



ISB NETWORK NEWS

Volume 29

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TIME WARP

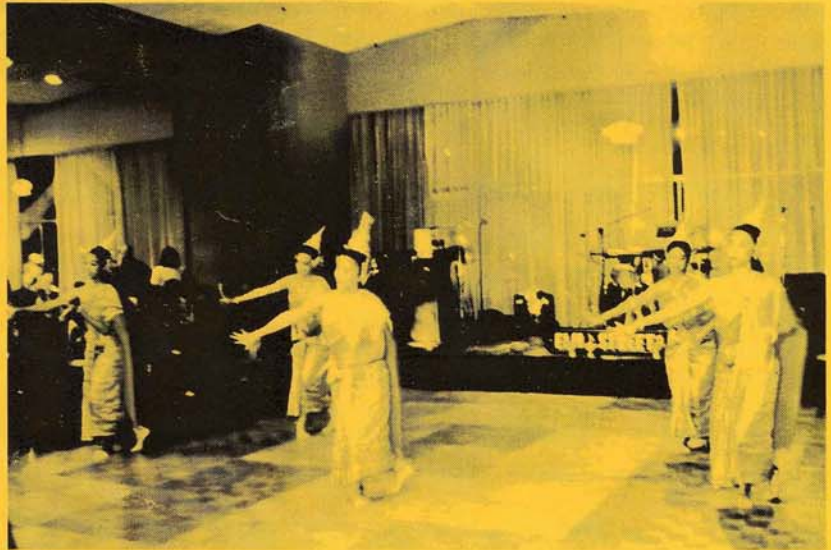
By Rudy Xavier, '62

I think what really happened is we all entered the Transporter at about the same time! (My apologies to GenX and those of you who missed all 79 episodes of Star Trek –or if you hadn't beamed down to this planet yet- for the rest of you this was Episode #80!) We had all eluded the Librarian and reentered the year we left high school. Our friends had aged with us, but who cared. Magically, there we were again –together!

There were no pointy gold-topped temples, no spirit houses, no klongs, no golden Buddhas and only the faintest reminiscence of life by a pool one tenth the size of the Royal Bangkok Sports Club, but we had a BLAST in Long Beach, thanks to Dave Wilkerson and the Network Reunion Planners. For those of you who didn't make it last August, perhaps you will be comforted to know that we thought about you - we really did - and wished you were there with us. What made it so rewarding was the sparkling camaraderie! The "I can't believe I'm talking to you and asking you to sign my yearbook again!!" feeling. It was a renewal of spirit, a collective exhalation that we had all actually made it to Long Beach, by plane, train and automobile for the 1998 ISB Network All Year Reunion!

Some of us actually forgot we were sharing space with 282 other people who had ALSO been to ISB in Bangkok, Thailand. Many of us came with our spouses or significant others. Not three hours after a nervous introduction, the significant others were barely distinguishable from the alumni! Now if THAT doesn't speak to the warmth and generosity of this high-spirited group I don't know what will!

Those who shared the ubiquitous feelings that came from the ISB adventure in their formative years had doubtless shared with their significant others the uniqueness of ISB. I heard it over and over. "Roger has told me so much about..." "Ellen tells me you guys had SUCH a good time!" We ISBers had each drawn a sketch of our time in Bangkok, but our spouses could vicariously share only glimpses of our personal "videos." Here was a chance to introduce them to your old friends and classmates, to exchange stories to complete the personal canvas you've all been painting! And what a collective mural we created.



Thai Classical dancers perform during the Saturday evening dinner/dance at the Long Beach Reunion

It wasn't Home on the Range but I never heard a single disparaging word at Long Beach! It wasn't just that ISB was 13,000 miles away for some of us. It was the recollection of the bright gold leaf and the undecipherable smells, wasn't it? It was the ever smiling Thai faces and the complete inscrutability of the whole experience. For some of us there was a Teen Hang Out ('64 and up). For the earlier years ('58-'63) we Hung Out with virtually no controls, entering freely into adult societal forms, with almost no one telling us "no." Then, for most of us, we came "back" to the United States even when we didn't originally come FROM the U.S.

Remember how easy college was at first? Heck, our contemporaries stateside were reading at a 10th grade level and virtually NO ONE had already seen Calculus. Foreign language requirements? I heard several classmates talk about skipping their requirements or challenging the standard tests because we were so much better prepared. And for all that we had our Sadie Hawkins dances, our Halloween Parties, our snowless Christmases and our Proms all the while pretending that we had never really left - wherever we left - to attend ISB.

For those who stayed for the whole affair it was a time to remember! We not only had GREAT food and fun, we had a fantastic formal dinner and dance, a talented band, and a fabulous surprise when genuine Thai Classical Dancers showed up on the dance floor to perform the classic rumbong!

