



Selected Responses from the 45th Reunion Survey

Harvard/Radcliffe Class of 1966

This document contains summaries of the responses to questions from the Class of 1966 survey that were not discussed in the original summary circulated to classmates earlier this spring. The discussions below follow a common format. For each question, the responses are summarized in a paragraph or two, and are then followed by a selection of quoted comments provided by classmates. The summaries include statistical tabulations when it is possible to do so. When a statistical summary is not really possible, general comments on the tenor of the responses are provided. For each set of responses, the listed comments are either full direct quotations or excerpted from a lengthier response.

Several of the questions asked for a sufficiently defined set of responses from which it was possible to perform a manual count and characterize the distribution of responses. The survey team was required to force some responses into categories in order to accomplish this. In the case of other questions, the information requested was so free form that any kind of statistical tabulation was not really possible. For example, the question, “How are you spending your retirement?” led to very free form responses that could not be forced into ordered categories. For these kinds of questions, the survey team attempted to capture the flavor of the responses without offering any categorization.

In reading this document, classmates should continually keep in mind that these survey responses are the thoughts and comments of 187 self-selected classmates, some of whom elected to answer all questions and many of whom answered questions more selectively. In keeping with the anonymous format of the survey, no demographic information of any kind was requested of responders. For a number of fairly obvious reasons, therefore, the results of this survey are not representative of our class as a whole and should not be interpreted as such.

That said, this open response format has allowed classmates to make a lot of varied, insightful and/or otherwise interesting comments. It is the hope of the survey team that some of the richness and flavor of these comments has been captured in this expanded summary. We turn now to the individual question summaries.

9. What do you do for a living, or what did you do until retirement?

The responses to this question defied a simple breakdown into distinct categories. As should be expected, our classmates are well represented in the academic and professional fields, including law, medicine and business management and finance. What comes through in the responses, however, is the great variety of careers our classmates have pursued, and indeed the variety of pursuits that individual members have found the time, energy and interest to pursue. So, we offer some comments that are reflective of this breadth.

- Counting backwards: retired, substitute teacher, book buyer, actor, stage manager, magazine editor and writer.
- Serial entrepreneur; still at it.
- I write historical books, and I run an historical bed & breakfast. I was a museum director for several years.

- Career US Army officer; retired from that and had a second (shorter) career as a police detective. Retired from that as well.
- Secondary school mathematics teacher; corporate training development and delivery; technical writer.
- I have been a parish minister for most of my career, and a nonprofit development officer for the last seven years before retiring from that last year.
- FBI agent, director of corporate security for ITT Sheraton and Loews Corporation.; currently an international security consultant – own my own business.
- I am a professor of Russian
- I've been a rowing coach, English professor, unemployed English professor, writer, professor of computer science, restorer and trader of classic sports and racing cars, real estate speculator, landlord. Still doing many of the above.
- I work in the entertainment industry in film and live stage events.
- Quantitative analysis of military aircraft and missiles; College teaching of statistics and quantitative analysis; Information systems software consulting; Steam locomotive engineer.

10. How directly relevant was your Harvard or Radcliffe education to your chosen career?

Close to 70 percent of respondents to this question said our Harvard/Radcliffe education was either relevant or highly relevant to their careers. Within this group, classmates were split between those who cited a direct relevance, including specific courses they had taken or the field they had majored in, and those who credited the general quality of the liberal arts education and accompanying mental discipline as critical to later career success. The remaining 30 percent were roughly evenly split between those who found their education somewhat relevant and those who cited no or very little relevance. Some who claimed little relevance, still acknowledged the value of the educational experience while crediting their graduate or professional school for their career success. Some selected comments follow.

- I had what was called a liberal education, which means that after graduation my education continued ever after
- Not particularly relevant (am speaking here, of course, about my; BA and not my MBA which was very relevant).
- It wasn't. I may have absorbed some concepts or ways of thinking that helped me to take the LSAT when I was at Harvard, but I didn't start law school until several years after I graduated.
- My Radcliffe education helped me become literate and more socially aware, which indirectly bolstered my career. Sometimes saying you went to Harvard is a professional plus, sometimes not.
- Not really relevant, but being able to write and think has been a help.
- The thinking skills, the breadth of cultural knowledge, and the curious mix of humility (compared to the greatest minds at Harvard) and confidence (in many meetings, I was the only Harvard graduate in the room) – these were valuable in ways I could not have anticipated. I was fortunate to be mentored by a wise, positive and energetic Harvard professor (Gerald Lesser), whose lessons guided and inspired me in times of challenge and opportunity. The Harvard brand opened many doors; the Harvard education made me a far more effective contributor in my career.
- It was not directly relevant, but the sampling of many disciplines gave me the tools to continue to read, to learn, to have curiosity. A good artist needs an active mind. Radcliffe expanded mine.

- Very relevant, both in terms of the courses I took in Renaissance and Reformation history, and the social activism in which I engaged in my spare time.
- Zero relevancy.
- Harvard taught me to appreciate true genius and to recognize those people who have extraordinary intellectual gifts
- I spent four years writing, reading, drinking, smoking, sleeping and engaging in sexual activity. That's pretty much what I've been doing ever since except I no longer drink or smoke.
- It taught me discipline and the ability to read large amounts of written material, digest it, organize it, draw on it as needed, regurgitate it as needed, use it as needed. I learned to think rapidly and abstractly. I learned to trust my own judgment and brain power.
- My sense of chronology and causation, so important to trial work, owes much to the study of history which was my area of concentration at Harvard.
- It almost prepared me for the degree of contempt with which women are held in Hollywood. It gave me the arrogance to pretend not to care. It gave me entre to places that someone as oute as I would never have been let in. It taught me about how people with power think about their goals and responsibilities, and what they mean by realism. It taught me that showing too much enthusiasm was embarrassing and that showing fear is always a mistake. I also learned that really smart people will sacrifice money for credit, and that keeping a culture vital requires long lists of acknowledgments and amusingly large gobs of self-seriousness. It taught me that really smart people can be as wrong, and as stupid as really wrong, stupid people. All useful knowledge.

13. Since you graduated from Harvard/Radcliffe, have you learned to play a musical instrument? Which, and why? Are you good?

Over 60% of our classmates who responded to this change-up question indicated that they'd (1) continued playing only the instrument (or instruments) learned prior to attending Harvard, (2) added another instrument to their repertoire, or (3) in their post-Harvard years taken up an instrument for the first time. Few who took on the challenge of learning a new instrument claimed to have achieved mastery, but more than a few took this opportunity to have a little fun at their own expense. After all these years, not a bad trait.

Sample comments:

- Alas, no, although I took up singing again after a hiatus of 30 years and was accepted into the choruses of a regional opera company and a symphony orchestra. I was good enough to have Jon Vickers step over my prostrate body – I was playing an enslaved Hebrew – and launch into his first aria in Samson.
- Baroque flute, taking up from my high school flute playing. Not ever very good but in some demand because some ensembles needed the instrument.
- I played the accordion before Harvard; I have become a decent pianist (mostly popular pieces and standards). About ten years ago, I bought a vintage Steinway baby grand. It meets me more than halfway to make good music guitar. I'm pretty good, and have been performing folk music all over (Europe, Africa, Australia, around the USA).
- Piano, which my father had played well but only by ear. Also rebuilt two grand pianos, completed someone else's half-finished harpsichord and built a clavichord. I started in my early 30s, enjoyed the dynamic of adult-studenthood and progressed rapidly until I thought I was pretty good. Later my son came along to prove me wrong. However, I still do have the satisfaction of having sparked both my kids' musical interests and watching them develop to a higher level
- Banjo. Saw movie: Deliverance. I'm not very good

- I restarted my childhood piano-playing and took a stab at the guitar. I have always owned a piano whenever possible; I grew up at a time when a home just had to have one, and every classroom, too. I learned a few chords on the guitar when I had my own home daycare center and would play and sing the little guys to sleep at naptime. My music-making, never proficient, has fallen by the wayside in recent years, but I have high hopes!
- No. The only musical instrument I have been working on since graduation is my own voice! I think I have improved in my use of that instrument a great deal since my undergraduate years. I certainly have gotten better at sight reading music! (You may find this a facetious response, but our chorus conductor always refers to our voices as our ‘instruments’ – ‘Take good care of your instrument.’”
- No, but since my niece, who performs in the Cincinnati Opera, explained to me that my voice is my “instrument, I have trained it to talk and sing like a duck. My grandson absolutely loves it. An audience of one, however. Also non-paying.
- I played the piano and violin when I entered Harvard and at Harvard. I was always just below the rung of good musicians there (e.g., I was the concertmaster for various musicals but did not play in the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra). I have continued to play the piano somewhat but not the violin. I sang in the Glee Club. After Harvard I sang on my own for a good many years but no longer do so very much. I remain a big fan of opera and of vocal recitals, however.
- I’m good, took a master’s in flute after Harvard, already played as undergrad but not professional quality until later. Why? I cannot live without music
- Learned basic folk guitar in the dorm at Radcliffe, took lessons after I graduated. I never became a very good player but I taught basic folk guitar for a while. I created a simple step-by-step method that seemed to work well. One of my students acknowledged me at one of her concerts and I was thrilled!
- Yes, the bagpipes, an instrument that has strong ancestral connections and one that I have wanted to learn to play for a number of years. I could be considered to be a half-way decent player (having participated in both solo and band competitions). I need to get in gear to regain my former playing abilities.
- The piano, the flute, and in recent years the violin. In college I played the clarinet in the band and have also played the recorder for years. The piano I had played at a rudimentary level before college but worked to get much better after college. I started playing the violin a few years ago.
- What a funny question. Why a musical instrument? Why not a dance or animation program...or fabric dying. Are we starting a band?

