

**HAPPY 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

**SYD PERLMUTTER**

**FROM ALL YOUR "KIDS"**

Syd:

It was fun being taught by you and years later doing your lectures. We always had a good time and we always enjoyed the dinner afterwards. Congrats on reaching 90...it's a real milestone.

All my best and keep givin' them the best ever advice.

Yours,

Ken Rodger  
RTA '67  
[ken@kenrodger.com](mailto:ken@kenrodger.com)



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I'm sorry I won't be able to attend the lunch for charming Syd. But please pass on my very best birthday wishes. His energy, wit, and professionalism enlivened the RTA I knew and propelled so many of us into successful careers.

He was a wonderful mentor and teacher. I owe him a great deal. Big hugs and warm wishes to you Syd.

Alison Smith  
RTA '77  
[alisonsmith476@gmail.com](mailto:alisonsmith476@gmail.com)

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Greetings Brother Syd. Cheers to you on your 90<sup>th</sup>. This is from all the guys at Rho Alpha Kappa (Alumni Association) who couldn't make it your event. All the best...and see you on the first tee on July 4<sup>th</sup> – no, not the U.S. Independence Day...but the Rho Alpha Kappa golf classic!

From Your fellow Brothers...wherever we may be.

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Syd,

You've always been one of my heroes from the time you spoke back to H.H. Kerr. while the rest of us stayed cowed. The occasion, sometime in 1958/9, was a public meeting when H.H. asked the equivalent of "Any complaints?" "Yes," you said. "How the hell do you expect us to teach a course on television without any cameras?" I think you got your cameras, eventually. You got our admiration right away. Nobody talked to H.H. like that, then.

Eric Wright  
[eswright@sympatico.ca](mailto:eswright@sympatico.ca)

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As I am in France it will be difficult to attend the lunch. But I don't want to miss this opportunity to send a message to Syd. For me, Ryerson was an out of province school, and I was only 16 years old when I arrived. The most important things for a youngster was to find teachers who were interested in the students and who obviously enjoyed their work. I found both in Syd, which made being away from home a more pleasant experience. Happy birthday Syd and thank you for being part of the Ryerson memories. I do have one question. How can my hair be greyer than yours?

Gerry Boudreau  
RTA '64  
[ghboudreau@hotmail.com](mailto:ghboudreau@hotmail.com)

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I'm so very, very proud to be one of Syd Perlmutter's kids. I don't know whether you remember Syd, but you called Lou Tameanko at the Toronto Telegram and got me my first job in the promotion department there.

Paul Swain  
RTA '63  
[suznpaul@sympatico.ca](mailto:suznpaul@sympatico.ca)

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Mr. Perlmutter:

Your influence was felt beyond RTA. Congrats on your 90<sup>th</sup>.

Valerie Westman  
Journalism '63  
[vwestman@cogeco.ca](mailto:vwestman@cogeco.ca)

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Syd, it was a pleasure to attend your classes at Ryerson.

90 years young...not bad at all! Thanks for all you did for me as Jim "Tex" Bagshaw and Clyde the poet, along with Cam Finley.

You made it possible to work on the radio in Canada and the United States, as well as becoming a boxing judge for the IBF and WBC, and to taking part in professional wrestling with the WWE. I'm booked into the Pan-Am Center in Las Cruces on January 30<sup>th</sup>, and the Tingley Colisseum in Albuquerque, New Mexico on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Then off to Europe.

I'm sorry I can't be there for the lunch in honour of your 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. All the best!

James "Tex" Bagshaw  
RTA '63  
[texbagshaw@hotmail.com](mailto:texbagshaw@hotmail.com)

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Hi Syd:

Sorry not to be able to be there for your 90<sup>th</sup> birthday lunch. Wendy (who you don't know) and I (who you may vaguely remember) don't get to Toronto much because we're wasting away our declining years living on Vancouver Island where we don't get snow in winter, don't get high heat, humidity and mosquitoes in summer and where we can walk to the ocean and, in our case, take our cabin cruiser out on it to pass the time. Obviously you (who I remember both very well and very fondly) are still busy rushing around in Toronto navigating through the slush so you can attend the luncheons. Good for you and if you have to put up with a bunch of old students, I hope at least the food is good. From both of us come wishes for a wonderful birthday and many more. Order the salad, not the fries. They'll clog your arteries something fierce.

Cheers,

Brad and Wendy Franklin  
RTA '63  
[bradmail@shaw.ca](mailto:bradmail@shaw.ca)

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It's nice to see the good guy still on top of the world.

