

Megan Porter, Christine Lusk, Mattie Concannon and Sarah Tomlin ham it up on Halloween.



Anne Watts and Co.



Derrick "Right On!" Bupp and Huge.

ECHO HILL CAMBERSHIP FUND

PO Box 5923
Bethesda, Maryland 20824-5923



NEWS FROM ECHO HILL CAMPSHIP FUND

FALL/WINTER 2000 VOLUME XII

Letter from the Board

This summer, we sent a letter thanking all of you for supporting and shaping the Echo Hill Campership Fund over the past ten years. The letter was not intended to solicit contributions—perhaps the first mailing of its kind from us—but many of you sent us checks and words of support. Thank you. Your generosity to EHCF has always exceeded our goals.

This annual newsletter contains a report on the campership kids of 2000 as well as greetings from old friends and announcements of weddings, births, and other news that you have shared with us over the past year. Sadly, it also contains news of unimaginable loss. Three young members of the Echo Hill community were lost to us this year. We remember Tim Brierley, Peter Gallagher, and John Daigh in these pages and extend heartfelt sympathy to their families. These three young men shared a constant love for Echo Hill Camp; their families and communities have acknowledged that love with an outpouring of gifts to the campership fund. That love, that outpouring, will take root and flourish in the experiences of future campership kids.

Eight kids went to Echo Hill this past summer because of your support. Next year we are expecting all of them to return, and hoping to add another. We are also looking toward another big reunion weekend at camp, probably in the summer of 2002. We'll give you plenty of notice about

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The pizza bandits captured on dining hall security camera.

The Silent Ding of 2000

Oh, it was going to be funny. Pete and Penny were going to be so fooled and so shocked. It was going to be classic. It was going to be legendary. It was going to echo forever in the vault of great Echo Hill stories. It never happened, well not really anyway.

The plan: unannounced to Pete and Penny, a group of ex-counselors were going to sneak onto camp and lead activities. Pete would be alerted that activities that day were really lame and that the campers were mounting an insurrection, causing him to launch an investigation. Circling camp, he would discover uncertified (in every way imaginable) ex-counselors leading activities. **Mike Grossman**, and **Derick Bupp** would be playing some form of basketball; **Emily Ignat**, **Sarah Tomlin**, and **Claudia Heimbauch** would be leading bay sketches in the Art Center; **Philip Graham** would be healing campers in the infirmary; **Dara Sicherman** and **Christine Lusk** would be doing sunfish; **Matt Concannon** would be running the waterfront; **Jacqui Viess** would be canoeing; **Chris Tull** would be crabbing; and **Rachel (Skolnik) Cogen** would be prosecuting campers. Would have, should have, could have, but didn't.

Instead: The group of uncertified ex-counselors bought and transported Procolino's pizzas for the entire camp, circled the Whip in the camp pick-up truck, ran into the Whip, and delivered pizzas to disoriented campers who kept asking who all these old people were. The group of ex-counselors then announced to the bewildered and slightly frightened campers that the pizza was a gift for Pete on his birthday (which is actually in December). The relieved campers cheered and sang happy birthday, and a visibly moved Pete skipped, in some fashion, around the dining hall.

That night, Pete was supremely generous and invited all uncertified ex-counselors to his house to join the certified, current staff for dinner. Many hilarious stories of

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Letter from the Board

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exact dates as the event draws closer. The last reunion was amazing. We hope to see many more of you at the next one.

In the meantime, we hope to hear from more of you. While we have always been proud of the level of participation from our alumni base, we also recognize plenty of room for growth. If you haven't contributed in the past, start now. If you haven't contributed in a few years, consider this: nearly every cent of your past contributions went directly toward funding a campership. Anyone would be hard-pressed to name a non-profit with lower indirect costs than EHCF.

Also, some of us have been doing this long enough to observe the following phenomena: nearly every kid who has ever received a campership has 1). had the most fun they have ever had, 2). hated to leave at the end, 3). thought about camp all year long, and 4). managed to have even more fun the following summer.

So, get in touch: send money, send news, send pictures, send your new address. If you want to get even more involved with the EHCF, let us know. There's plenty to do. Your interest and your support are changing worlds for kids. We wish you peace during the holidays and throughout the year.

