WELSH '52 P'84

RECEIVING *CMC* IN MY MAILBOX is a three-times-a-year treat. The spring 2007 issue, however, was also an inspiration. As the editor of a weekly entertainment and lifestyle magazine for English-speakers in Japan, I can appreciate the effort that goes into each outstanding issue of *CMC*. Like most alumni, I look forward to the updates on classmates and campus goings-on. But I also look at *CMC* as a model of a striking, well-organized, and easy-to-read publication. Case in point: The glistening cover photo of the restored P-51 Mustang, and the accompanying feature story, "The Aviators."

From the individual character profiles to a bit of ruminating on CMC nostalgia, I was captivated by the intermingling stories of these four Pacesetter pilots. It is interesting to me to read about how this tumultuous time shaped the lives of these men for years to come. The author even managed to integrate the story of Matt Roberson '06 breaking the long-jump record held for 57 years by Pete Welsh '50.

It is features like this that make me proud to be associated with such a

prestigious educational institution, with an alumni magazine to match.

—BEAU MILLER '04

I READ STEPHEN SCHENKENBERG'S ARTICLE, "The Aviators," after attending Reunion Weekend and the Planes of Fame Airshow on May 20, and thought I might relate how it clarified much of what I saw and experienced.

Due to late work obligations I arrived at the awards dinner for the previous classes at the tail end of dessert, to find class after

class being recognized for their support of the Alumni Association and CMC. Not

knowing these folks at first, I was taken with how vigorously each of the awardees led their class, either through prior gifts to benefit the college, stories of past heroism, or just open challenges to future classes. This culminated in Ryal Poppa's (Poppa Computer Lab) astounding pledge of a quite sizable sum, made without prior notice, and an open challenge for others to follow suit! Wow! Who were these folks?

Reunion Weekend continued with what, for me, was the most delightful time warp: the dorm I stayed in, Marks Hall; many of the classmates I knew 20 years ago; and even former Deans Torrey Sun and Rena Bever, both of whom insisted I call them by their first names (which I really just could not make myself do). My only regret was that more of my classmates could not go back and meet the teachers and administrators who, at the end of the day, used the teaching process less to grade than to build up and



Ed Maloney, Bob Long, Jack Croul, Pete Welsh, Ryal Poppa, and their classmates, are known as Pacesetters. I now realize why. Not only did they set the pace for the whole country as members of the “Greatest Generation,” as Tom Brokaw so rightly honored, but they continue to set the pace at CMC in bold strokes.

—BOB PATTON '87

shape human beings for the big, wide world ahead.

On the last day, Sunday, after brunch, my classmate Steve Siegel (who now works with all of the think tanks associated with CMC) and I attended Ed Maloney's Planes of Fame Airshow. At the show, we ran into Bob Long '52, one of the award recipients, who spoke highly of the current alumni organization in Los Angeles and persuaded me to get more active. He then went over to the flight tower to look for his classmates, and Steve and I focused on the Airshow right when the “War Birds” were presented.

These planes were the real thing from prior wars, all restored and in top flying shape. Amazing to see. They all flew both individually and then in the most amazing display: Every plane from virtually every era of military flight assembled on the runway and took off, only to circle about 15 minutes later after arranging themselves in formation in a glorious display of historical military air power. It was one of those moments, rare in life, when you are transfixed, comprehending what is before your eyes, but realizing you are seeing much further into history than you ever realized. For a moment I was lost in thought, and could not help but wonder what soldiers from each of the wars represented must have felt as they heard the noise and then saw each of these planes pass by.

And after all of this—not before—I read Mr. Schenkenberg's article and much of what I experienced sunk in. Ed Maloney, Bob Long, Jack Croul, Pete Welsh, Ryal Poppa, and their classmates, are known as Pacesetters. I now realize why. Not only did they set the pace for the whole country as members of the “Greatest Generation,” as Tom Brokaw so rightly honored, but they continue to set the pace at CMC in bold strokes. Ryal Poppa's challenge, Ed Maloney's Air Museum, Bob Long's active alumni role: they just don't quit!

Many times during Reunion Weekend, I heard members of the early classes, not just the Pacesetters, compliment the later classes by saying that if they applied to CMC now they could not get in. Well, by the numbers that may be true. But, both the Pacesetters and the other early classes have provided examples of leadership and vision forged from difficult times in our country's past that mere numbers have difficulty quantifying. The bottom line is that no matter what your class year, reading the exploits of “The Aviators,” combined with meeting and seeing these folks in action, was deeply moving. You could not help feeling fortunate you were in their company and part of CMC.

—BOB PATTON '87

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS to the CMC admission staff: First, for providing the best summer job I have ever had when I served as a senior interviewer during the summer of 2005. Second, and more important, for their truly remarkable accomplishment of a 16 percent admission rate to CMC. That low level of admits reflects their tireless drive during countless hours speaking to students, hosting college fairs, giving tours, and showing the world why CMC is such a great place to be. Knowing the best and brightest will be part of CMC for years to come is invaluable to me. CMC admission deserves our wholehearted praise!

—JONATHAN MEDINA '06

THANK YOU FOR THE RECOGNITION of Coach Jodie Burton's 200th SCIAC win (“Basketball's Burton Celebrates 200th Win”). I was a bit disappointed that CMC did not do a bigger piece on Coach because of her impact on not only her women's basketball teams and athletics, but also the women she has coached along the way. She has coached 27 years, with 21 consecutive winning seasons. But it's not just the winning that makes her a champion. I had the pleasure of playing for her at CMS in



CMS Senior Women's Administrator and Women's Basketball Coach Jodie Burton traded the court for the links during Reunion Weekend.

the early 1990s, and she was a mentor to me both on and off the court.

She played the roles of second mom, counselor, and friend to many players. A former player told me that Coach Burton helped her become a stronger person while in an abusive relationship, simply because she was able to talk about it—something she could not do with her own mother. Many people don't realize there's a soft side to Coach. She's there to offer her wisdom, of which I took full advantage!

Her advice and guidance has been priceless. Years after graduating, I returned to CMS as an assistant coach on her staff. Watching and learning from her got me where I am today. If not for her help, I wouldn't be head coach at Chapman University. Her encouragement makes me a better person each day. Thank you, Coach—you mean so much to me and my family!

—CAROL JUNG JUE '92