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ON THE STARTING LINE  
FROM CHICAGO, SKOKIE, AND DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS ...

**THE VANGUARD!**

THE VOICE OF **THE VANGUARD**

[www.DesPlainesVanguard.com](http://www.DesPlainesVanguard.com)

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***Happy Holidays!***

## *Upcoming Events –*

**Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM – From Marguerite Hohn**

**Glaeser --** The 10th Annual Third Tuesday Christmas Pizza Night will be held on December 20th, 2005, 7:00pm at the Pizza Joynt, 39 W. North Avenue, Northlake, IL (708-562-5334). Third Tuesday Pizza Night started in 1996 by Rich Tarsitano, Ed Roberts and Norm Vitellaro of the Grenadiers and Royal Airs Jim Angarola, Ron Rendek and Amatore Menle. Now alumni from many, many corps come by from time to time to reminisce with the regulars. Come on out and have some good pizza and good conversation. \$7.50 each pays for the pizzas, pizza tip and our room. As usual, please pay our waitress as you go for your drinks or any other eats you order. Hope to see you there.

If you would like more information, Marguerite can be contacted at [alittlewhil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alittlewhil@sbcglobal.net). Sounds like a good time!

**Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> 4:30 to 6:00 PM – Bill O’Connell’s  
Chicago Skyliners will be performing at the Bulls Game!**

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Chasing the Moon  
By Edward Violett

November 14, 2005 -- Here it is a month to the day since the reunion. As I sit at my computer looking out the basement window there's a glow in the sky, lighting up the neighborhood. The full moon is back, just as it was on that night of the reunion.

Walking through the doors again to old Vanguard Hall was like going back into time. The memories, the smells and the faces of so long ago. Shaking hands, hugs and some moist eyes. Flashes of so many things rushing back through my mind's eye. People you thought you had forgotten but know they were just sleeping, waiting to come back into your life.

OK! You are wondering what this has to do with the moon. For this we will have to go back to a Friday night in September 1966 at

Vanguard Hall on Irving Park Rd. I had taken the train out of Chicago after work and had decided to join the Vanguard after leaving The Viscounts. After walking the short two blocks from the train station to Vanguard Hall, I walked through the doors. To say that I was shocked would be an understatement. What greeted me was a small storefront with an office to the side, a pool table, an instrument room and a back room. I thought that there had to be more! Nope. That was it.

Well after getting all the paperwork done and paying some money I was issued a contra bass horn: a Getzen. It was in a black case with red tape around the seams to hold the case together. Walking out the back door I was met by a sound that will be with me till I die. The Vanguard horn line playing Bill Bailey, and in the sky above, a full moon. Getting some sheet music and a music stand I sat in on my first Vanguard horn practice.

You would think that things were really looking up. I was a Vanguard; I had a horn; and I had to get home on the train with it. As most of you know the contra is not a small horn -- well small by today's standards. Let's just say that the conductor wasn't too happy about it.

As I sat on the upper deck of the train on my way home from my first practice I watched as the moon moved across the sky as the train traveled north. Debarking in my town of Woodstock I again noticed the moon brighter than in the city. Gone were the bright lights, now replaced by the fields and farms of the country. Driving home the countryside was illuminated by the moon. The landscape had a blue hue to it. I didn't want this night to end, thus began my Chase of the Moon.

I suppose that you may find this weird. I just didn't want that night to end, as this would mean that it has all now become a memory. So began my quest to make the Nights last longer and of keeping the events of the day from passing into a memory. Over the years in The Vanguard I chased the moon many a night coming home from a

practice or a show, remembering the sound of applause ringing in my ears.

As the years passed I still chased the moon, during those years that I drove a charter bus coming back from the East Coast as the passengers slept, remembering days long passed. I had done the same thing on a corps bus watching the moon. Hoping to get home before it had passed into day.