Sincerely, The EHCF Board ■

E•H•C•F

Echo Hill Campership Fund

PO Box 5923

Bethesda, MD 20824-5923

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Hugh Beshers	Neil Levine
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Campership Update

Who knew that eight kids could have so much fun? The campership class of 2000 virtually recalibrated the fun-meter—it now goes up to “11”. Here's the run-down. Our senior member, in terms of summers at camp (this year was his 5th), is regarded by many counselors as the all-around perfect camper. He is playful, funny, affectionate, cool. He digs disguises, he loves landsports, but he is also gradually conquering his fear of the water. He got up on skis this summer for the first time. Rumor has it that he is verging on achieving full-on cult status.

Our elder stateswoman is a veritable sailing queen. In three summers she is making a run at being the youngest female skipper camp has seen. Two campership kids, siblings, are widely regarded to be the most laid-back, unhassled kids ever to trample Kent County soil. Calm exterior—tough as Honey's donuts on the inside. The girl got right back up on her horse this summer after taking a pretty rough spill. The boy, who can charm crabs right out of the bay, and who has a healthy regard for his gifts as a ladies man, survived repeated rebuffs like a heavy weight fighter pulling himself off the mat.

The Silent Ding

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recent and long ago summers were exchanged. The Funniest Quaker Circle Ever (referring to the ritual by which camp staff meetings have always been concluded) became a topic of debate. Current counselors **Annelieke Noordhoek** and **Marc Porter**, both with ten summers on staff, proclaimed current counselor **Gabe Davis** as presenting the most consistently humorous Quaker Circles in their collective memory. Other current veteran counselors such as **Hazen Arnold**, **Andy Hynton**, and **Megan Porter** agreed. Some even older and even less-certified ex-counselors lobbied for **Zach Waller's** commentary on the interior

One kid, back for his third summer, has grown so much since he first came to camp; a shy kid for his first few summers, he is now outgoing. A truly fine water-skier, he can also hold his own on the basketball court. Among his many athletic talents is his climbing ability; in fact, he was the very first kid ever to climb “Pathfinder,” a new climbing wall in the ropes course.

The rest were newcomers to the happy hollows and sandy shores of Bloomingneck Farm. One kid had never been to the country; in two weeks he sucked a summer's worth of marrow right out of the place. He also had the game and maturity to be the only camper invited to participate in staff-only basketball. Also new to boy's side was a sweet kid who was thriving at the end of his session. Everyone at camp really hopes he comes back next year. Another rookie, and the youngest of the group, hit the ground running. One counselor remarked that he seemed to try every activity at least once and he was fearless on the waterfront.

To say that the class of 2000 had fun at camp doesn't even come close to expressing it. In their own distinct ways, these kids raged. And they are gonna rage some more in 2001. ■

design of the Driftwood, **Ben “the Boob” Martin's** antics, and **Larry Opack's** very dry, sharp analysis of camp life. One really old timer remembered that **Troy Minsky's** performances nearly always made people fall out of their chairs laughing (or crying, or screaming...). Thankfully, in much the same way that a typical Quaker Circle can drag far into the night, the debate was never settled, although there was some controversy over including counselors with “chad” in their names. In the end, Echo Ding may have been a Silent Dong, but the stories and laughter continued long into the night. ■

Cogen's A Hero

Every August, Baltimore City Sheriff and all-around great guy **Sam Cogen** returns to Echo Hill to join the staff of the end-of-summer crabbing /fishing camp. At session's end, and before returning to Charm City, Sam donates his wages to EHCF. Starting next year, EHCF will begin awarding a campership to a kid to go to crabbing/fishing camp. With input from

Sam, EHCF will select a kid from Baltimore City to attend the week-long, post-camp program. Inspired by Sam's generosity, Pete has agreed to fund the remainder of the campership by paying the difference between Sam's wages and the cost of the session. Thanks guys! To paraphrase from a hallowed Baltimore shrine: Time will most definitely NOT dim the glory of your deeds!! ■

Echo Hill Kids Rule

EHCF is grateful for all contributions and all contributors, but we especially like to highlight current campers who have donated. Eli Schewel and Jared Feldman are excellent illustrations that not just parents of campers and Echo Hill alumni appreciate our mission.

Eli Schewel, who will be a CA next year, donated \$83 to EHCF last December. Says Eli, "Once a week I put a dollar into a jar and when I have a substantial amount I give it to a charity of my choice. When last year's reunion rolled around I had some money saved up and a letter from EHCF came and it struck me!" Eli continues, "probably now that I think about it the biggest reason I wanted to support EHCF was that I love Echo Hill and I think that

increasing the economic diversity and therefore increasing the differences and backgrounds and enriching the EHC experience is important."

