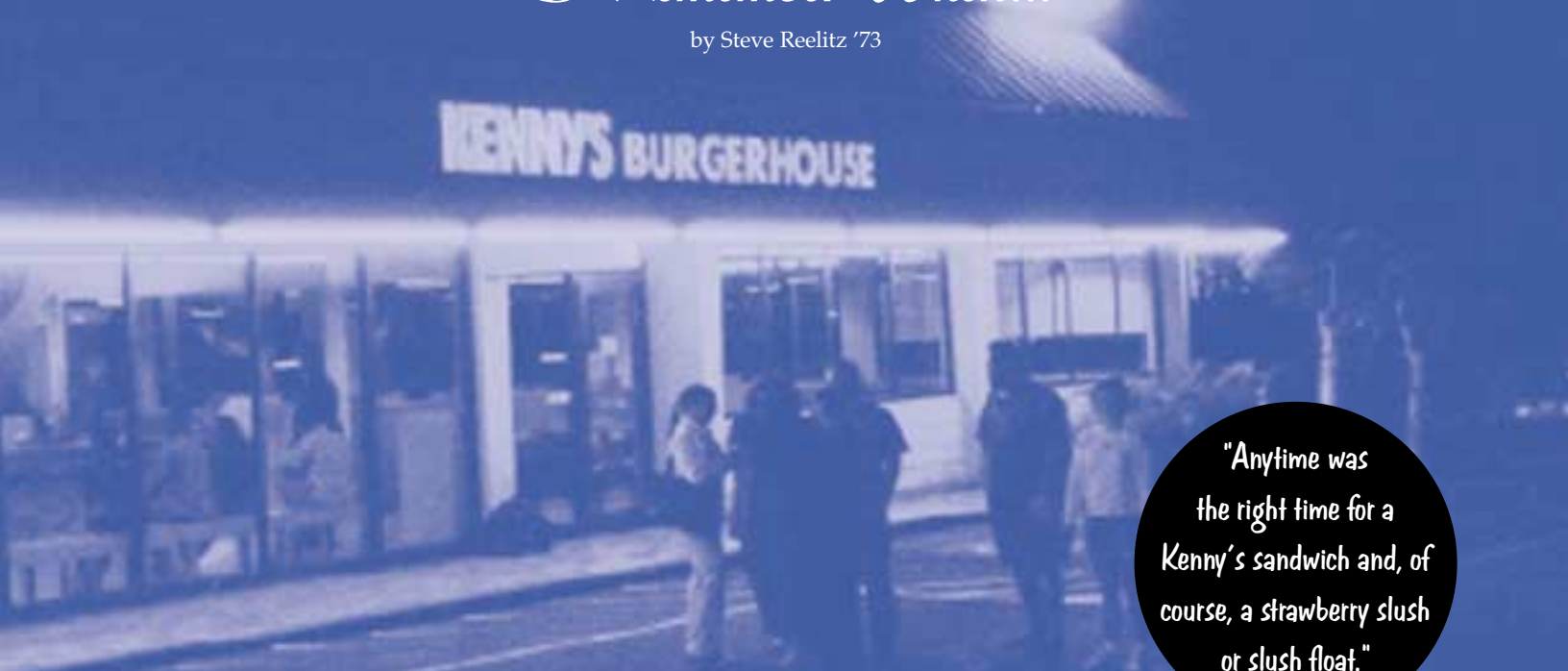


“I Remember When...”

by Steve Reelitz '73



“Anytime was the right time for a Kenny’s sandwich and, of course, a strawberry slush or slush float.”

Thanks for the Memories

Kenny’s Burgerhouse was the favorite hangout for generations of Kamehameha Schools graduates

The sad news was reported in the two daily newspapers: “Kenny’s to Close Burgerhouse.” For countless Kamehameha Schools generations, Kenny’s Burgerhouse was more like a home. After school, before the game, after the game, during the game – anytime was the right time for a Kenny’s sandwich and, of course, a strawberry slush or slush float.



Steve Reelitz '73 at KS

The news, although devastating to some, was just one more chance for 1973 classmates and friends to gather. The e-mail blast went out to about 50 classmates with the plan to meet at the Burgerhouse at 7 p.m. on Dec. 12, 2002. Even if no one else showed up, we were bound and determined to have one last slush float before another chapter in our lives came to an end.

Sporadic replies indicated that we would not be alone and that our quest would be joined by fellow mourners all seeking solace. One nice treat was the wonderful e-mail replies I started receiving from those who could not possibly make it back for the occasion.

Classmate **Cara Mahoe** Tanaka '73, now living in Texas, wrote: “Sorry, Russell and I won’t be able to join you; however, we will be there in thought. I shared your news with him and this evening we sat down and made a strawberry slush float of our own and shared it with our son Rylee. Fortunately for Rylee, as young as he is, he does remember the place. We always made it a point to stop at Kenny’s when we arrived in Honolulu, before heading out to Hawai’i Kai.”

Winston Olaso '73 shared a boarder’s perspective: “Another culinary institution bites the dust. Kenny’s was a stop walking down from, or walking up to the dorms on campus. From grades 7-12, we boarders could look forward to getting something to grind from Kenny’s. Now, the Golden Arches will be in its place; there’s one down the street from my home – don’t need another! Luckily, me and

my ‘ohana got to eat at Kenny’s a month ago before we headed to campus to watch my nephew’s volleyball game – alright CHAMPS!”

Finally, Kapālama parent coordinator and classmate, **Mervlyn Swain** Kitashima '73 wrote, “Have a wonderful walk down memory lane this evening. Dan (**Daniel Katashima** '71) and I stopped by last night on our way home from Kamehameha. We had our last slush float and my last teri burger. Dan had his two favorites, what used to be the “Cheesy Gal” and the “Porky Boy.” It felt good sitting and talking about our beginnings and the many days and hours we spent at Kenny’s. What is it now...30+ years ago? Hard to imagine that corner of our world not being Kenny’s Burgerhouse.”

Before the night was over, the slush floats were hoisted with great revelry as a total of 23 classmates and their families enjoyed one last slurp of the “Nectar of the Gods.” Celebrants included the Nite Family (**Tamar Pane’e** '73, Roger and Ola) **Steven** and **Theresa Reelitz**, the Peleholani’s (**Stacia Lee** '73 and Mark), **Herb Almeida** '73, along with wife Susie and son Kapono Almeida, the Akau Family (**Cedric** '73, Sabrina and girls), the Durants (**Lei Ann Stender** '73, Ron and sons Moku and Haku), **Stephanie Gonzalves** '73, **Wendy Roylo Hee** '73 and son Kūpa’a '08 and **Keoni Aylett** '73 and **Cyndy Hennessey** '74.

Someone famous once said that the only constant in life is change, to which someone equally famous replied: “Change is good, but we could never have envisioned our Kalihi icon being a victim of that change.”



From left, Roger Nite, Tamar Pane’e Nite, Lei Ann Stender Durant, Steve Reelitz, Stephanie Gonzalves and Stacia Lee Peleholani enjoy one last outing at Kenny’s Burgerhouse.

To borrow a line from Bob Hope... Thanks for the memories!