I have been blessed with having done all the things I have wanted to do with my life. I have been a Fire Fighter, a Policeman and a business owner seven times over. While a Fire Fighter I have fought fires from ladders, rooftops, and many other places and have watched as the moon shown through the smoke and changed colors from it. As a Police Officer on patrol, I have seen how the moon would light the Village as I patrolled and used the moonlight to my advantage. Although I believe the best time is at night is during the winter with fresh snow and a crisp night as your wheels roll across the snow, with the countryside lit up with a blue hue as if it was day light.

Well I have come full circle back to drum corps. Senior corps: The Kilties and a new chase. Again I am going to corps with a van full of other new members from the Woodstock area. A new drum corps family and new friends and new sounds. Again new memories of those nights that I do not wish to pass into day. More applause, more memories and more friends. Another Corps: The Royal Airs Senior Alumni. Where I meet old Vanguard members and old friendships are again renewed. Although I still chase the moon, it somehow has a new meaning. .

Remembering the first time I played Bill Bailey with the Vanguard on the field in Kenosha, WI. And the full moon that night. Or the first time I played Syne with the Kilties in Rochester, NY. In a Kilt. No the lump in my throat both times made it rather hard to play as I knew what those songs meant to each of the corps and to me.

So as I finish this article up -- it is 2:21AM. I type by the light from my computer monitor as the moon lights up my backyard. Many an early morning have I watched as the daylight races to overtake the night and the moon while still in the western sky, fighting to stay just bit longer, fighting to keep from passing into memory.

Thank you to all of my drum corps family. You have meant so much to me over the years. Those memories will last forever, just like the moon.

Edward M. Violet (Flower)

Vanguard Contra 67, 68, 69

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*Thank you, Ed, for this great memory.*

*Other alum: If the October reunion generated some more of your memories, please send them to me for the next newsletter. In the meantime, enjoy more pictures (compliments of Mike Deane) from the party:*































## CD's AVAILABLE!

If you were unable to attend the reunion and would like a copy of *Vanguard: The Sensational 70's*, contact **Bill O'Connell** at [billbigband@aol.com](mailto:billbigband@aol.com). The CD can be purchased through Bill for \$5 each. This includes shipping. Or, just snail-mail your check, made out to Bill O'Connell, to 915 Christa Ct., Elk Grove Village, IL 60007.



## *Alum **Georges Benjamin** Interviewed Regarding Avian Flu Pandemic*

Alum **David Bevill** was just falling asleep one night in October with CNN on the TV when a familiar voice brought him to attention. It was fellow alum **Georges Benjamin, M.D.**, who was being interviewed about the Bird Flu virus. A transcript of that interview can be found at

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/EDUCATION/10/04/transcript.wed/index.html#second>.

According to a recent press release:

“Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, is well known in the world of public health as a leader, practitioner and administrator. Benjamin has been the executive director of the American Public Health Association (APHA), the nation’s oldest and largest organization of public health professionals, since December 2002. He came to that post from his position as secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, where he played a key role developing Maryland’s bioterrorism plan. Benjamin became secretary of the Maryland health department in April 1999, following four years as its deputy secretary for public health services.

“Benjamin, of Gaithersburg, Md., is a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology and the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He is board-certified in internal medicine and is a fellow of the American College of Physicians.

“An established administrator, author and orator, Benjamin started his medical career in 1981 in Tacoma, Washington, where he managed a 72,000-patient visit ambulatory care service as chief of the Acute Illness Clinic at the Madigan Army Medical Center. A few years later, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he served as chief of emergency medicine at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He later managed a \$7 million budget and 175 employees as chairman of the department

of community health and ambulatory care at the District of Columbia General Hospital. He directed one of the busiest ambulance services in the nation as interim director of the Emergency Ambulatory Bureau of the District of Columbia Fire Department and worked as a health policy consultant. Benjamin also served as acting health commissioner for the District of Columbia. Prior to joining APHA, he was the chief executive of the state of Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, a cabinet level agency with a \$5 billion budget.

