Pike Profile

This month we are featuring Brother John Thomas who was initiated in 1966. In John's memory, times at the old house on Campus Drive were special:

The new house was good, but it would probably be impossible to ever duplicate the atmosphere that existed between us at the old house. It might be my age, but it was a great time. Butch Shouffler and I had the Pike bell at old Mountaineer Field in 1966 in the 63-48 victory over Pitt. We invented a new Pike cheer that year that Jim Carlen, the football coach, had banned from pep rallies; no sense of humor.

Since graduation, I have served a hitch with the Army Band, worked for the Federal Aviation Administration as an Air Traffic Controller in Baltimore and Los Angeles, and worked for Northrop Aircraft as a buyer and in F-5/F-18 Marketing. While at Northrop, I managed to eke out a Masters Degree in Business from the University of Redlands. I returned to West Virginia in 1984 and worked for a Texas real estate developer named Gerald D. Hines Interests. I have been a commercial property manager since, and am now with One Valley Bank (soon to be BB&T) in Charleston.

I still play music, like to fish and hunt, and although I'm terrible at it, I like golf. Of all the brothers, I am still in regular contact with a pledge brother, Butch Shouffler. We attend all Mountaineer home games, and get together a couple of times a year for the aforementioned outdoor activities. We usually have lunch before the games at Nick's Canteen Lunch at the corner of Prospect and High Streets, and dinner after the games at Collasante's in Westover, if anyone would like to join us.

Property Tax Still an Issue

Fraternity houses remain exempt from West Virginia property taxes, but the issue keeps surfacing in state legislative chambers, and the Morgantown Post has argued that it is time for a change. West Virginia, it says, is the only state that provides this form generosity, and it isn't fair to other property owners. The issue involves some two dozen fraternity and sorority house in Morgantown alone. The newly formed House Corporation may want to keep a firm pulse on this one, and perhaps even present a debatable view to the Post on why the property tax exemption is in place and why it should remain so.