David Spencer  
RTA '62  
[dspencer@uwo.ca](mailto:dspencer@uwo.ca)

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I've always loved Sydney. I met him when I was eighteen. I had arrived in Canada in 1951 from Glasgow, Scotland and I decided to study at Ryerson when I graduated from Simcoe District High School in 1956. Right away I was impressed with his energy and his kindness. He seemed, eternally, to want to put people at their ease. He was consistently positive. He had that wonderful quality of being able to focus on the *other* person. His conversations weren't about Sydney, they were about YOU. He took the insecure young adolescent and made him/her feel that they mattered and that everything would work out just fine.

When I returned to Ryerson in the late sixties for an impromptu visit after completing my Master's degree at McMaster University in Hamilton, it was Sydney who talked me into applying for a part-time position. He was my champion and I loved the teaching experience. Then, in succession, he badgered me into applying for a full-time appointment. He cheered when I became Vice Chair of the School and he was persuasive when he thought I might make a good Chair. In a very real sense, Sydney gave me the gift of my teaching career. I hope he realizes that fact.

It is no exaggeration to say that he is one of the most important people in my life. Believe it or not, he's right up there with my mom and dad and all the individuals I have respected and admired. That's the greatest honour I can bestow.

Sydney's secret is that he is essentially a selfless man. In good times and in bad he always thought the best of people. We all marvel at his youthfulness of spirit, his lively sense of humour, and his love of banter and conversation. Through the decades, and all the changes, he remained timeless. I know that he is a great dad, he certainly was a loving and caring husband, and he was (and is) a magical teacher.

To all of us he is like some favourite uncle. He has lived a charmed life of smiles and laughter because he constantly laboured to make existence (which, as we all know, can be terribly cruel) joyous.

Sydney changed all of our lives for the better. We all owe him a great deal. Simply by his presence he makes the world kinder, sunnier, and filled with good natured laughter.

With great love and respect,

Robert Gardner  
RTA '59  
[rgardner@ryerson.ca](mailto:rgardner@ryerson.ca)

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Syd, I am devastated that I can't make this lunch. It is with great pleasure that I have re-connected with you through the RTA '63 lunches. You are, and always were, a great inspiration, and the glue that holds us all together. Have a very happy 09<sup>th</sup> birthday. I recall you said you like to switch the digits of your age around, but couldn't do that at 89. Now you can.

All the best,

Graham Orwin  
RTA '62  
[grahamorwin@rogers.com](mailto:grahamorwin@rogers.com)

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Hi Syd:

We greatly rejoice with you as you cross a significant milestone in your life. May you continue to enjoy excellent health, peaceful serenity and long life. Have a happy and wonderful 90th birthday, Syd!

Phil Chee  
RTA '64  
[suaramanis@yahoo.ca](mailto:suaramanis@yahoo.ca)

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Syd,

While I have every intention of joining the birthday celebration on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, just in case I don't make it, I want to make sure that the appropriate salute is extended to you.

Your guidance while we were students has continued all these years and has become a true friendship that extends well beyond the student-teacher relationship.

Now as you celebrate your ninety years, I join all in attendance at the luncheon and all former students in acknowledging this great event.

And as the years continue to pass I predict that in the future some grey hairs will begin to appear.

Syd, we have all been blessed having you by our side. Happy Birthday!

Best regards,

Philip Chant  
RTA '64  
[phil@thechants.ca](mailto:phil@thechants.ca)

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Please pass along my congratulations to Syd on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. I had fond memories of my time at Ryerson and Syd is certainly one teacher I will never forget. We also had dinner together at the Ryerson Reunion in 2013. It brought back many wonderful memories. Thanks Syd and congratulations on your 90<sup>th</sup>!!!!

Ray Hebert  
Music Director, Assistant Program Director, Drive Announcer  
Country 105  
RTA '73  
[Ray.Hebert@bellmedia.ca](mailto:Ray.Hebert@bellmedia.ca)

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Hi Syd,

Many thanks for all the leadership, guidance, helpful critiques and laughter during my time in RTA!

Trudy Work Schouten  
RTA '73  
[ts8330@telus.net](mailto:ts8330@telus.net)

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Congratulations to a guy who was an indelible part of my Ryerson experience – and I'm sure that's the case for hundreds of others. Syd, enjoy your celebration and may you have many more happy birthdays to come.