16. If you are retired, at what age did you retire?

Of the respondents to this question, about one-half have formally retired. Around 15% of those who are retired did so before the age of 60. Among retirees, the age of retirement is spread across the 60s, with the largest group retiring at age 66.

- About one-half of responders are still working. A good portion of those (about one in four) indicated they had cut back on the amount of work they do. A significant number said they had no plans to retire and expected to continue to work. Several who still work had “retired” from an earlier career and started a second one or continued to work but in a different capacity. Most of the comments were about continuing to work and where retirement might or might not fit in.
- I retired for the first time at age 49, the second time at age 63.
- I’m currently in ‘modern retirement.’ I’m retired from the state Department, but I continue to work as a contractor
- I am still excited about my work and am anxious about losing it

- Not yet. Very ambivalent still.
- I will never retire.
- Not retired, not close
- Does anyone 'retire' anymore? On what?
- Anticipate retirement at 70. Why should I retire when I love my life?
- I'm not retired and can't imagine retiring. My work life is more gratifying and successful than ever.

17. How are you spending your retirement?

Classmates' responses to this question reveal the rich variety of our retirement lives and the activities we are pursuing. Continuing education and returning to interests and activities that we have not had the time to pursue during our working lives are two themes that come through in the comments. Here are several representative comments.

- Working part-time as an audio book narrator, writing novels.
- Playing bridge, training dogs, teaching dog training classes and lessons, playing bridge, hiking, knitting, traveling.
- Hiking, biking, doing video production, making music, writing a novel, and continuing to learn. (I read two non-fiction books to every fiction book). I am trying to wean myself from the news. I can't do much about it, and it casts a pall over a world that is visibly so much more meaningful, beautiful and peaceful than the banal, troubling information selected by the media.
- Earning a PhD in literature .
- I've taken classes in three languages since I retired because of travel plans—German, Spanish, and Italian. In short, I do a lot to keep my brain and my body active. I don't have a lot of spare time but more than when I was working.
- Operating a farm, visiting grandchildren, research on history, volunteer activities.
- Reading Colonial American and Spanish history, traveling, having long lunches with old friends, cooking fantastic meals for our dinner parties and hanging out with my children
- Productively languishing.
- Hard to say if I'm retired. I make my living as I have for the past 15 years, as a landlord managing rental properties, and I spend most days restoring old sports and racing cars. I work hard at both, but nearly all the time I'm doing something I enjoy, and the mix is close to ideal.
- Doing fewer things more intensely and for more pleasure; learning to do new things.
- I am at the New School Institute for Retired Professionals, which allows me to be a student and a teacher, and also lets me use some of the administrative skills I learned in my career.
- Hugging kids.
- Raising my daughter, running steam trains and driving three V-12 jaguars.
- I guess you're 'retired' when no one will hire you anymore. My 'retirement' consisted of starting a new company to renovate houses, after my previous company was merged out of existence. The new company is still very much in operation, and we closed on the sale of our most recent project less than a month ago.
- I love the next chapter of life. Volunteer for number of causes.

18. Is retirement all that you thought it was cracked up to be? Why or why not?

Eighty three classmates responded to this question, many with a paragraph; others with just a one word comment. It is not possible to categorize these responses in terms of positive, negative or somewhere in between. Rather, we choose to leave you with a fairly extensive sample of the comments.

- Yes indeed. 'It's always Saturday.'
- I tried retirement but couldn't stand just sitting around. So I went back to work.
- Oh yes. The chance to reflect on life without the daily pressures of the; rat race is all that it is made out to be.
- Retirement is going just fine. An opportunity not a problem, even for a Type A.
- Probably better than I thought, since I seldom thought about it.
- Yes, it's great—easier for women I think. I sometimes miss the feeling of being productive that came with work and all the different people I met at work, but work came with deadlines and lots of stress, and a few colleagues were pains to deal with, so I don't miss that. (That is, I don't miss having to make up for a colleague who couldn't do the work in a timely fashion, leaving the rest of us stranded.).
- I don't feel as though I've fully experienced it, but do enjoy having more control over my time, and being able to sleep late some days. I don't feel as well-off as I thought I would, after the economic collapse of 2008 (thanks a bunch, Larry Summers!).
- Yes. There is great relief in not having to think for other people anymore, or worry constantly about being sure that I am making correct decisions and doing the right thing. I am also fortunate to be able to afford the indulgences of a modest way of life which gives me varied and ongoing pleasure.
- Retirement is better than I could ever have imagined
- The more I see of getting older, the less I like any part of it.
- No, it is a far more difficult course than advertised, and I dread the final exam.
- It is not as easy financially as I had hoped. This is due to fact that 401K took a big hit in recession and have not been able to downsize our lifestyle as much as needed. That said, working PT is making all ends meet and delays dipping into the 401K. Beyond that finding lots of things to do locally from volunteering, serving on a political board and enjoying sports and social activities.
- I have plenty to do. I find I can be happily occupied every waking moment. My area of interest while I was fully employed is one in which I can continue to be active in retirement, so there was no abrupt shift in my research and writing activities. Retirement for me is like an perpetual sabbatical.
- No. The recession hit just when I retired and then my husband died so all those things I thought I would be doing, like traveling and taking classes, became economically impossible.
- No, am physically and monetarily constrained.
- Health issues have made it difficult to do things I had looked forward to.
- No. I could not convince my wife to do anything or try anything different, and found I was discontent without some focus for my activities.
- I didn't expect much from retirement so I'm not really surprised or disappointed - but I would like find something to do that would make me feel I am contributing more to society.

19. If you are not retired, at what age would you like to retire?

In the approximately 80 responses to this question a couple of themes emerged. More than a quarter of respondents voiced some version of the theme, "I am not going to retire." Or, I am going to go on working as long as I can." Another 10% of responders tied retirement to slipping health or competency to perform a job. Stated another way, retirement is not presently in the plans of more than one-third of classmates who responded. Of those classmates who do have a date or age in mind, 70 is the preferred retirement age. Expected retirement ages clustered from 68 to 72, with a distinct minority 5+% who expect to retire between 75 and 80. Here are representative comments for those who did not just give a specific age.

- I wouldn't like to retire
- I intend to work as long as I'm physically and mentally able.
- Do you have to retire?
- I hope I will never have to retire. Being an artist is to the death or incapacity.
- Never. I plan to die with my boots on.
- Maybe 70...maybe 75.
- With a 14 year old stepdaughter, I'm hoping for 80
- I would prefer not to have to retire until I am at least 75.
- I'm not sure if I will fully retire.
- I'm not interested in retiring; I'm interested in choosing how much to work
- When I win the lottery.
- Don't really want to ever but I suppose I will have to.
- Never!

20. Did the recent economic downturn affect the timing of your retirement or the retirement choices you face?

One hundred seventy eight classmates responded to this question. A good two-thirds said the economic downturn had no or very little impact on their retirement decision or the timing of it. Just over 20% said that it had a noticeable impact and the remaining 10 plus percent said they experienced somewhat of an impact. Among the comments, were these:

- In March 2008 it looked like early retirement had been a poor decision, but two years later our investments have all come back.
- No, but it certainly increased my feelings of insecurity
- Delayed it one year
- Not mine, really but it did my husband's.
- No, because I was already retired. But it did change how my wife and I paid attention to every dollar we spent and maximized the income we could earn. My wife went back to work, for instance.
- It probably kept me working another year or two, and it certainly has changed by expectations for retirement. It has transformed my appraisal of my own economic status. I no longer describe myself as 'comfortable' or 'upper middle class'. I'm really angry about the economic oligarchy that this country has become.