The Sixties

Rudy Xavier '62

The 60's group appeared in force this past reunion. If you were at Long Beach you might have been one of those who referred to us as "the rowdy ones". The less charitable among you probably called us the "old rowdy ones". Well, we're not apologizing for that. Personally, it was hard to miss that this was too special an event not to "whoop it up" a bit. Imagine, for some of us, 36 years had passed and here we were able to catch up with our old buds! For those of you for whom 36 years has yet to pass (think about that!) "Incredible" understates the feeling in a big way. It was a little bit of "The Big Chill" and "Sleepless in Seattle" in just one weekend. It's possible that at least Gail Loudermilk Kirk, Ellen Ehle Schaeffer, Jerry Connors, & Carol Pettigrew Hallman didn't sleep at all but stayed up all three days and nights!!

What made it special?

Well, for one thing, if you graduated from or attended ISB between the years 1959 and 1964 these might have been among the things you remembered:

1. Wayne Nesbitt was the Principal and Mildred Turbyfill was the Vice Principal who kept order in the halls.
2. Coach Fyock helped create the Panthers basketball team, and we won 7 games out of 10 in a country where basketball (after soccer) was the hot sport!
3. The senior class went on a raft trip and no one drowned!
4. OUR Glee Club went on Thai television!
5. Dr. Dooley and his mission received serious support from ISB students, who raised money at Dooley Day Dances and the Great Debate about whether or not we should wear uniforms (we voted NO to uniforms, setting the standard).
6. Paul Hallman was a Class President, Chuck Kugler kept us from taking ourselves too seriously, Carol Pettigrew had the best Sadie Hawkins outfit, and John Maher Russell made out with anyone!!
7. Bill Washburn inspired a lot of us to enjoy photography, and took 80% of the pictures for the yearbook while ChenTze Wu sent in over 100 pictures for which he never received credit. (Undaunted, ChenTze became a professional photographer, along with Van Bucher & of course Bill Washburn. Bill would love to tell you about some of his work, but then he'd have to terminate you!!!)
8. Jack Field, Toni Price, Gail Loudermilk and Van Bucher all took turns producing Erawans or Newsletters, while Rodolfo Xavier, Chuck Kugler and Ellen Ehle wrote startling stories for the Klaxon.
9. The airfield at Korat was suddenly getting massive and more and more new people were coming in but we weren't told why.
10. Suddenly it was 1962 or 1963 and it must have seemed as though we all beamed out to other continents, all at once.

Well, we don't know what the magic glue was but we all clearly shared it. The Sixties group moved like a connected single organism and we sat together better than we did at recess in the 60's (and a whole lot better behaved, too, I might add)! ISB seemed hardly more than just a few years ago. We hung out together, enjoyed wonderful meals together, and we graciously brought our significant others right into the fold. The Sixties folks liked it so much that this September we all got together again in Chicago for a 3 day weekend with more than forty people in attendance. All in all, I'd call that pretty amazing! This is why we have reunions - and - with apologies to Dr. Pina, our English teacher - wherever you are: it don't get much better than this!

ISB NETWORK INC.
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Web: <http://members.aol.com/isbnetwork>

Purpose: ISB Network Inc. is a not-for-profit organization, dedicated to bringing Alumni of the International School of Bangkok together to support, maintain and create contacts between people who shared similar experiences in Thailand.

Rates: Dues are on a bi-annual basis. The current dues period is January 1, 1998 through December 31, 1999. Membership dues are \$40.00 - \$35.00 if paid before January 31 of the first year of the enrollment period - which entitles members to three (3) newsletters, and a complete membership list each year. If someone joins the network during the membership period that person will receive all newsletters and mailing lists available for the current membership period to date. Extra copies of the newsletter are available at \$2.50 each and membership lists at \$15.00 each. Membership lists are available to Network members only and are not for commercial use. Call for advertising rates.

Access: Pay dues either by check made out to ISB Network, or by using the form on our home page to conveniently charge your dues to your Visa, MasterCard, or American Express card, and mail to:

ISB Network, Inc.
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Problems, questions, answers and/or general interest, contact the ISB Network Voice Mail at (925) 461-1812. For payment inquiries call (301) 228-3962.

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Van Bucher '62

Y2K Reunion Update

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, the Y2K ISB Network reunion is going to be held in the Washington, D.C. area. Our reunion committee has been hard at work to find a suitable site for the reunion, and the board has unanimously voted on the Fort Magruder Inn and Conference Center in Williamsburg, Virginia as the reunion site. The reunion dates will be August 4th through 6th, 2000. We have negotiated an \$89.00 standard room rate. Additional details will be forthcoming in the next newsletter regarding reservation information, reunion fees, schedule of events, etc.

