At my 45th class reunion Saturday night I was awe-struck at how old some of my Cosmos High classmates looked. Sure glad that didn't happen to me.
There are always surprises. Mine came when I was told a good friend of mine passed away a few months ago.
Part of the surprise is finding out who comes and who doesn't — and then, there's the biggest surprise of all ... when you find out Miss Wallflower nearly launched the entire computer industry by herself and is extremely successful. I didn't see that coming.
One of the fellows I knew passed away. Not to belittle his memory, but I told one friend I thought when I was in high school that this fellow's main reason for being on earth was to torment me.
"Actually, he really straightened out in his later years," my friend said.

Some of the other things I learned from the reunion were:
•The life of the party (for our grade) was a gal named Mary Ann. She has four daughters and they all play on the same softball team together.
And every one one of them has their middle name on the back of their softball shirt. And each middle name is, "Marie."
Grandma had 10 granddaughters and wanted all their middle names to be "Marie", said Mary Ann.
•Our best athlete was gone. My friend Dave died a few years ago — mostly of a broken heart after his wife left him. Really missed him.
•Talked with a friend and asked him if he remembered how my friend Butch and I sat on each side of him in chemistry class. "That was because the teacher didn't want to flunk us so he put us next to our friend so he could make sure we passed. I think I got a D minus."
•I failed to tell the class I got one F during my entire high school years. I hated math and was lousy at science so you'd think that was where I got the F, right?
Wrong.
Here I am, a journalist who can write about 100 words per minute.
And I got the F in typing class. GO FIGURE!
•Back in Cosmos, my home town, two of my friends and I and a fellow I knew from college formed a rock n'roll band back in those days.
Word came that our singer, guitar player, now an administrator of a school in California, was awaiting a heart transplant.
•There were 43 members of our graduating class. Six are deceased, one is very ill and about 25 of us attended the reunion.
•Amongst the graduates of my class was a gal named Carol Retzlaff. Her name today is Carol Aalderks and she lives in Willmar. She's the mother of Lori (Troy) Fink of Minneota.

I covered her grandson Jordan Fink in football and basketball.
Carol wasn't there — but I know she knows I;m now in Minneota.
Class reunions — they sure are great!

LAUGH A LITTLE: Driver illegally parks
A driver tucked this note under the windshield wiper of his automobile.
"I've circled the block for 20 minutes. I'm late for an appointment, and if I don't park here, I'll lose my job. Forgive us our trespasses."
When he came back he found a parking ticket and this note: "I've circled the block for 20 years, and if I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: As my Ole Pappy used to say, "An executive is someone who can quickly decide how to get someone else to do the work."
Ole Pappy was a leader and an executive all right. He was always able to find work for me when I least wanted it.