- Postponed it for a few years, though having a son still college at an Ivy League school would probably do that anyway.
- It means I'll be working for quite a few more years
- Definitely. If I had known what was coming, I would not have retired when I did. Now I'm having to find ways to enjoy retirement without money.
- I recognized an opportunity to exit the auto industry (which is subject to periodic severe cycles) early in the recession while severance packages were still good.
- I was laid off from a full-time position, and I have been practicing as an independent consultant. At present I do not have sufficient resources to retire comfortably.
- Perhaps, but our plans weren't very specific so they didn't have to be "altered".

21. What is the best thing about getting older?

The responses to this question defied categorization. Many themes were well in evidence, however. These included enjoying the pleasures of family and children, the opportunity to rebalance life and pursue further education or interests from earlier years, and the ability to see the bigger picture and be less consumed by short term goals and the expectations of others. From a rich number of comments, we have chosen to offer a several examples. Some are very representative of other comments, others less so.

- Becoming more comfortable with myself with less anxiety and stress
- Less concern what other people think. Realizing our common human situation
- Becoming wiser!
- Not being dead.
- Discounts at the multiplex? Assured seating on the Metro? No, I'm with Woody Allen on this one. I don't think there's anything good about getting older.
- Seeing children and grandchildren thrive and grow.
- I know what I should have done.
- Having friends you have known for more than 40 years.
- Realizing I don't need to climb mountains anymore. I'm much mellower in my pursuit of happiness.
- Being able to use 'been there and done that' as a basis for advice to the next generation.
- Experience and the wisdom that comes from it, and a deepening of spiritual awareness.
- Not worrying much about what other people think of me and just being comfortable with who I am.
- Having more excuses that seem credible.
- Enjoying decades-old friendships, seeing my children mature.
- More self-acceptance. The constancy and love of my spouse.
- No longer feeling competitive, being off the treadmill of unreasonable meritocracies.
- Learning how to drop my youth's competitiveness and POSI (Parasite of Self-Importance).

- The inner freedom that comes from realizing that you're basically just an ordinary person, that individuality is largely a myth, and that one needn't care much about the good opinion of others.
- Making better use of my time, not worrying about small things, holding fewer grudges, having a better sense of perspective and becoming more tolerant
- The feeling that I have arrived to some extent where I was heading.

22. What is the worst?

The 150 plus responses to this question clustered predictably around the real loss of good health and physical capacity, as well as the soon to be expected deterioration of the body and stamina. Scattered among the concerns about physical decline, were many comments that captured in interesting ways other things we regret about getting older. We present a good sample of individual comments as these best reflect the range of ideas and concerns.

- Regrets.
- Less sex.
- Feel opportunities shrink.
- Recognizing that I am probably never going to make it through all of Recherche du Temps Perdu. Either that or increasingly recognizing in myself my father's mannerisms and attitudes after suppressing them for two-thirds of a century.
- Fears for future decline of self and friends and peers and partner....
- The reality that my time to learn and see things is quite finite.
- I didn't do what I now know I should have.
- The mortality thing. Your heroes get sick. Your heroes die. Then friends get sick. Friends die. Then you get sick
- Unwarranted condescension from younger people.
- Realizing that I will never achieve some of my goals and aspirations.
- Body deteriorating.
- Some real assholes will outlive me.
- Knowing that things that go bump (and creak and grind) in the night are more often than not attached to me.
- Watching people spend time re-inventing wheels, repeating studies that were competently and conclusively pursued more than 10 years ago.
- There's nothing bad about retirement! Knowing that you're nearing the 'finish line' is daunting but that knowledge does help you enjoy life more.
- Being sluffed off as valueless by competitive youths.
- Losing the sense of endless time and possibilities.

25. Do you still send handwritten letters?

We are a group that values technology even if we don't always love it. A hundred per cent of us regularly use home computers. Over two thirds of us use conventional cell phones, and 43% of us are reading our email and finding restaurants on iPhones and other smart phones. We're scanning documents (62%), using digital cameras and video recorders (78%), and—somewhat

surprisingly—still faxing (50%). Only 14% of us own iPads, but nearly a third of us are reading books on e-book readers. Ninety-three per cent of us use email as our primary source of communication, while only 6% use email rarely, sometimes, or not at all.

Given this, you would think that we would no longer send handwritten letters, but 62% of us still do on occasion, mostly as thank you notes and letters of condolence. The other 38% think handwritten letters have gone the way of eight-track tapes, and some of us haven't picked up a pen in years.

Sample comments:

- Handwritten letters are only for the few old dinosaurs who don't use the computer.
- I have six fountain pens, but I don't send handwritten letters. What's wrong with this picture?
- Handwritten letters and notes are personal; nothing else meets that challenge.
- In my view, the handwritten letter is a mark of good upbringing.
- My handwriting has deteriorated so much that I'm better off typing.
- Handwritten letters have remarkable impact because they are now so rare.
- I used to love to write and to receive letters. There is something intense and personal about the real thing. I do it too rarely these days.
- If I retired to Tuscany, I might write letters again.

26. Have you ever played a computer game?

Computer games don't hold much appeal. Only 4% of us play them regularly, although almost two thirds of us have given them a try at one time or another. The rest of us have never played a game on a computer, and many of us consider computer games a waste of time.

Sample comments:

- I played one of the first and best games ever devised called *Star Wars* on a computer at Harvard in 1964. I haven't played since.
- I played a game with my son when he was seven. Does that count?
- Does the stock market count?
- Angry Birds is addicting.
- Solitaire and Snood are my Valium.
- I have better ways to waste my time.
- The visuals make me seasick.
- I've never played computer games, but my computer plays with me all the time.
- Hey, man, I WAS a Klingon at Paramount Studios in 1982!

27. Do you have your own webpage?

Only a fourth of us have our own webpage. The rest of us are not interested, dislike social media, and want to protect our privacy, or feel that self-promotion is unseemly.

Sample comments:

- I feel a webpage is a business necessity.
- It is a university requirement.
- The economic downturn motivated me to get one.
- I've had a webpage for my business for years, and plan to create another one for my art.
- One of the best things I ever did.
- Yee gods, no!
- A personal webpage strikes me as hopelessly egotistical. Really, who out there cares?
- Why would I want one? Privacy is precious?
- I don't consider myself that important.
- Web pages will be the new tombstones.
- Say what??

28. Are you a regular user of social media, such as Facebook or LinkedIn?

In a similar vein, only one quarter of us are regular users of Social Media like Facebook or LinkedIn.

Sample Comments:

- I grew up in the McCarthy era, and the notion of putting private information in the public domain absolutely baffles me.
- I use email extensively but NEVER, NEVER would I "twitter."
- I belong to both Facebook and LinkedIn but seldom post.
- I prefer the old fashioned way of making friends—meeting people face to face.
- I don't post on Facebook more than once or twice a month.
- I don't trust Facebook's privacy policy.
- Facebook—Love it, love it.
- I have been a Facebook user for about a year and find it addictive.
- I write as a profession, not for free.

29. Have you:

Written and published fiction or poetry?	27	22.9 %
Written or published nonfiction?	99	83.9 %
Blogged?	24	20.3 %
Made a film?	11	9.3 %
Made a video recording and uploaded it to an Internet site such as YouTube?	15	12.7 %

30. Have you ever participated in an online virtual community, such as Second Life? (Did you know there is a virtual Harvard Yard in Second Life?)

Although we may not be heavy users of social media, we do a lot of writing. Eighty-four per cent of us have published nonfiction, and 23% have published fiction or poetry. A fifth of us are regular bloggers, 9% of us have made a film, and 13% have uploaded videos to Internet sites such as YouTube. The vast majority of us have not participated in an online virtual community such as Second Life, although a few of us know that there is a virtual Harvard Yard in Second Life. Although some of us expressed a love for virtual communities, most of those who did not participate in them were vehement about their lack of interest or the feelings of repulsion such a possibility generated.

Sample comments.

- NO!
- No way.
- I found it eerie.
- Tried Second Life for professional reasons. Couldn't dress my avatar and get out of the orientation area without help. Doesn't grab me.
- I've never heard of Second Life.
- Real life is enough for me.
- I'm still having enough difficulties with my First Life, thank you.
- My novel is about a virtual community, so I was aware of the virtual Harvard Yard.
- I participated in the Second Life class reunion last year. It was fun!
- I should find out more. What do I do?

31. On the whole, has the advent of computers and new communication modes made your life better or worse?

Almost all of us feel that computers and other new modes of communication have made our lives better. Generally we were enthusiastic about this, although many of us expressed reservations particularly with regard to how much time we spent at our computers. About 8% of us felt that new modes of communication had made our lives neither better nor worse but merely different. Only one person felt they had made life much worse.

Sample comments:

- Much better!
- Infinitely better!