Jared Feldman, a CA in 2000, chose to give to EHCF as well. In the "Be a Friend/Bring a Friend" referral program, campers and/or their parents who introduce a new camper to Echo Hill receive a check of \$75 from camp. Instead of having that check made out to himself, Jared asked Peter Rice to forward that money directly to EHCF. That easily, Jared made a positive change in somebody's life.

Eli and Jared: from the members of the board and from the children who have and will benefit from your contributions, thank you. ■

How Could We Forget?

Have you made a donation to EHCF and not received a thank-you note? Or, did we forget to include your name in our donor list? Please tell us if we did; we don't want to forget any of you. In that vein, we would like to thank **Betsy and Andrew McCown**, two of our most steadfast supporters. You kept on giving to EHCF even though we sometimes failed to announce your gift in the newsletter. **Thank you!!**

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO EHCF

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I/We have enclosed a tax-deductible contribution of: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

Name Email

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THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!!!

Please keep us up to date about you, your family or friends, or use this space to send a message to a camp friend – we'll print your messages in the next newsletter!

Announcements!

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Carolyn (Betz) Gilmore and husband Park live in Grand Rapids, Michigan with their baby girl Morgan Merriweather.

Dan and Sue Markim live in Radnor, PA, with their three children. Dan would love to hear from **David Gardner**. Dan's email is dan@libraryvideo.com.

In other Markim news, our very own **Carkey (Markim) Siegel** gave birth to a second son, Nicholas, who joins Josh in making life hectic for Carkey and Gregg.

EHCF board member **Lauren (Kozloff) Sinrod** and her husband **Brad** welcomed Emily Madeline on August 2, 2000.

Laura Margolis competed in and finished the Bethany Triathlon (1 mile swim, 23 mile bike, 10K run,

whew!) in September, and competed in another triathlon on Catalina Island, CA in October. Way to go Laura!

Scary but true: Nina and **David Noble** sent the next generation of Noble boys (son **Nick**) to Echo Hill this summer to "wreak havoc."

And this just in from cyberspace:

"Dear Pete,
Cast your mind back to '86. It's **Dean, the lad from Liverpool**. I mainly knocked around with the Rude Boys, and I'd like to get in touch with the lads. I live in London. Get in touch at canonburyacademy@btinternet.com, or, my telephone number is

+44 (0)208 663 1933.

Dean ■



Ironwoman Laura Margolis

@ttention! dot.com millionaires...

Did you know that you could make a gift of appreciated stock to EHCF? Actually, it is an incredibly easy and painless way to make a contribution. If you hold shares of a stock that has appreciated substantially, but have avoided selling it because of the capital gains taxes, look no further! You can deduct the full value of the con-

tribution from your taxes, avoid a big capital gains penalty, and help send a kid to camp in a few easy steps. Our first gift of appreciated stock took a total of three phone calls for the donor and us. Believe us when we say that no amount of stock is too big or too small. For the 411, contact Emily Ignat at ignat@dellnet.com. ■

Thanks for all your help!

Annelieke, Penny, Hazen and Nick (Creamer). A special thanks to amp&rsand graphic design, inc. who kindly donated the time to design this newsletter. The Board also extends a grateful thanks to Joan Schwartz, owner of Communications In Print, 10462 Auto Park Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817 (301) 469-6886, who graciously donated a large portion of the printing of this newsletter. ■

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In Memory of...

(those remembered in brackets)

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In Memory of Peter Paul Rice, Sr....

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 Susan, Kit and Blake Stamford

Announcements! Announcements! Announcements!!!

Listen up! Here's your alumni update:

The tradition continues with two more all-EHC weddings. In November of 1999, **Liam Gilbert** and **Celeste Gould** tied the knot. Echo Hill-ers in the wedding party included Liam's sister **Marty**, **Jillian Cutler**, **Jacqueline Viess**, **Zack Noble**, **Ben "the Boob" Martin**, **Eliza Derrick**, **Michael Derrick**, **Ron Spitz**, and, of course, **Peter Rice**. **Mike Grossman**, **Keiffer Mitchell**, and **Hugh Beshers** gave moving testimonials. It was a three generation EHC event with Celeste's mom **Ellen Gould** and her aunt, **Jane Derrick** (both camp alumni) and Celeste's daughter, **Layla**, who served as the flower girl.