Brian LeGrow  
RTA '68  
[brian.legrow@sympatico.ca](mailto:brian.legrow@sympatico.ca)

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This is a great idea. Unfortunately, I will be out of the country on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and am unable to attend. Please tell Syd that he is a part of my best memories of my time at Ryerson and I have enjoyed touching base with him over the last few decades as well. I hope to be able to make it to his next party!

Thanks,

Laura Buchanan (Lowry)  
RTA '73  
[lbuchanan@sympatico.ca](mailto:lbuchanan@sympatico.ca)

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Step back...step back! Not everyone taking their first steps into their tenth decade can take surprises like this! But if anyone can handle the excitement with aplomb (or a-plum, if your old buddy Jim Peters would've said) it's Syd. I am delighted to hear about the happening in Syd's honour. No one on the faculty approached Syd's enthusiasm for the program or his level of sincerity in his approach to students. How to hang in there, guy!

John Kent MacKay  
RTA '67 or' 68  
[jkentmackay@yahoo.com](mailto:jkentmackay@yahoo.com)

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Best wishes to you Syd.

It's been a long time since we met last millennium in the halls of BBC Television Centre at White City London. All the best for 2015.

Michael Du Boulay  
RTA '59  
[mduboulay@sympatico.ca](mailto:mduboulay@sympatico.ca)

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Unfortunately I will be unable to attend as I am spending the winter in West Palm Beach Florida but I would like to send my warmest of greetings to a truly unique person who made my 3 years at Ryerson in RTA – 1968-1971 educational, memorable, enjoyable and a lot of fun. Syd you are remembered by this alumnus as one of the most positive, helpful, cheerful and happy people I have ever had the pleasure to be associated with. You are an exceptional person, teacher and all around terrific guy. I hope you are with us for many more years and congratulations and happy birthday on turning 90 years. You were an extremely positive influence for me as I was trying to find my way and for that I cannot thank you enough.

I will hoist a cold one to you on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and send my best wishes to you for a much longer and happy life. You have affected so many including me in such a positive way over the years that all I can express is my sincerest thanks.

Percy Fisher a grateful student  
RTA '71  
[percyfisher@sympatico.ca](mailto:percyfisher@sympatico.ca)

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Dear Syd:

Very best birthday wishes on your 90<sup>th</sup>. We saw you at our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary homecoming reunion in 2010 and we look forward to seeing you at our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2020.

Doug Kiefer and Grazyna (Cindy Kapitan) Bergman  
RTA '60  
[dkiefer@fsu.edu](mailto:dkiefer@fsu.edu)

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Dear Syd,

It seems like only 47 years ago that you were my teacher and mentor.

Later you became my colleague and friend, and honorary grandfather to my children.

Your warmth, caring, encouragement, support and wisdom have been part of my life for close to half a century. Not to mention your humour and enthusiasm.

You inspired us to do our very best, to act with honour and integrity, and while doing so, in work and in life, to have fun.

Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Syd! I'm sorry I can't be with you today, but you are always with me and part of me. Lots of love,

David Schatzky  
RTA '68  
[davidschatzky@hotmail.com](mailto:davidschatzky@hotmail.com)

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OK Syd looking forward to seeing what kind of balls you bring to this year's Rho Alpha Kappa golf tourney. I'll be watching. We are now planning for the big 100. Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday my friend.

George MacNabb  
RTA '70  
[gmacnabb@yahoo.com](mailto:gmacnabb@yahoo.com)

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Hi Syd,

You played such a big role in my Ryerson experience. You will never be forgotten. It makes me so happy to receive an e-mail about you.

I will not be able to attend your lunch, but I wish you lots and lots of happiness.

All the best,

Bob Conrad  
RTA '66  
[conrads@eastlink.ca](mailto:conrads@eastlink.ca)

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I was at Ryerson from 1972 to 1975. I have good memories of my TV production class with Syd Perlmutter. Hats off to a great teacher.

Lloyd LeBlanc  
RTA '75  
[lloydleblanc@hotmail.com](mailto:lloydleblanc@hotmail.com)

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You have no idea what an inspiration you were to me. After graduating I went on to careers in advertising, jingles, voice acting, directing and teaching.

God bless you.

Roland Parliament  
RTA '71  
[roland.parliament@rogers.com](mailto:roland.parliament@rogers.com)

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I doubt that I'll be able to make the Jan. 23rd luncheon for Syd Perlmutter...but reaching the grand age of 90 is always an achievement.