- I even got my email from a yurt in Mongolia.
- The downside is that I'm in front of a computer for way too many hours every day.
- Better, but there are serious negatives: loss of privacy, ease of identity theft.
- Better, but the pace has become too fast.
- Life was pretty good in the 70s and 80s when we put business material in the mail and it got there 1-3 days later.
- Better, but when technology doesn't work, it screws up life in enormously frustrating ways. Comcast is driven by demons!
- They have been a mixed bag.
- They have not made my life better.

32. Which aspects do you like most? Least?

The aspects which we said we liked most and least about computers, iPhones, email, and the like, were not particularly surprising, but many waxed eloquent on the subject, speaking of their loves, their hatreds, and in some instances, expressing strong concerns about the increasing loss of privacy. We value speed and instant access to information; the ability to keep in touch with friends, family and business associates; the ease of communication over great distances. Yet at the same time, we hate spam and unsolicited email; loathe setting up new hardware and software and not having them work; are disturbed by the speed by which hatred and misinformation can be promulgated over the internet; dislike the loss of the personal touch – the sound of a voice on a phone, a face-to-face encounter. Our hands and wrists hurt, we feel overburdened, and there are times when we are not sure that so much communication is a good thing.

Sample comments:

- No more carbon paper or white out.
- Endless information easily accessed is fantastic.
- Skype enables me to keep in touch with my family living overseas.
- I like being part of my children's and grandchildren's lives in real time.
- The web has revolutionized library research.
- I'm a bandwidth hog.
- Many wonderful books now forgotten are now online. See for example the works of John Titcomb Sprague, the Thucydides of the Seminole War.
- It's too intrusive.
- Communication is easier in some ways but there's too much of it.
- Sometimes email feels like a form of bondage.
- Misunderstandings can blossom unexpectedly. Family feuds can erupt in the least likely places.
- I dislike the irresponsibility of sites and blogs that churn out misinformation and hate speech.
- The worst? Old girlfriends can find you.

33. How many times have you been married (or partnered)?

A full 180 of our responding classmates have either been married or in a partnering relationship, with 67% of those choosing to enter into the relationship only once and another 28% just twice. Hollywood, we're not. That said, for some even traditional relationships have not always been that "traditional."

Sample comments:

- Depends on how you define it.
- 2, no 1. . . . The first was invalidated (annulled), so twice in spirit, once.
- Three times married; three times divorced once for 10 years legally to opposite sex partner; and three same-sex partners for 5-7 years each, without legal benefits.
- 2 times. First one was to learn how to do it right.
- Once is enough - 44th anniversary coming up - marriage was great probably 41 out of the 43 years.
- Once (is enough when you find the Perfect Mate.)
- Twice (two and a half). Real answer to 34 is that I have a permanent, non-wife but wife-like girlfriend.

36. If you are married or partnered, what does your spouse or partner presently do for a living?

From our 140 respondents there were several common clusters regarding career choice: 25% of the spouse/partners are semi or fully retired; 21% chose the educational profession, with most of those in higher education; 18% have spent their careers in the medical profession; and 15% have dedicated themselves to such causes as social justice and the environment. Though perhaps different in percentage, these spouse/partners are likely not all that much different in vocation from many members of the Class of '66 to whom they're married.

Sample comments:

- My husband is presently a group therapist in a behavioral health hospital. This is his second career, begun at age 65.
- The same thing I do – we run a B&B.
- Executive director of a nonprofit low-income community development organization.
- Stabilizes the life of all around her by being who she is. This is sometimes contentious for those who do not view stabilizing as a virtue.
- My spouse is a psychologist, mother and leader in social causes
- My husband just retired. Before that he was a health care attorney. Now, he's writing nonfiction books related to his past life as a philosophy professor.
- Director of children's ministries at our church.
- Runs a school at an Ivy League university.
- Professor as am I.
- Never employed.
- Investigates guardianships for the probate court.

- Her concern, communication, counsel, organization, and service contribute to the ‘living’ of everyone around her. Many of the most important things in life are not comprehended in economic terms.
- She is a lawyer with an M.B.A. She helps startups get venture capital. We work together on our films and on our dog breeding/boarding business.
- She’s currently writing a book on a serious disease – from the patient’s standpoint.

37 and 42. Do you have children? If so, how many? How about Grandchildren?

150 of our 160 responding classmates have had at least one child, with almost half having two children. As we all remember, back in the day that was considered the optimum number, despite the fact that the parents depicted in most of our tv lifestyle sitcoms demonstrably disregarded that advice and were much more prolific (Ozzie and Harriet notwithstanding). Speaking of prolific, one of our respondents claims 12 children and 38 grandchildren. That classmate could be pulling our collective leg...or is having so much fun living out life enjoying all those grandchildren that we should all applaud. The statistics:

Children	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five-Twelve
Respondents:	10	12	73	9	7	8 each

Total Children: 281

Grandchildren	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	12	38
Respondents:	77	22	17	19	10	7	3	2	1	1

Total Grandchildren: 270

38. If you had children, did you find it difficult to combine a career (or careers) with child rearing?

It depends on how you define “difficult.” There were over 170 responses to this question, and easily 90% of them either agreed that combining a career with raising children was not easy, or while disagreeing, added the caveat that to do it successfully required many changes and sacrifices. With some of those sacrifices lifelong. Perhaps what is unsaid in the comments below...but likely understood (through experience) by many classmates...is that while we may have been better prepared for our life’s work and perhaps other aspects of life than our contemporaries elsewhere, we didn’t necessarily have a leg up when it came to childrearing. Because if you’ve seen one dirty diaper, you really haven’t seen them all.

Sample comments:

- For the first 12 years of my son’s life, I worked part-time and ran our household. For the second 12 years, I worked full time at a challenging job and my husband ran our household. You can’t do it all, all the time.
- No. I was lucky to be able to be home for breakfast and dinner with my kids virtually every day. My wife didn’t work and did a great job with the kids.
- I missed some key moments, and am fortunate that my wife was able to carry more than her share of raising the kids
- Yes and no. I opted for a career that could be carried on at home. My schedule was very flexible. Raising children and being a full time artist were compatible. The down side was

that I never earned very much money as an artist and this has been difficult even after my children were grown.

- There were no role models for my wife and me in our profession to emulate. Of those who might have been, their families were often dysfunctional. So we felt like trail breakers for raising a normal family despite the long hours and emotional toll that our profession demanded and took from us. We are both physicians. But we succeeded
- No. We always had great Danish au pairs to help out. When we were not working the children came first most of the time.
- No. My wife stopped teaching English when we got married and became a homemaker. Financially, it was a challenge for us for the first 10 years, however.
- Difficult, sure. Child-rearing can take 48 hours of each day. Did I feel I had to choose between them? No, balance was possible.
- It was not always easy, especially when my consulting required 60+ hour weeks and a lot of traveling. We were fortunate to have good childcare when the girls were young. My first career I was a university professor with a very flexible schedule. When the children were pre-teen and teenaged, both my wife and I worked. We shared a house with my brother and his wife, so there multiple adults around, which was helpful. It was difficult for my wife when she was working full-time, she was from the time the children were small. We did not have a choice because my salary as an academic was too low to support a middle class life style.
- Lord, yes! With an attorney husband who was expected to work until 10 PM most evenings, it was very difficult to find a way to ‘share’ child rearing. My husband did help on weekends and he’s a very good cook, so it wasn’t all on my shoulders, but it was still hard. I went to grad school and then taught for a while when we just had 1 child, but when we had 2 children, well, it was too much. I felt pulled in two directions just about all the time, and when both my children became ill with pneumonia when I was teaching at MIT, and ‘retired’ to being a full-time Mommy for several years. It was a great relief, actually, and my kids loved my being available for them.
- Yes, of course, but worth it. I note, as below, that you are not asking about gender differences, but being the mother obviously made the career/parent combination more difficult, not because my husband was irresponsible, but because many tasks, and most of the worry, fell to me by default.
- We are an economic, social, and emotional unit with individuals performing complementary roles. She led on the home front, I earned the paycheck. While she was overwhelmed, I probably changed more diapers than the average mother of two or three.
- I put aside certain ambitions and goals while raising our children. Later, I was able to do more but that made a real difference in my career.
- My wife and I had a ‘traditional’ arrangement and resemble Ozzie and Harriet.

39. What was the greatest difficulty in combining a career with childrearing?

Pick one. Time, timing energy, resources (or not), balance, societal issues, society itself, constant trade-offs (often inequitable) and a multitude of other barriers, human included. But the majority of our 120 respondents seldom limited even the requested “greatest” difficulty to just one. Some difficulties had been sequential, others causal, and too many had to be faced effectively alone. Still, for most of respondents, answering this question seemed to be less about complaining than simply acknowledging a series of challenging realities now past. In a figurative way, just like the dirty diapers.