This past August **Keiffer Mitchell** and **Nicole Kramer** exchanged wedding vows. Echo Hill-billies **Sharon Littig**, **TW Dutton**, **Carolyn Hoffman**, **Andrea Kondracke**, **Rachel (Skolnik) Cogen**, **Sam**

Cogen, Hugh Beshers, Mike Grossman, Liam Gilbert, Celeste Gould Gilbert, and **Linda Kramer** all attended. Although he isn't (to the best of his recollection) an Echo Hill alum, Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley was in attendance. When Grossman asked his Honorary to lead the wedding in a version of Yippo the Mayor responded, "Give it a rest kid."

Other nuptials include the Board's own **Christy Concannon** to Craig Schultz at the Third Haven Friends Meeting house in Easton, Maryland in April 2000.

Yet another all camp wedding is in the works for 2001. **Sarah Tomlin** and **Derrick Bupp** are engaged and set to wed next September in New York. When asked about the wedding plans,

Derrick responded with his patented, "right on."

Jacquetta Brooks is recently engaged and living in Washington, DC with her betrothed.

Captain Nick Biles and wife Trish welcomed very cute and happy Fin into the world on July 4, 2000.

Marisa LaDuca is proud to report the birth of a baby girl, Artess Elllison Crandall, this past October.

Mia Klein Weichert was born on November 21 to **Kim Klein Weichert** and husband Dave.



Rice, Gould, Gilbert: That's Amoré!

Janet Goldwater Coslett writes that "**Caitlin Coslett** tied for second place in the eleventh grade National Academic Chess Tournament in Louisville, KY." Way to go Caitlin! Pete Rice was so inspired by Caitlin's accomplishment he has turned the basketball court into one giant chess

board. Said Rice, "The kids could be chess pieces. This is going to be a great Evening Activity."

Brigitte and **Frank Sterret** write that "**Word**" has a job in Hollywood doing sound and Claire is completing a B.A. in French at U.C. Boulder.

Also out west is **Jane Rosenstein**, where she, her husband John, and their son Max have purchased a house in NE Portland, and where she has "discovered the serene beauty of large power tools." Jane misses camp, "it's a bit of a dull ache that flares up at times," and kindly offers that "all EHC folks are welcome to stay with us if passing through Oregon." Jane can be reached at cee2@teleport.com.

In California, **Cindy McPherson** also recently purchased a home with



Lauren (Kozloff) Sinrod and Emily Madeline

her partner Ana and is working in R&D in education. She says "hello and love to all."

You never thought it would happen. You never wanted it to happen. It is happening. Live from a North Bethesda neo-colonial: **Christine Lusk**, **Megan Porter**, **Greg Porter**, **Katharine Hope** and **Fran Spino** present *Echo Hill Really Random World*. Follow the wild antics and unimaginable eating frenzies of these co-habiting, fashionable, e-savvy Gen-Xers on the new cable network "The Magic Never Left."

Sharon Littig is living, teaching, and painting in Annapolis, MD. Check out here beautiful work at <http://www.sharonlittig.com>.

Linda Alter moved to Minnesota eight years ago and now sells real estate. She misses the "continuity of staying near camp" and sends best wishes to all! (alterhomes@aol.com).

Joey Cavender writes that "I am a proud new mommy. His name is Robert Michael Flanagan. See you in 7 years!"

Nancy Kauder and husband Marty Schreiber are the proud parents of 16 month-old Camilla. They live in the Federal Hill section of Baltimore where Nancy is a veterinarian.

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In Memory of Tim Brierley

On May 7, Echo Hill lost a very special member of our community. Timothy Brierley, who was about to begin his JC summer at camp, was killed in a car accident. Tim had been going to camp for nine years, and was eager to begin the upcoming summer as a staff member. He had a gift for drawing in children of all ages with his curiosity, enthusiasm, and genuinely friendly demeanor. Younger campers remember Tim as the “older kid” who took time to talk to them, teach them how to play ultimate frisbee, and make them feel welcome at camp. Tim’s peers found a friend who was loyal and full of energy and ideas—both lofty and mischievous. Tim’s friends and family who did not go to camp speak of Tim’s devotion to Echo Hill, as evidenced in an essay he wrote for his English class a few years ago. Tim wrote:

“At camp, you can be whoever you want to be. If you like to run around in circles all day, that’s okay.....Not being restricted to conform to the standard for civilized humanity, everyone can be who they are, who they want to be, not who they are told to be by the standards of the civil world around them.”