I attended RTA in 1952/53 & 1953/54...and while I remember some instructors such as Al Sauro, Christine Macbeth and Wally Ford...I don't remember Syd Perlmutter at all. No matter, congratulate him anyway on his 90<sup>th</sup>.

All the best,

Gary McLaren  
RTA '54  
[gsmclaren@golden.net](mailto:gsmclaren@golden.net)

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What a great milestone to celebrate! I'll always be proud to be counted as one of Syd's Kids.

Mazel Tov my friend.

Jim Curran  
RTA '72  
[kenilworth@sympatico.ca](mailto:kenilworth@sympatico.ca)

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Hi Syd,

Lynn Sorbie (now Pickering) of the class of '59...I remember you with great fondness...your energy, enthusiasm, and exuberant approach to teaching.

I cannot believe how the years have flown and thanks to RTA, you and your staff, I have enjoyed a fulfilling career as a radio and television writer/producer and now, in retirement, continue to make use of my education and work as a media trainer for the Canadian military and a volunteer producer/program host with our new community radio station, 99.3 County FM, in Prince Edward County.

All the best on your birthday and hope you have many more.

Lynn Sorbie Pickering  
RTA '59  
[lynnp@kos.net](mailto:lynnp@kos.net)



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I was fortunate to haunt the hallowed halls of RYERSON during the early and mid – Sixties. The one constant...through today it may seem was and is our own veteran SYD PERLMUTTER now celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY!!! Ryerson had a fun staff that seemed to enjoy teaching as much as the students loved being taught! I loved rubbing shoulders and programming philosophies with MAURI DESOURDY...MURRAY PAULIN...CHRIS MACBETH, WALLY FORD and SYD.

Many of their RTA students have enjoyed successful careers. I remember Toronto's perfect Mayor teaching economics. RHO ALPHA KAPPA was a great Broadcasting Fraternity headquartered at 620 CHURCH STREET (or was it 612?). One of the great entrepreneurs at the frat was TOM WILLIAMS... or if you prefer – T.S . And who will ever forget the voice of NORM "T.M." BLAKELY and his great rock/r&b music on CJRT? I remember the exciting game titled "SKIP SOCIOLOGY and publish the next chapter of SOUL magazine!!!" As we tiptoed past Murray's rear classroom door it would slowly swing upon as Murray proclaimed "...and a warm, warm, welcome to messieurs GRANT and DENBERG just busting to attend my class!!! A special RTA "SALUTE" to our mentor – SYD PERLMUTTER---he kept the interest active!!!

I'm sorry I can't make today's "90<sup>th</sup> Birthday party"...but I can salute Syd on his dramatic longevity of service!!! Thanks a million Syd. Yours in great music,

Nevin Grant...proud to be an Alumnus from the mid-Sixties RYERSON UNIVERSITY.

RTA '66

[shysmokey@hotmail.com](mailto:shysmokey@hotmail.com)

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Syd Perlmutter -- and this might not be his real name -- has performed exemplary duty as a secret operative for the human race for the past 90 years, and -- G-d willing -- for many more. His outstanding service record to humanity has included cracking jokes to create an atmosphere of warmth and acceptance, yet getting serious when things need to be, keeping his distance when space was needed, and getting personal when that was required, and knowing the difference.

His original personality and presence helped those struggling with their course loads by imparting hope, and the belief that everything was possible.

And all this is in addition to everything he actually taught which was always artful and enlightening.

Syd, all the best,

Gord Lindsay

RTA '74

[gord1@rogers.com](mailto:gord1@rogers.com)

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Dear Syd:

I'm sure by now you've heard nothing but glowing remarks about how wonderful you are...and maybe there's some truth to those comments. However, I've got a few beefs with you that I would like to share:

1. How come at 90 you have more dark hair than me, 20 years younger!
2. How come you can hear so much better than me at your age, when I'm struggling to read lips!
3. How come, as witnessed by the latest photos on Facebook you're either cuddling up to Suzanne Somers or frolicking in the hot tub with 20 something girls, while I can't make eye contact with women my own age!!
4. And why is it, despite all these short-comings, you're still a really nice guy!

Syd, when I grow up I want to be just like you...have a wonderful time on your special day.

Jim Robinson  
RTA '63  
[jrobinson@jravideo.com](mailto:jrobinson@jravideo.com)

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Many years ago, not far from Bobcaygeon, Syd and his multi-talented wife Mary had a cottage on Nogies Creek. Syd's place was between the U of T's Musky Research Station and my parents' cottage on Bass Lake at the top end of Nogie.