Sample comments:

- My husband was a career naval officer and gone most of the time our children were growing up. I made a conscious decision to focus my attention on our two children, giving them as stable and rich a life as possible.
- For several years I spent fourteen hours a day, six or seven days a week, away from home, and the home life clearly suffered.
- Not that much support in society for parents. Childcare expensive. Women especially have to deal with all the negative feedback about “working mothers.” No one seems to talk of ‘working fathers.’ But I raised my children years ago when there was a greater sense of community, and many of us created systems to support us in our dual roles—childcare collectives, communes, etc. There was also not such a sense as there is now that mothers must do it all for their children to ensure that they grow up “stimulated,” “brilliant,” etc.
- The public school systems of which my wife and I were products deteriorated over the years and did not serve our children’s intellectual needs and personal safety. Reluctantly, we sent our second child to private schools.
- Dealing with obstreperous females between ages 14 and 19.
- Finding TIME and a sane balance between what I felt to be conflicting but equally important obligations/needs. I felt I owed something to my place of employment (and the students I was teaching) and I also felt that I owed my children my loving attention and care. And ultimately, I also needed some time for myself - to read for pleasure, to play with paints, to sing in a group in my spare time, to re-energize myself and/or to just have a chance to ‘smell the roses’ for a bit and enjoy doing things with my husband. But there wasn’t enough time for all of this! Babysitters would fall through, children would get sick, school meetings would run long. It was constant stress.
- Balance. Specifically balancing time between family, my profession, and my avocation (a love of participating in team sports well into my late ‘40s). All too often I found myself out of balance and a little re-balancing was required. Perhaps that’s why my wife has occasionally referred to me as being unbalanced. You think?
- Learning to be a ‘mother’ when their mother died.
- It was very hard to understand the crisis that young girls often go through in their early teens (the ‘crashing’ described in the book *Raising Ophelia*). I knew nothing about it before it happened. Similarly, the experimenting with drugs that boys (and girls) do was not something I myself had experienced and was therefore difficult for me to know how to handle.
- Settling sometimes fierce marital disputes amicably with the kids around. That’s hard.
- Time and money. Being at home made me behind my peers in work experience. My spouse worked full time and the inequity in salaries for our whole time together lead to a power imbalance that I haven’t been able to solve...so I’ve come out to be a relatively poor person with devoted children, while my spouse is a rich person with children who admire his star qualities, Literally, I travel by bus, my spouse goes first/business class by plane, and after a while it just sticks in my craw

40. Where did your children go to college?

160 of our classmates offered responses to this question, with many listing several schools because of having more than one attending child and also including both colleges and graduate schools attended. For purposes of this analysis, included are (1) Harvard University (2) The other Ivy League Schools (3) Other well-known highly selective colleges and universities (4) The other named institutions, many that arguably could be included in “top tier,” particularly regionally. Numerically as follows:

Harvard University	55
The Other Ivies	25
Other Top Tier	100
All Others	145

Sample comments (mentions):

- Haverford, Stanford for Master’s, Harvard for doctorate (2). Vassar, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for Master’s.
- 2 went to Harvard undergrad; 1 to Brown undergrad. Advanced degrees are from Oxford, Yale, Brown and Cornell
- One daughter graduated from Smith, after spending at least a semester at Wheelock, Wesleyan, and Oxford. The other daughter graduated from Cornell.
- #1 attended New College, then Castleton College, settled in at University of Vermont, and went to University of North Carolina for grad school; #2 attended BU for a year, hated it, then transferred to Occidental College, where she was Phi Beta Kappa and thrived. Tufts U for grad school.
- B.A. from Carleton College.; M.S. from Georgia Tech; University of Vermont for doctorate.
- Grinnell and Vassar; graduate degrees from Northwestern, Georgetown, and UC Berkeley.
- University of Oregon, University of Alaska, Lewis & Clark, and Acadia University in Nova Scotia.
- Two to Reed, one to Vassar.
- Our children range from PhD university professor to mentally handicapped. Half went to college, others entered skilled trades. The one who applied to Harvard (but didn’t make the cut) had to get her doctoral degree elsewhere.
- One attended Bard College; another graduated from Simmons College and earned a Masters Degree from Georgetown University; and a third graduated from Harvard College.
- After my experience with Harvard, we decided to avoid the Ivy League rat race and picked smaller schools — Franklin & Marshall (PA) and Macalester College (MN). Both have provided excellent educations and other valuable college experiences. Somebody there seems to care, making them good places for young adults to grow.
- Harvard, Northwestern, and Cornell
- Dartmouth College; 2. Queens University, Kingston, ON, Canada; University of Toronto; 3. York University, Toronto, ON, Canada

41. Are you satisfied with the career choices made by your children?

Slightly less than half of our respondents chose to address this question, with those deferring likely doing so because...as others did actually express...they didn't feel that such a judgement was within their purview. Or perhaps even within ours to request. However, 60 (2/3) of those who did respond were very positive and supportive about their children's career choices, as compared with only 8 who disapproved. The remaining others who responded (22) chose either not to assess at all or considered their assessment to be still ongoing. It could well be possible that the high rate of approval (with those who were at least not negative included) speaks to the academic and family foundations that likely influenced the children's career choices. Certainly it would be gratifying to think so.

Sample comments:

- Yes, who questions the choices made by their children.
- Yes and no, proud of them except I wish they hadn't both ended up in the law!
- Yes—it's their choice.
- Yes. They have selected careers that they ENJOY. Their career choices, like their choice of a college, were theirs to make.
- Yes, but I really wanted them to make their own choices. I didn't have pre-planned careers for them at all. One chose to become an English major and is a technical editor now - she loves doing that. She told me she had to work in something to do with writing because it was the only thing she was 'anal' about! The other was an American history major, with a minor in art history, and then she went on to get an MAT in early childhood education. She does a lot with arts and crafts with children now.
- Very satisfied. Each is doing what he likes most. The first is keeping a roof over his head as a free-lance musician and playwright. The second gave up a career in investment banking to become a college professor.
- Yes, except for those of our children who are themselves not satisfied with their own choices.
- Absolutely. They were chosen by each of them and pursued with zeal and commitment to be the best they could be in their respective chosen endeavors.
- Would have preferred a liberal arts education before jumping into professional education.

43. Is religion important in your life?

This question triggered a large number of responses, 185 in all. These responses which varied from a one word "yes" or "no" answer to paragraphs of varying length were grouped into four categories: "Yes," "No," "Somewhat or moderately," and "Spirituality very important, formal religious observance, not so much."

About one quarter of responders answered, "Yes." A little over one-third answered with "No." And, about 20 percent answered "somewhat, or moderately". This category included several respondents who stated that they had been regularly church members when young or earlier in their lives, but had drifted away and do not attend or only sporadically attend today.

A little more than 15 percent of responders specifically mentioned the importance of spirituality in their lives, including a focus on religious values and/or participation in a religious or spiritual community. Several of these responses drew a distinction between participation in a particular church or religion as opposed to leading a spiritual existence. The latter, including the examination of ethical and moral issues, was of greater importance.

Sample comments.

- Yes.
- No!
- Yes. Not religion but the spiritual aspect of life.
- Thinking about religion is important. I do not go to synagogue.
- Not in the least. I am concerned about the power vested in religions and the abuse of that power.
- No, but spirituality is the core of my life.
- Religious customs are important but not God.
- Yes. My belief in Jesus Christ as my personal savior is the most important factor in my life. At age 30, I determined that service to Him was my life's purpose.
- Yes. My life has been shaped by my faith.
- Asking the sort of questions religion attempts to answer is important.
- So, on the days I feel more agnostic, I call myself a Deist and take comfort that I am in the company of Thomas Jefferson and many of our founding fathers. On other days I am just an atheist. That said, all of us need a moral compass in life and I have found the Bible and the teachings of Jesus to be a valuable moral compass.
- Faith is, religion is not. I was raised Roman Catholic and attended Catholic schools for 12 years. I don't think much of the Catholic Church. Maybe I'd look again if they had female priests.
- No. In fact, I am extremely hostile to it.
- Yes, we are members of the Presbyterian Church and believe that lack of religious activity is one of the many devastating problems of America.
- Individual religious beliefs are, but not organized religion.
- Not organized religion. However, living a life of caring for others (and the planet), being tolerant, empathetic, and forgiving are all very important.
- Somewhat - I find attending church relaxing and a good time for thought.
- Religious questions are very important to me, but I haven't found many satisfying answers.
- In a general way, yes. I am not particularly pious, but I am theological.