“At APHA, Benjamin serves as the publisher of the nonprofit's monthly publication, *The Nation's Health*. *The Nation's Health* is the association's official newspaper.

“Benjamin is a member of several committees, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services secretary's advisory committee on public health preparedness and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director's advisory committee. He also serves on the boards of Research America, Partnership for Prevention and Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science.”

*Editor's note: It's good to know that we have one of our own in such high places. Keep up the good work, George! George marched in the Vanguard from 1968 through 1971 in the baritone section.*

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### **Vincent Chancey's Jazz French Horn (Playing and Composing) Continues to Wow the Crowds**

Vince Chancey, whose whole life has revolved around music, is enjoying a successful music career in New York. He performs at many different venues in and around the Big Apple, but also travels near and far for his passion. He recently returned from a European tour that took him to Yugoslavia, Ireland, Germany, Poland, and Spain.

Below are a few of the reviews he has received:

"Vincent Chancey is an asset to any ensemble, in addition to being a fabulous soloist on an instrument that is finally winning some credibility in jazz."

**Francis Davis - The Philadelphia Inquirer**

"Vincent Chancey was a dramatic improviser with big interval leaps and silences underscoring his ideas."

**Peter Watrous - The New York Times**

"Chancey leads his horn where no man has gone before. The french horn makes a lovely lead instrument; it's warm vibrato tone sliding around notes, supporting other instruments and soaring off into expressive solos."

**Jill Hazelton - The Phoenix**

"Vincent Chancey's tone, strong and comparatively rough, dovetails with his swingly control of the instrument's tough fingering system, while his respect for the horn's idiosyncrasies lets him play pure jazz."

**Neil Tesser - The Chicago Reader**

"Vincent Chancey's french horn on a swinging blues riff or a loose calypso melody, the result is a wonderfully bright and vital ensemble sound."

**Robert Palmer - New York Times**



"Vincent Chancey's nimble fingers and jazz singer tones made french horn history with its facility."

**Diana Jones - Herald-Dispatch, Huntington W. Va.**

"Chancey's playing has a remarkable mobility."

**The Wire**

"Chancey maneuvers his ax in a wonderful relaxed way. He plays naturally, as though the horn were simply a vessel through which his thoughts and feelings are expressed."

**Steven A. Loewy - Cadence Magazine**

Even though the Vanguard French horn and mellophone sections were legendary for what became known in drum corps circles as the middle voice "wall of sound," Vince did not play French Horn in the Vanguard, but rather spent his three years in the corps ('65-'68) in the equally legendary soprano section.

According to the Vince's website, his drum corps roots began with the Giles Yellow Jackets. He has always loved both jazz and classical music, and describes himself as having lived through a "musical schizophrenia," trying to reconcile his love for both genres. Vince has

obviously (and very successfully) made a marriage between these two genres.

Congratulations on your great musical success, Vince! More information on what Vince has been up to, including recordings he's made and celebrities he's accompanied, can be found on his website ([www.vincentchancey.com](http://www.vincentchancey.com)). His "Crosswalks" page, which immortalizes for Vince all the travel he does, is particularly interesting.

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***Yes, the hustle and bustle of the holiday season is upon us.  
I leave you with these following thoughts:***

As we struggle with shopping lists and invitations, compounded by December's bad weather, it is good to be reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this aggravation, and people to whom we are worth the same. - - Donald E. Westlake

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## **Some Pick-Up Lines From Santa's Elves:**

"No, no, I don't bake cookies. You're thinking of those dorks at Keebler."

"You'd look great in a Raggedy Ann wig."

"I taught Santa everything he knows."

"Even Santa doesn't make candy as sweet as you."

"I've got the keys to the sleigh tonight."

"I get a thimbleful of tequila in me and I turn into a wild man."

"I can get you off the Naughty List."

**Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to All!**

*Cathy O'Connell Letourneau*

Vanguard '69-'76