The U of T students were studying the behaviour of the beautiful yet deadly Musky. But there was something they never found out.

Sometimes late at night I could hear Syd's voice whispering across the lake as he taught the Muskies about how to be determined, resourceful, kinder and gentler, *predators*. Syd just didn't know how to stop being a great teacher.

Of course this was a good lesson he passed on to many of us, given the nature of the business we entered.

Thank you Syd, you've been a wonderful inspiration, to me (and the fish).

Craig Ivory  
RTA '75  
[craigivory@hotmail.com](mailto:craigivory@hotmail.com)

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Researchers tell us that there are 2 things that stimulate beautiful women:  
Fine champagne...and 90 year old men.

So, if you see Syd carrying a bottle of Dom Perignon...STEP ASIDE and GET OUT  
OF THE WAY!!!

Happy birthday, "Uncle Syd"

Pete Byerlay  
RTA '64  
[byerlay@rogers.com](mailto:byerlay@rogers.com)

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Happy birthday – may there be more – many more.

Fred Thornhill  
RTA '67  
[fred.thornhill@yahoo.ca](mailto:fred.thornhill@yahoo.ca)

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I'm a 1953 Grad – I returned to Ryerson in 1964 after years in Private Radio, and was a part of the staff that made CJRT into an educational radio service, till into the early 1970's. Many students were involved in the FM station's daily schedule, and these contacts led to the invitation to join the RTA faculty in 1970. I taught 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year radio labs.

Sydney, you are the star of the day. Here's wishing you all the best. May your birthday shine like your life. You have touched the lives of so many – and may the kindness you have spread, keep returning to you! Warm wishes for a Happy Birthday!

Ron McKee  
RTA '53  
[rmckee@ca.inter.net](mailto:rmckee@ca.inter.net)

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And Syd: Happy Birthday greetings also from Geri ('53 Ryerson Fashion School Grad) who was often involved in RTA productions – she's sorry she can't be here today...another Ryerson commitment.

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Hey Syd. Have a great birthday. Sorry we couldn't be there to raise a glass to celebrate your four score and ten. But we send you our love – and a great big hug from Janice – okay, sure, I'll hug you too.

Brian and Janice Bobbie  
RTA '64  
[brianbobbie@rogers.com](mailto:brianbobbie@rogers.com)

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Syd, congratulations on reaching your 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. You are one of the great teachers I had during my 3 years in RTA. Your voice and announcing classes were one of the highlights of my week at Ryerson and thankfully while I got into radio sales I also used what I learned from you to have a second career as a Motorsport Announcer, having done car and motorcycle races on TV, radio and at the track including announcing the Daytona 500 and other NASCAR races on radio for the Motor Racing Network and being the Public Address announcer for the Daytona 200 motorcycle races for over 30 years.

Your knowledge, care and compassion for all your students over the years has been a gift to all of us. You have made a difference in our lives and inspired us to great things. I remember we had numbers for the energy level of the voice...give me a number 4!!

You are a shining example of a Life Well Lived. You are an amazing person and I and every student who sat in your class is now wealthier and blessed for having had you as their teacher. Be well my teacher and friend...many happy and healthy days.

With Gratitude!

Pat Gonsalves  
RTA '75  
[pgonsalves@q107.com](mailto:pgonsalves@q107.com)

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Since I live in Chicago I am so sorry that I have to miss this event. Syd is such a great guy and what a fun teacher. When we lived out in LA and Syd visited he included us at another party in his honour at Helene Winston's place where I got to meet Monty Hall (who said his biggest disappointment was not seeing my grandfather play hockey). Happy Surprise Birthday, Syd.

Francesca (Robyn) Peppiatt  
RTA '78  
[frankiev2@aol.com](mailto:frankiev2@aol.com)

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Congratulations on achieving 9 decades of winning hearts with your warmth, humour and kindness.

Bless you Syd. Affectionately,

Susan Higgins  
RTA '77  
[susanhiggins@vianet.ca](mailto:susanhiggins@vianet.ca)

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Sorry, I won't be able to make it in for the luncheon. Please convey my best wishes to Syd on a remarkable achievement. He's not only made it to the big 9-0, but he's done it with verve and style. More than the years Syd has lived, he's made us all want to see if some of that readiness to smile and laugh will rub off on us. So often in Syd's company it has. Hang in there Syd. Diana and I will see you on the first tee at Sturgeon Point come spring. Happy Birthday!