44. What, if any, is your religious affiliation?

One hundred sixty-seven classmates responded to this question. About 30% said their affiliation was to the broadly defined Protestant church. Half of these (15%) said they were Episcopalians with the other 15% spread across Presbyterians, Lutherans, Congregationalists, and Methodists. About 23% of all respondents said they were Jewish. And, roughly 5% cited membership in the Catholic Church, about the same level as Unitarians. Other affiliations mentioned by classmates were to the Society of Friends and to the Mormon Church. About 4% spoke of a spiritual affiliation, sometimes personal, sometimes organized. Just shy of one quarter claimed no religious affiliation or asserted a belief in atheism. With most classmates providing brief answers to this question, we only offer a few selected quotations.

- My spiritual education or evolution is self-directed. But when in doubt, head for the Episcopalians.
- Secular humanist. I find quasi-religious value and satisfaction in music and art.

- Buddhist, Zen and Vipassana
- Episcopalian (from the cradle).
- Strictly speaking none. I consider myself part of our western Judeo-Christian heritage. I attend church occasionally when I feel like it.
- Militant atheist.
- Liberal Protestant (an endangered species?)
- Jewish (vaguely, aspirationally).
- Unitarian-Universalism, Judaism
- I'm borderline Quaker

45. Our Class is on the cusp between war babies and baby boomers (who, according to the US Census Bureau, were born between 1946 and 1964). With which generation do you identify more?

The majority of our classmates identify with baby boomers but a large number also see themselves as war babies. About an eighth of those who responded said they “didn’t know,” “didn’t care” or that the entire concept was “hogwash for the media to write stories about.”

Sample comments:

- I'm a boomer (some demographers date boomers from 1943). I went to grad school at Berkeley, watched multiple movements bloom. ‘We’ did, in fact, change the world.
- I feel more like a war baby, having been born just as WW II was ending, and hearing a lot about it. The study of the war and especially the Holocaust has been a preoccupation of mine.
- Definitely war babies. After all, I AM a war baby! I remember an article in the NY Times magazine when my husband and I were 26 years old, entitled (of all things) ‘Old Fashioned at 26.’ Yup, that was me/my husband, nailed right there! We have a bunch of older friends that we are very simpatico with. I never identified with baby boomers, that uppity bunch!
- Since my father was killed in the Second World War, I identify with the war generation in some ways, but I consider myself a baby boomer in terms of how I lived my life

47. Were you drafted? Did you take any active steps to avoid being drafted?

The vast majority of our classmates did not serve in Vietnam or in the military in any form. Ninety-four of those who responded said that they were not drafted, many adding that they avoided the draft by staying in graduate school until they were over the age of twenty-six. Fourteen were drafted. Only eight enlisted (one in the Marine Corps, several in USPHS). Obviously, women were not subject to the draft nor were they permitted to enlist in our era.

Sample Comments:

- You may recall that the class of ‘66 was the last college class to get a five year deferment for graduate school. I went to graduate school because I wanted to, but I was very much aware of the break we got, and very careful not to get my doctorate before I turned 26.
- I taught at Harvard instead.
- I was in ROTC at Harvard. However, I was also editor of the cadet newspaper, and I made myself unpopular with several editorials which ventured to question the value of the war and the way it was being fought. After that, it was strongly suggested that I resign — not only as editor, but from the ROTC program. I made the most of that opportunity.

- I believe I got one of the last 4Fs in Connecticut. If you are a young person reading this report, you might ask an older one what that means.
- I would have gone to Canada if I had been drafted. Several Canadian graduate departments in astronomy would have been happy to have me as a student.
- I was a conscientious objector. I was not prosecuted.
- I stayed in grad school for years, then left and took my chances on the lottery. My number came up and I told them I was gay and was rejected.
- Thankfully, my number never came up. Out of loyalty to country, I would have gone if called, but with the benefit of retrospect am grateful I did not get sucked into participating in that disaster.
- Because of the draft, I never seriously considered any post-college options except graduate school. (This was a mistake — I realized later that I wasn't ready for graduate school and that working would have been a much better choice for me.)
- I definitely avoided the draft. It would have interfered with my battlefield activities in Indochina.

49. Did you participate in any of the civil rights or antiwar demonstrations of the 1960s?

About a third of those who responded stated that they had participated in the anti-war or civil rights demonstrations of the 1960s. Of those who did not participate, about half expressed regret. There was one strong objection to the fact that there was no question in this survey about the rise of militant feminism.

Sample Comments:

- I went to DC to hear Martin Luther King in August 1963. I planted tomatoes in People's Park in Berkeley in 1968—never threw a stone at anyone, police or protester. I tried to join an early women's lib group but they wouldn't have me—I was not oppressed enough (didn't have a domineering hubby or boyfriend).
- Did I participate? Yeah!!
- Only minimally. I was always kind of apolitical. More interested in English poetry than in civil rights
- Yes, SNCC in Mississippi in 1964.
- I was in Indochina so I missed it all.
- Among other things I ran Vietnam Summer in NYC in 1967 and organized a number of large demonstrations in that capacity.
- I became a Goldwater Republican.

50. Were you ever tear-gassed or arrested in connection with a political protest?

A hundred and forty-five of those of us who responded never got anywhere tear gas during the anti-war demonstrations of the 1960's. Thirty-three got gassed, often by accident. Only one was arrested, although several had close calls.

Sample comments:

- I was tear-gassed covering demonstrations in Paris for CBS News.
- Near tear gas, never cried (Pentagon 1967).
- Yes, I was tear-gassed, but not as a protestor...rather as someone trying to keep protestors and police from hurting each other.

- I was tear-gassed more than once, I was taken out of a civil rights demonstration during which onlookers attacked marchers (marchers taken out in paddy wagons), I was never arrested.
- Never had the honor.
- I was at the Chicago Convention as head of the McCarthy ‘organization’ in my state. My only experience with tear gas was as it wafted in from the park while I was eating a great meal in a nearby restaurant. Missed getting beaten up by the police in the McCarthy HQ by a few minutes or hours. I’d left when they attacked.
- No; I was, however, tear-gassed in my military training. It was not pleasant.

51. What is your view today of the war in Vietnam?

Only a two of those of us who responded thought the war in Vietnam had been a good idea (although those who had served were proud of their military service); three felt either neutral or indifferent, and two saw it as “the key to the defeat of Soviet communism.” Another respondent wrote a long objection to “this inordinate focus on the Vietnam War,” urging us to get over it and reminding us that “it is verging on half a century since it occupied prime time.”

Sample comments:

- I opposed it then, I oppose it now.
- I believe it was badly conceived and fought. I believed in the cause.
- Absurd
- A misguided effort.
- Folly. Created social & political conflicts that are still alive.
- It was a terrible mistake of foreign policy. The Viet Cong were not nice folks, but it was a civil war and not a proxy contest between the United States and either the Soviet Union or mainland China. The assumptions on which our entry into that war were based were misplaced, and hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of people – including two per cent of my high school graduating class – died as a result.
- As I thought then, it was a horrible, tragic error and a permanent stain on this countries moral standing in the world. It was a waste of all our countrymen who died, including my friend Peter Johnson.
- An unavoidable evil.
- We never should have been there in the first place.
- My strongest view is disgust with how ‘Americans’ treated Vietnam veterans upon their return from combat. Somehow, we Americans failed to recognize the valor and sacrifices of the individual soldiers because we were angry about the prosecution of the war. So, we ‘killed the messenger.’
- The war in Vietnam accomplished its purpose in deterring communism from spreading throughout SE Asia. That was the ‘fear’ that drove our leaders, starting with JFK, to send military forces to Vietnam. Our country learned, the hard way, with 39,000 deaths from that conflict, that military might alone cannot win a war. Fortunately, over 35 years after the war’s end, we enjoy reasonably good relations with ‘communist’ Vietnam. In trade relations, we’re making love not war, which is what the war protesters of the 1960s wanted. Our country is more cautious about committing ground troops on foreign soil. Many of my classmates will disagree.
- 50,000 + Americans were killed for nothing. Johnson, McNamara and Westmoreland (the light at the end of the tunnel crew) deserve eternal damnation.

52. Would you like to see the use of marijuana for recreational purposes become legal?

This one wasn't close. The number of classmate respondents who answered in the affirmative was double that of those opposed to legalization. Most proponents associated and compared marijuana with already legalized tobacco and alcohol products, or referenced the high cost and inequity currently involved in enforcement of the current laws. Those against legalization focused on the potential outcomes of marijuana use, including experimenting with and ultimately becoming addicted to far more dangerous and devastating (personally and societally) drugs. The arguments haven't changed all that much in 45 years, have they.