The hotel is excited about hosting our reunion, and has all the amenities (and even some extras) offered by the last reunion's Long Beach hotel: ample number of rooms (303 guest rooms and 16 suites), large indoor AND outdoor swimming pools, hot tub, sauna, exercise room, lighted outdoor tennis courts, dining facilities, Sports bar/lounge, separate game room for kids, **and a chef who knows how to cook Thai food!!**

Williamsburg is a perfect place for a reunion. It is warm and intimate and is located in an absolutely gorgeous part of the country. The hotel is a mile from Colonial Williamsburg and the Amtrak Station. Yorktown, Jamestown, Busch Gardens, Water Country, Factory outlets and Golf courses are close by. Williamsburg/Newport News, Norfolk International and Richmond International airports are all within an hour of the hotel. Ground transportation is also available to/from the various airports. Group rates are



Ralph Weber '79 and Tessie St. Clair '77 pose for a picture during their wedding festivities.

currently being negotiated and will be provided in the next newsletter.

The ISB alumnus band has agreed to provide live music for the customary Saturday Evening dinner/dance. Apart from a few favorites that must go along with any reunion dance, the band will feature a new expanded repertoire. This band is comprised of ISB Alumni who used to play at the Teen Clubs in Bangkok, and they are ready to take you back to relive the experience of those Saturday night dances many years ago.

We hope you will begin making plans to attend this reunion. When making flight arrangements, we encourage you to check out web sites like <http://www.cheaptickets.com> to search for the lowest airfares.

We are also looking into the possibility of providing a once daily chartered bus service to and from the BWI and Washington National airports on Friday, August 4th and Sunday, August 6th.

The 500 ISB alumnus who live in the Washington D.C. area (Maryland, D.C., and Virginia) will be able to drive to the hotel. The Williamsburg AMTRAK station is one mile from the hotel so the train is also an option for anyone living on the East Coast. Stay tuned!! Additional reunion and registration details will be posted shortly on our web site and in the next issue of the newsletter coming soon this fall!!

Board Announcement

Since I accepted the position of Treasurer of the ISB Network at the Long Beach Reunion last year, the network has actively been looking for someone to take over the newsletter duties. I am pleased to report that Van Bucher, class of 1962, has accepted the board position of newsletter editor, and will take over all newsletter duties beginning with the next newsletter. Van brings loads of experience in journalism with him. He was a member of the ISB student staff producing the Erawan, and he later entered a career in professional photography. Please join me in welcoming Van to the board and I'm looking forward to seeing his work in the next newsletter.

Keith Hatton '70

Member News

It's great when we hear stories of happy reunions between classmates who become reacquainted after many years because of the existence of this Network. It's especially fantastic when such a meeting results in marriage. We're pleased to announce the marriage of Ralph Weber '79 and Teresa "Tessie" St. Clair '77. The wedding took place in California on March 6, 1999.

This was a story of a childhood crush (Ralph had a crush on Tessie when he was a freshman and she was a junior, only he was too short and young to do anything about it back then) being fulfilled many years later after finding each other again (at the Long Beach Reunion), falling in love for real, and deciding to spend the rest of their lives together. Congratulations and Best Wishes Ralph and Tessie!

THE SHACK MERCANTILE

Here is the current price list for items from "The Shack Mercantile". If you would like to order items, please send your check payable to **The ISB Network, Inc.** to David Wilkerson C/O Techstar Services, 750 Cowan St. # 9, Nashville, TN. 37207 (615) 242-2925. All proceeds go to the Network.

| Store Item | Price |
|--|---------|
| Black T-Shirt with Gold ISB Logo | \$15.00 |
| Grey T Shirt with "I Survived Youth In Asia" Dallas 96 Limited edition | \$12.00 |
| Black Track Shirt (tank top) with Gold Panther and ISB lettering | \$19.00 |
| Black Track Shorts with Gold Panther and ISB lettering | \$18.00 |
| Black or Gold Sweat Shirt with ISB Logo (please specify color) | \$21.00 |
| White Golf Shirt with ISB Logo | \$18.00 |
| Black or White Baseball Hat with ISB Logo (please specify color) | \$ 6.75 |
| White Golf Towel with ISB Logo | \$ 6.75 |
| Black Bicycle Shorts with ISB Logo | \$23.00 |
| White (button up) Baseball Shirt with ISB Logo | \$19.00 |
| VHS Video: "Perspectives" 30-minute history of ISB | \$11.00 |

Add \$2.00 for each T-Shirt and \$3.00 for each Sweat Shirt when ordering XXL.

Normal express mail (2-3 days) via the U.S. Postal Service for any destination within the United States is \$3.00. If you are ordering more than two items, please add an additional \$1.00. UPS is also available for \$6.00 for up to two pounds. If ordering from overseas, please contact Dave Wilkerson by letter, e-mail or phone first to determine the shipping, handling and duty amounts (where applicable) to add to the order.

A current "Shack" item and price list is always available by visiting the ISB Network home page at <http://members.aol.com/isbnetwork>.

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