Bruce Rogers  
RTA '55  
[barogers@sympatico.ca](mailto:barogers@sympatico.ca)

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Happy Birthday Syd on this your 90<sup>th</sup> year. And here's hoping there are many more.

Bob Ireland  
RTA '60  
[bob.ireland02@gmail.com](mailto:bob.ireland02@gmail.com)

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Sorry I won't be able to make Syd's party. Give him my best; we are an endangered species.

Don Priestman  
[donkate@email.com](mailto:donkate@email.com)

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Dear Syd,

Happy 90<sup>th</sup>!

Wishing you the abundant joy and 'joie de vivre' that you brought into my life and the lives of all who are blessed to know you. You have remained an inspiration to all of us throughout the ensuing years. May the light of your presence continue to brighten our lives for many more turns of the seasons.

In love and admiration,

Paul Chaput  
RTA '70  
[pauljchaput@gmail.com](mailto:pauljchaput@gmail.com)

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**Well Syd who would have thought that 40 some years later that I would be retired and you would be approaching your old age, amazing how time flies.**

**Like many of you, I too had Syd as a professor but Syd played an even more important role in my life. In the early 70's I was a student activist at Ryerson. I organized student protests marched against nuclear tests, protested the Viet Nam war and generally tried to keep the university administration on their toes. And since RTA was my academic program it certainly didn't escape my activist eye in terms of protests, department sit-ins and even a mass class withdrawal at one point. In typical Syd style he would joke around with me from time to time about the latest hot topic that I was torturing the university or RTA administration about. I know Syd got some perverse pleasure in seeing the administration squirm in response to our various initiatives. Then Syd would often end our chat by jokingly suggesting that I should try attending a class or two because I might like the program. Syd seldom lectured students on an issue or took sides but he had an interesting way of tossing out a smart remark or asking a tough question that gave you pause to think about it after he had left.**

**From time to time Syd would jokingly let me know that he was concerned that I was so involved in student politics that I would not graduate. As time went on and we got to know each other better Syd became less subtle and he challenged me on the same issue a number of times reminding me repeatedly of the importance of actually getting the damn diploma and its importance as a critical stepping stone to further education and better career options. Syd was a pretty cool guy in those days and eventually I took his advice to heart and in third year I applied myself much more seriously to my studies and I even attended most of my classes, but student politics was still a passion. In the spring of 1972 I miraculously achieved my two big goals. I was elected to the full time job as the Ryerson Student Union President and I graduated from RTA. But in fact that was just the beginning, Syd's words stuck in my head and a year later I returned to part time studies at Ryerson and eventually received my degree. Several years later I went on to obtain a graduate degree at another university, none of it possible without that original RTA diploma. Syd I certainly owe you a debt of gratitude for goading me into completing that RTA diploma in the spring of 1972. Without it I never would have had the opportunity to further my education and to enjoy a wonderfully rewarding career over the past 40 years.**

**Syd you have changed hundreds of lives for the better over your many years, what could possibly be more rewarding as you pass this latest milestone in your life.**

**Congratulations and thank you.**

**David Guptill  
RTA '72  
[david.guptill@rogers.com](mailto:david.guptill@rogers.com)**

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Dear Syd,

Though I took your place teaching in RTA when you left the program, I could never really take your place in the hearts and minds of all the students and faculty that have learned so much from you over the years...the knowledge we gleaned, and your humour, warm heartedness and kindness have shaped us and will be with us all forever.

Sincerely,

Richard Grunberg  
[rgrunber@ryerson.ca](mailto:rgrunber@ryerson.ca)

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Dear Sydnela:

From the first moment I knew you I found out that “ham” was definitely part of one Jewish man’s life!

You were great fun as our acting instructor and television advisor. I remember how I kept insisting on doing only the audio booth but you kept telling me and I quote: “Camela, we do sound WITH pictures in television and you will do both, period, you little mensch (good person)”.

Thank you for all the fun years you gave me as an RTA professor.

But more than that...thank you very much for letting me know about CJRT-FM turning professional back in 1964 and that there were some job openings. I was in commercial radio at the time and ready to give it all up until you led me to a new non-commercial beginning and what turned out to be a long, really rewarding and very enjoyable working life at CJRT.

Happy 90<sup>th</sup> and remember: if you think about your age in kilometres, you're just getting up to speed!!