Sample comments:

- Yes and no; I was a serious casual user at one point without great harm, but I also know some people who cannot handle it, and who lost all motivation.
- I believe all drugs should be legal and regulated, as with alcoholic beverages. The War on Drugs has been lost since day one.
- No expenditures on enforcement, no concerns about corruption, and dollars to help those desiring rehab.
- Yes, but I would not want to use it. I don't need any new bad habits.
- No. Marijuana is an 'entry way' drug for stronger drugs. It's a portal to trouble, in my opinion. States that have legalized marijuana for medical reasons are having trouble keeping a lid on 'medical only' uses.
- Yes, for tax purposes and to stop the incarceration of young African-American.
- I don't care if people use it for fun and relaxation, but I've read in responsible sources that marijuana use can precipitate schizophrenia in young people who have a genetic susceptibility to schizophrenia.
- No. I appreciate the arguments in favor of that, but I see so many young people who have been so strongly and negatively affected by marijuana use that I think it would add considerably to the downhill slide of a great many lives, especially when use begins in early teens.
- Yes. I view it (from personal experience years ago) as no more dangerous than cigarettes or alcohol - especially alcohol. But, I am not holding my breath, and don't particularly care where we go with this issue.
- Personally, I don't care. However, from a policy point of view, yes. Kind of stupid to allow alcohol and tobacco but jail folks for weed.
- I'd like to see the U.S. legalize not only marijuana but a host of other 'dangerous' drugs as well. Criminalization of these substances achieves nothing but to create a new and very large class of criminals.

53. Which presidential candidate did you vote for in 2008?

Almost all of our classmates who participated in the survey provided an answer to this question, and almost all who answered voted for Barack Obama (by a margin of more than 7:1). We don't know, of course, whether that margin is at all reflective of our entire class. But it likely wouldn't be a stretch to assume that the Class of '66 vote went to our current president by a considerable margin. And a far greater margin than he enjoyed from the general populace. But that was 2008.

John McCain	21	11.5 %
Barack Obama	153	84.1 %
Other	8	4.4 %

54. Who would you like to see elected president in 2012? If not an individual, do you think it is important which major party wins the next presidency? Why?

President Obama was preferred by three times the number of classmate “voters” than all the potential Republican candidates combined. However, many of the comments from our contributors were not so much pro-Obama as anti-Republican. Translation (as well supported in the comments below): We must have a Democrat president!

Sample comments:

- I'd prefer a Democratic president because some Republican ideas are too extreme for me.
- Democrats. Because Republicans care only for the welfare of the rich and seem to have no interest in the needs of the country as a whole.
- Barack Obama has the potential to be one of America's greatest presidents. And most transformative, at a time when we certainly need it.
- A fiscally and constitutionally conservative Republican who believes in the least government necessary to maintain internal peace and protect us from foreign aggression. The Democrats do not share those attitudes. The course we are on now, if not altered, will result in economic devastation for the US. Along with that will come the opposite of the 'social justice' sought by those enchanted with European style socialism and extreme environmentalism.
- I do think it is important that the Democrats win. At least they have some egalitarian vision. The Republicans have sold out to the banks and the wealthy Might support moderate like Romney, but need to see more of such candidates before deciding. Definitely too much polarization between bible-pounding Far Right and tax-and-spend liberal Democrats.
- Obama – yes, terribly important as the Republicans have lost their way and are pandering to the worst aspects of our society.
- Obama. And, yes, I think it's very important which party holds the next presidency. I pretty much disagree with everything that Republicans stand for.
- George Romney is my choice for President. As a Republican, I am hopeful that the people will limit Barack Obama to one term. Therefore, I will support the Republican candidate, no matter who he/she is. The United States is becoming increasingly socialistic and less supportive of free (private) enterprise.
- Obama. I strongly favor the Democrats at this time in history, because the Republicans now in power have adopted iron-tight policies against taxation to pay for what I regard as vital government services, against women's rights, and against the “little guy”.
- Barack Obama or some other Democrat with liberal leanings.
- The Republicans have lost contact with American values. They are the un-American party. We are left with the Democrats.
- I did some grass roots work for Obama in my State and nearby states, and I contributed financially to his campaign. I am deeply disappointed in his presidency.
- Mitt Romney or another Republican who is a fiscal conservative, not a social conservative.
- Obama. Sigh. Despite his inability to negotiate, he's the best we've got right now. We must elect the Dems to keep the Republicans from completely unraveling what little social safety net we have.

- Obama. Very important that the Democrats win. The Republicans are in the hands of people who are ignorant about economic issues, xenophobic, and under the sway of weird ideologues of all sorts. There are many things wrong with the Democratic Party, but in general I think that their minds and hearts are in the right place.
- Obama. Liberal Democrats who value the social net, education, research, space exploration, medicine, unions, pro-choice, decent Supreme Court Justices.

55. How would you rate yourself on a political scale?

Were we to eliminate the survey responder moderates...which, of course, would in real politics be very unwise since history would tell us that the moderate/undecided voter combination can often decide an election...we would be left with four times as many liberals and left wingers as conservatives and right wingers among our responders. Not surprising, given the relative number of Obama voters in Question 53 and Obama/Democrat supporters in Question 54. Oh...and does anyone really think that the moderates in our class would split right down the political middle?

Radical (right wing)	11	6.0%
Conservative	17	9.3 %
Moderate	53	29.0 %
Liberal	102	55.7 %
Radical (left wing)	11	6.0 %

56. Do you feel that you have grown more conservative or more liberal since 1966?

Not surprisingly, around half our respondents indicated that their political persuasion had remained essentially the same since they left Cambridge in 1966. And it's probably not surprising that with the passage of time and the compounding of experiences, another half noted that they had, in fact, grown more conservative or liberal since '66. But what might be surprising is that the numbers moving in each direction are about the same (the caveat: remember that we're drawing from a relatively small sample). A first reaction...and concern by some... might be "Are you kidding? How can there be so many of our classmates becoming conservatives, particularly given how we responded to the previous questions? The answer lies in the word "more," because as often noted in the comments to follow, most of us, while remaining true to our core political beliefs, do sometimes deviate from those leanings based on specific issues (and perhaps even past "mediating" experiences). The fact is, while very few of our responding classmates have changed parties, many have indeed changed. As noted in the comments below.

- I have become more conservative than I was in 1966. But I would probably still be in the top 10% in terms of liberalism.
- Liberals have become the conservatives. Angry and upset like the conservatives of my youth. The conservatives have become the radicals, as the Democrats of my youth. So, still a 'classic' liberal as I was up to Jimmy Carter and malaise; but not the new angry liberal.
- Probably more conservative—social experiments don't always work. But people need to watch out for each other and the collective good, or the species will implode. I'm an old-fashioned progressive.
- I am libertarian, to be more precise. I have become more liberal, not in the current sense, but in the classical sense. Live and let live. Keep government as small as possible.

- I've stayed the same or perhaps become more radical as I see just how extreme capitalism has become in its current international corporate form. To this is the sense of the power that governments have because of the web.
- More conservative....particularly with regard to income maintenance and social service programs. Have also become pro [from radically anti] capital punishment and believe in long, long prisons sentences for violent offenders.
- My views have not significantly changed, society has. Whereas I voted for Democrats until 2000, I did switch parties thereafter.
- More conservative about government spending. More liberal on social issues.
- Stayed about the same, though maybe more conservative on fiscal/economic issues. Definitely liberal on social issues
- More conservative. Perhaps that's why I feel more detached from many of my classmates who railed against President George W. Bush in 2001 and throughout his presidency.
- Both. The 'if it feels good, do it' ethos didn't work out so well, but I am even more committed to the social policies that were supported by such people as Robert Kennedy.
- I have become a little more conservative than I was in 1966, but I would still probably be in the the top 10% in terms of liberalism.
- I have probably grown more conservative over the years, as many of us have. But, I also find that I tend to go one way or another on issues that collectively don't fall into a liberal/Democratic posture or a conservative/Republican posture.
- That's a tough one. I'm able to talk to a wider range of people now and have become skeptical of the liberal/conservative distinctions that we're taught. In many of the most important day-to-day ways (householder, married, tax-paying, law-abiding, employed) I'm conservative and comfortable with it.
- Not really either one. As a kid and at Harvard, I was a young Republican. During the Vietnam War, I got active in the Democratic Party because that is where the action was — Johnson being a Democrat. My move from Cambridge to the South after graduation converted a moderate Republican to a liberal-pinko commie Democrat. I think I appear a bit more centrist these days.
- I left Harvard as a conservative and a Republican. I moved steadily leftward in the 1970's and 1980's but could occasionally find common cause with some Republican positions.. In the last few years I have become socialist in my outlook, and consider myself a radical defender to the environment.

57. Did President Kennedy's inaugural challenge to "ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country" in any way influence subsequent decisions you made?

For many of our classmates the aura of President Kennedy may have dimmed and the romance of Camelot may have faded...or they may never have bought into either in the first place.

For others, that challenge in those times from that man was clearly life changing and often life's work determining. And for even some others, it was much less who said it but what was said that resonated and compelled. Regardless, there are no wrong answers...as is made quite clear in the comments below.

