

I (Bill Levin) hope this column finds you in the holiday spirit and enjoying some restful days.

As I write in late October, it is unknown whether our classmate Tom Kean Jr. will be elected to the U.S. Senate from New Jersey. The polls have gone back and forth and it has been a pretty rough and tumble campaign. Sounds like the Alumni Constitution battle at Dartmouth, right? Thanks to all '90 alumni who took the time to understand the governance issues and vote.

After more than a year after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, I checked in with Henry O'Connor to see how he and Ashley were moving forward. Henry writes, "After a difficult and lengthy decision-making period, Ashley and I decided to relocate to Ashley's hometown of Mobile, Alabama. Fortunately, New Orleans is only two hours away, and we are back and forth often. The historic areas of the City look and feel remarkably normal. Unfortunately, however, the tourism market has been slow to recover, and I think many small businesses in the French Quarter and surrounding areas are suffering. In other areas of the City, including Mid-City, Lakeview, Gentilly, Ninth Ward and New Orleans East, progress is slow and often hampered by issues ranging from insurance availability, labor shortages, and infrastructure challenges. I think the rebuilding effort in these areas will take years."

Nick Stahl just moved "back east" after 16 years in San Francisco and is working for a start-up in the online video space called Brightcove. Nick writes, "I am now living in Cambridge, and after so long on the West Coast, will be looking to re-integrate into life in Boston, where I grew up. I had gotten very involved in the Brazilian/Latin music scene while in San Francisco and will be looking forward to checking it out in the Boston area."

A few miles down Memorial Drive and across The Big Dig, Mark Sternman lives in the North End with his wife, Diana Pisciotta (Boston College '96). Mark notes, "I work for MassDevelopment (quasi-state economic-development agency) and haunt all of my Red Sox friends as a Yankees fan in their midst. Even more perversely, I'm a huge fan of Harvard women's hockey to the point where I travel to Thompson Arena at least once a year to cheer on a school that rejected me over my beloved alma mater. My recent highlights include my donating a kidney to a stranger, working for seven years for Sen. John Kerry ('04 was a bad year for me for both baseball and politics), officiating at a wedding of two friends, and joining the board of Council for a Livable World, which raises funds to elect progressive candidates to the U.S. Senate."

Writing from San Rafael, CA where she lives and runs a local erotic shop called Pleasures of the Heart, Jennifer Islas shares, "I have two children (my daughter, Chloe, graduated with our class and is now almost 16 1/2!). I love being a mom! My daughter is in Australia for one year, having spent a month in the summer in Senegal. My son Isaac is a star high school athlete and a talented musician. They are both amazing people. My husband, Julian, and I are very lucky!" Jennifer sent me her latest newsletter from her store, full of Halloween "special" costumes and "interesting" classes. You can

check out Jennifer's venture at her online store, www.pleasuresoftheheart.com. I am not sure if there is a '90 discount or not!

If you get to Boston, let me know, as the drinks will be on me.