All the best,

Camela aka Cam Finley  
RTA '63  
[fintree@amtelecom.net](mailto:fintree@amtelecom.net)

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# The Nobel Peace Prize Committee

Dear Mr. Perlmutter:

The Nobel Peace Prize Committee is pleased to inform you that you have been accepted as a candidate for the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize, in recognition of your tireless, compassionate, and outstanding work with the Gentiles of what was Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, and is now, Ryerson University, of Toronto, Canada.

Your legendary, diligent, and unstinting care for this notoriously underserved segment of society, clothing them emotionally, feeding them intellectually, teaching them right from wrong, and guiding them in your true ways, serves as an inspiration, and has set the bar for educators and community workers around the world.

The field, this year, is quite thin, so the chances of your being awarded the prize are good. In order to help us deliberate, would you kindly forward a modest enrollment fee of only two thousand dollars (U.S.), along with the past five years of your income tax returns.

Hoping to hear from you soon, and with hearty congratulations on the recent occasion of your ninetieth birthday, we remain,

Yours truly,

The Nobel Peace Prize Committee  
Oslo, Norway

aka Gord Lindsay  
RTA '74  
[gord1@rogers.com](mailto:gord1@rogers.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Syd,

You interviewed me during the early summer of 1967, to see if I would be right for RTA and I guess in a way I interviewed you and RTA to see if it was right for me. RTA was the best decision I made. It helped me have the career I wanted and the friends I have loved for almost 50 years. You were such a huge part of my 3 years in RTA. Thank you for all you have given all of us.

Judi Ritter  
RTA '70  
[jritter29@rogers.com](mailto:jritter29@rogers.com)



\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Syd,

Just to let you know that I'm sorry about not being able to attend the luncheon. Please add my best wishes to the list of grads that Syd had such a positive influence on during our time at Ryerson. He persevered with those of us who found it a challenge to come out of ourselves in his course, but no matter how good or bad we were he always had something positive to say about our performance gave many of us the confidence to keep trying to be better. It's been many years since we saw each other but on the odd occasion when I gave talks to students in RTA, we had a chance to have a chat and catch up. He always remembered me even though it was often years after my 1960 graduation that we'd see each other again. His part in my Ryerson experience was something that I always appreciated, and it led to a wonderful career in television production. Thanks. Syd.

Kindest personal regards,

Henry (Hank) Pasila  
RTA '60  
[hj.pasila@sympatico.ca](mailto:hj.pasila@sympatico.ca)

\*\*\*\*\*

You can't fake charisma, some folks got it and some folks ain't. Mr. Perlmutter arrived on life's set fully primed for his first close-up, and after his first ninety years, his distinctive visage remains firmly in the spotlight. Unlike Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard*, Mr. Perlmutter has never had to plan a comeback because, for those of us who have benefited from his tutelage and radiant positivity, he will never be cut from our A-list. Happy Birthday, Mr. P.

Joe Partington  
RTA '70  
[joeypartington@gmail.com](mailto:joeypartington@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

To Syd Perlmutter:

When I think of Syd, I think of a supportive mentor and friend, always "there" when I wanted help, encouragement and wise advice.

And you can't buy that kind of backup, particularly when someone cannot just ask parents in person because family members did not live in Toronto.

As well, I somehow thought that you were *really* old! Now that I am "mature". I am fully aware that you, Syd Perlmutter, are simply eternal!

Elizabeth McKay Hill  
RTA '63  
[lhill@istar.ca](mailto:lhill@istar.ca)

\*\*\*\*\*

FOR SYD

I arrived at Ryerson, a chubby, gormless little pisher direct from grade 13, ready to take my place in the dazzling world of journalism. Unfortunately, because Journalism and RTA were combined in first year, I was also forced to take-omigod!-acting. And dumb stuff like radio announcing and oh, the ignominy of it all. But then came Syd. And others. But mostly Syd. And within a very short space of time, I fell in love with all of that dumb stuff and changed my orientation from Journalism to RTA when I slithered into my second year.

Syd didn't just teach, he taught with his own love of acting and producing, which was so infectious that I can conjure up the memories of it even now. I can see his face (which isn't that hard because it doesn't change, damn him!!). He infused his own love of the discipline into his students. Best of all, he loved us and remembers us all. This, in a world where I can barely remember my own name. Normally I'd check my driver's licence but I can't remember where I put that either.

Thank you. Love you to bits, Syd.

Gay Claitman (I found my driver's licence.)  
RTA '64  
[gclaitman@hotmail.com](mailto:gclaitman@hotmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

I received your e-mail invitation for the celebration of Syd's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and the contributions he made to so many of our lives. While I cannot join you at the luncheon, I would like to thank you for organizing this.