There are many aspects of Echo Hill that we all cherish, and Tim grasped and embraced them all. He loved the opportunity to make new friends, and to maintain old Echo Hill relationships that can only be understood by fellow campers. Tim excelled in both land sports and water sports, and in his last few years at camp, he never missed a chance to participate in lip sync or other Echo Hill productions. He also appreciated camp’s natural surroundings, and the environment’s ability to calm its inhabitants.

Tim was gifted in math and computer science, and had planned to divide his last year in high school between classes at Centennial High School and classes at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Tim leaves behind his mother, father, and older sister, as well as countless friends from Centennial. His passing is a loss to all of us who were fortunate to have been touched by Tim during the time we shared.

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In Memory of John Daigh

We were so saddened to learn about the recent passing of our friend and former camper John Daigh. John spent many happy summers at Echo Hill. He had a passion and a talent for sailing, and particularly enjoyed the opportunity to participate in regattas both at Echo Hill and elsewhere in Kent County. John’s camp family remembers him to be have been a kind and caring person. We extend our deepest sympathy to John’s parents and to his sister Allison.

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Admonitions: With Peter in Mind Gil Gallagher

Consider myself lucky: lucky that I knew him, lucky that we grew up the way we did: a time share of big city and big country, D.C. and Echo Hill. Peter Gallagher was killed in a fast car out of control. He was not driving, as he did not even have a driver's license. For this I feel, as everyone should, immensely unlucky. But when the horror subsides, as it does, I guarantee you! (it will never go away but it will lessen) one is left with two choices: wallow or live.

The choice that everyone will make should be made with this in mind. Peter lived more in twenty-one years than many people live in a lifetime. It has been said, by many people who knew him in different contexts, that he had an "old soul." He was good with animals: dog, snake, fish and crab. He understood the beauty of the smallest and most massive living things: amoebas, the earth. He was a powerful and intelligent athlete: on the soccer field, on the basketball court, in the water, on his bicycle. If heaven does exist, then there he is, with Michaelangelo nagging him to sit for a sculpture: that body, that rippled stretch of muscles over bone, those thin, strong legs. That face. That hair.

He loved poetry and music: Dante, the Wu Tang Clan, Dostoevsky and the Pharcyde. He overcame dyslexia (and the various people who, along the way, told him that he was stupid). He was a joker, and he knew the power of comedy, the fact that laughter is so much of living.

So as I build him back up in my mind, remember him and try to figure out how to go on living with this hole inside me, I think of how he lived—not the fact that he is dead. I laugh a lot, and I talk to people: family, friends. I talk to strangers, and I recommend it, because you will be amazed at how much love there is in this world, how much

pain other people know, and how much we want to help.

So live. Write the novel or the poem you've been putting off; sing more, and sing in public, because singing really helps; ride your bike, because the aching in your legs is good because it strengthens the heart, our toughest muscle; walk in the woods, swim in the swamp, get dirty. Never forget that you are still a child. Go to camp and send your kids to camp and visit them. Go on motor boats, go swimming. Sneak out. Raid the kitchen. Wake someone up and say "let's go run across the soccer field!" Never stop playing. Even at twenty, forty, eighty, never stop playing. If you hate your job, quit and go climb a mountain, or get a better job. Have hope, because there is so much living in this world, there are so many wonderful people and so many beautiful creatures and such a landscape that to miss it feeling sorry for our loss seems an act of violence. Hug someone. Hug me. Hug your bus driver. Smile at babies and try to get them to wave at you.

I'm going to try to live as he did, not out of respect or as a memorial, but because it seems the best way. That Peter is gone is a tragedy. But what a life: above the rim, pushing the limits, testing and playing, riding and running. Peter once spent four hours watching a luna moth emerge from its chrysalis. And you should have seen him on the slopes, whipping his skis around trees and high moguls. In the air, he kicked his skis forward and back because he knew he could and still land.

Do what you love and do it at full throttle. But whatever you do, never, under any circumstances, drive drunk or allow someone to drive drunk or get into a car with someone who is drunk (and this goes out to adults as well as teens.) If you want to honor Peter's life, then live. Play hard, work hard, and go on. ■