- I have tried to make non-profit work an integral part of my life, and have spent a good chunk of my career in volunteer work. I also give a decent amount to charity. I do think his words inspired me.

- Absolutely. I did civil rights work in the deep south upon graduation from law school and have worked to protect and conserve the environment in and out of government most of my professional life.
- Yes. In areas of corporate responsibility, personal behavior, child rearing and supporting candidates who do not appeal to self-interest.
- Not directly, but I wish more presidents had made similar high-minded appeals.
- Absolutely. JFK inspired generations of Americans, starting with the late Traditionals like me, and the Baby Boomers who were middle-school students when JFK was elected
- His exhortation was in synch with my southern Christian upbringing, which stressed service and even self-abnegation..
- Not really. My Dad had already instilled that obligation into me.
- Absolutely. The zeitgeist as I absorbed it was crucial then, as it is now, to my career choices and general outlook. I am disgusted and disheartened by today's materialism and avariciousness.
- I do feel that with privilege (which we all had) come obligations to make the world better. I went into teaching to give others the pleasure and advantages I'd received in my own education.

58. What present issue worries you the most?

We are worried. Among our many concerns are: America and the world; the Economy/Spending/Deficit; Education; Entitlements; the Environment/Global warming; Healthcare; Hunger and poverty; Immigration; Inequality (Racial and Economic); Media bias and influence; Political divisiveness; Right Wing extremism; Republicans; Terrorism; War. But of particular concern based on number of mentions in the survey are Environment/Global Warming; Racial and Economic Equality; the Economy/Spending/Deficit; and Political Divisiveness. To our classmate respondents these are the big issues of our times. Fast forward now to our 50th Reunion on Commencement weekend, June, 2016. What will have been done to resolve these issues? What will any of us done in our own small or large way to impact that resolution? After all, we are Harvard and Radcliffe '66!

Sample comments:

- Our poor education system.
- Global warming. How are we going to cope, globally, if we don't start now? I'm angry and frustrated that people say 'Do you believe in global warming?' as if it's a question of belief! Denial kills.
- My world is better off when our country is strong. So I am concerned that our country continues to be a strong and vibrant place.
- Governance in Washington has broken down with the extreme elements of the Republican party pushing the country in the wrong direction. I am worried about global warming and do not see politicians willing to tackle it. I am worried about entitlements eating the federal budget. I am worried about health care costs, the huge concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a small minority of Americans, and the extreme poverty of so much of the world.
- The amazing polarization in our own country and around the world. We no longer engage in public dialogue; we shout at each other and neither side listens.
- The huge disparity between the rich minority and the rest of us in this country. I'm afraid that Harvard and other Ivies have contributed to this trend, and also benefited from it. The social fabric is under huge stress because of this, as is the environment.

- Global instability with terrorist and other threats. Global economic crisis and failing state of more and more nations. Global warming and other aspects of environmental crisis, with lack of effective action being taken on this. All of these issues concern me
- In the U.S: Right-wing media ascendancy, anti-immigrant fanaticism, gun nuts, income inequality. Also concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, inattention to issues of race and poverty, the coarsening of American culture and lack of knowledge of the world by many Americans. Internationally: Muslim fanaticism; nationalism everywhere, population & climate; discrimination against women in the developing world.
- The debt load on the country and the liberal influence in media and academia (influencing the young in only one way, not presenting conflicting views.
- The very most? The environment. The signs seem to indicate that this magnificent planet cannot support so many humans, at least not in the style to which we have become accustomed. I fear a terrible reckoning is coming upon us – possibly with the suddenness of the financial meltdown.
- The inability of our government to make sound long term decisions that strengthen the fiscal and political integrity of the country over time. Who thought it would be a good idea to make a long term practice of spending our social security and Medicare taxes on current government obligations? Who thinks it is a sound long term practice to have congressional districts that look like gerrymandered blotches of Swiss cheese. The core views of our parties are on divergent paths and we lack the venues to force compromise and innovative collaborative thinking.
- We are failing to equip the younger generation with the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to maintain a democratic republic. Federal, state, and local governments are spending beyond what is either sustainable or desirable. Bigger government at all levels can only stifle individual and collective initiatives to improve oneself and society. I am concerned that the governing elites and our educators are too infatuated with a socialist outlook while overlooking our constitutional heritage, traditional values, and American exceptionalism.

62. What is the most important thing you have done or accomplished so far?

When we look back on our lives and select the most important things we have done and the accomplishments we value most, a large majority of us are most proud of raising our children and taking care of our families. Many of us also cited acts that had benefited others, followed closely by contributions to professions, businesses, or the arts. Two of us were particularly proud of their service in the Marine Corps. Only four of us felt they had accomplished nothing of importance.

Sample comments:

- My greatest accomplishment has been to raise two children to become wonderful human beings.
- Personally: marrying my Radcliffe sweetheart. Professionally, winning an Oscar.
- On a personal level: being a good friend to my friends and a loving companion to my husband. As a public person: writing 5 collections of poetry and 14 novels.
- Building two operational Revolutionary War ships full size for the Bicentennial.
- Successfully advocating for abused and neglected children.
- Transforming inner turmoil into poetry.
- Working on the Freedom Summer project in Mississippi in 1964
- Mentoring young women both in and out of the workplace.
- Saving a number of massacre victims in Cambodia.
- Reaching the age 66, hopefully without having done too much damage to others or the planet.

- Accepting Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.
- Coming out as a gay man.
- I don't think I've done anything very important except survive.
- I wrestle with this question more than I care to admit.

63. What is the most important thing you haven't done, but wish you had?

Most of us are fairly content with our lives, but when we speak about the most important thing we haven't done but wish we had, a substantial number of us cite "writing a novel" or "finishing a book project," as number one. Others wish they had found a life partner, had children, traveled more, volunteered more, or made more money. Two wish they had found a cure for cancer, two wish they had won a Nobel Prize, and one wishes he or she had won an Olympic gold medal.

Sample comments:

- Written a novel. Maybe in retirement . . .
- Made more money.
- Spent more time with my family.
- Learned to speak Irish Gaelic and Icelandic at an early age.
- I never received a single "A" as an undergrad at Harvard. I joke about it now, but I secretly wish I would have gotten at least one "A."
- Married my wife earlier than I did. It's been a great marriage.
- Honored my parents in their lifetimes.
- I always wanted a marriage and many children.
- Seen polar bears.
- I have no major regrets.

64. What is the most dangerous thing you have ever done, either voluntarily or involuntarily?

Many of us describe ourselves as risk averse, yet quite a few of us, voluntarily or involuntarily, have courted danger. Riding motorcycles and having unsafe sex took first place, followed by having an affair. Car crashes, violence in foreign countries, military service, and dangerous sports filled out most of the rest of the roster.

Sample comments:

- Challenged a crazed Bedouin to fistfight on his home turf.
- Swam in ocean with sharks
- Residence in high homicide zip codes while working with indigent patients.
- Facing up to Baby Doc's Tonton-Macoutes in Haiti.
- Surviving a car crash that was fatal to the driver, seriously hurt my 11-year-old daughter, and threw me out of the car through a broken back window.
- Married the first woman I fell in love with.
- Landed a jet aboard an aircraft carrier – voluntarily.

- Had antagonists in Viet Name try to kill me by shooting at me, firing rockets at me, and dropping mortar rounds on me.
- Oh, scads: Facing down firing squad and rogue elephants, as well as tanks in Tiananmen Square, though I gather the taxi ride to the airport is still the most dangerous part.
- Had sex with a South African who could have infected me with HIV.
- Crossed street without looking.
- I'm a chicken and can't think of anything dangerous I've ever done.

65. Now that you have 20/20 hindsight, if you could have chosen another career, what would it have been?

For the most part we are satisfied with the careers we chose. Many of us cannot imagine doing anything else and if given the chance we would chose the same career again. Some had regrets, the most common of which was not becoming an artist, a physician, or a college professor. One person refused to answer unless we helped him go back to his or her sophomore year, scrape together \$10,000 and invest it with Warren Buffet.

Sample comments:

- Rock Star or Pro Footballer
- The founder of a dot-com start-up in the mid-1990's.
- Episcopal priest
- Zen monk
- Ethnobotanist
- Jazz musician
- Forest ranger
- The same as my father's declared preference: wealthy wastrel.
- Do I get to choose two? Orchestra conductor or chef.
- Italian art restorer
- My wife says I should have been a coach.
- The careers I might have chosen were barely open to me, so the choices I made under the circumstances, I'd make again.
- I wouldn't trade medicine for any other career.

This concludes the overview of survey responses. If you would like a copy of the raw results, please send an email to John Bayne at jbayne@satx.rr.com.

Buzz Baker
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