When I first arrived at Ryerson in the fall of 1976 I was only 17, straight out of high school, and having come from Calgary, found Toronto to be a very large and scary place. I didn't know anyone and realizing that I seemed to be much younger than most of the other students moving through the halls at Ryerson I was incredibly intimidated. Then I literally bumped into Syd Perlmutter who immediately put me at ease with his laugh, friendly manner and assured me that I was perfect for the RTA program. Suddenly Ryerson didn't seem so foreign and I felt I had someone I could approach if needed. Over the next three years like so many others, I came to rely on Syd's open door, practical advice and leadership. He had such an impact on so many of us, giving us confidence along with new skills.

Syd came out to many of the RTA reunions over the years since and he always has remained interested in the human elements behind our success stories. His care and humour have remained making him a teacher for life and someone for whom it is so easy to reciprocate our care and appreciation for all he did for us.

I hope you all have a wonderful time at the luncheon! I hope to see photos posted on Syd's Facebook page!

Best wishes,

Elaine Brown  
RTA '80  
[elaine.brown@cbc.ca](mailto:elaine.brown@cbc.ca)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Syd;

*"There is a fountain of youth: it is your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring to your life and the lives of people you love. When you learn to tap this source, you will truly have defeated age."*

This is a quote from Sophia Loren and I think it fits you perfectly; but you're not quite as pretty.

Wish I could be there today to shake your hand and give you a big hug. Happy Birthday Mr. Perlmutter,

With love and admiration,

Nancy Cahill Léger  
RTA '63  
[leger@storm.ca](mailto:leger@storm.ca)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Happy Birthday Syd, I look forward to celebrating your 110<sup>th</sup> with you.**

**You have been the greatest of teachers and an inspirational humanitarian. Your lectures and your personal encouragement have helped me in my career and I thank you for this.**

**I wish you all the best of Health and Happiness as you move forward in time and, I look forward to continuing our social encounters.**

**My best to you,**

**Farouk Muhammad  
RTA '63  
[rcefam@rogers.com](mailto:rcefam@rogers.com)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**I really am sorry I can't make it to your lunch on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will be in the sunny climes of Arizona at that time. However, it would be a pleasure to see Syd and wish him well on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

**I came to Ryerson from a tiny town in Saskatchewan. And yet, I never felt out of place at Ryerson, located in this "huge" city called Toronto. Syd and the other teachers always made me feel comfortable and welcome. And by the way, they taught me a hell of a lot. When I left Ryerson for my first television news job in Sudbury I still had to prove myself but I was well prepared to do so.**

**Thanks to Syd and his group I was able to spend my life doing what I loved. In fact, I'm not sure that most of the time it was work...it was just exciting fun. So Syd, you and the others gave me the RTA "crafts" and they served me well. All the best on your 90<sup>th</sup>.**

**Brent Harlton  
RTA '64  
[brent\\_harlton@yahoo.ca](mailto:brent_harlton@yahoo.ca)**

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**Dear Uncle Sydney,**

**You're a shining example, perhaps even more so now than you were during my time in RTA. I want to be in Mexico when I'm 90 too!**

**Love, as always,**

**Kate Barris  
RTA '74  
[katesword@ca.inter.net](mailto:katesword@ca.inter.net)**

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Much as I'd like to attend, previous commitments prevent me from doing so.

During my three years at Ryerson, I had many occasions to get to know Syd Perlmutter. 'Kind', 'affable', 'friendly' are some of the adjectives that come to mind when Syd's name pops up. But perhaps the most important one – for me – is 'caring'.

During the Fall of my first year I fell into a bit of a slump. I'd come from four years in Montreal, a lively city. I'd never lived in Toronto which, especially downtown in the fifties, was a bit of a let-down. What with one thing and another I stopped going to lectures, preferring to spend my days and nights in a gloomy room somewhere in the Carlton-Yonge area. My future looked bleak.

It must have been sometime during the second week that there was a knock on my door. It was Syd, having tracked me down through the files in the registrar's office, to pay me a visit. I can't remember what we talked about, but the upshot of it was that I returned to lectures the next day, and from then on I was back on track.

I'll always be grateful to Syd for having taken the time to bother about just another student who could easily have got lost in the shuffle.

Thanks Syd!

All the best,

Sjef Frenken  
RTA '60  
[sf.79@rogers.com](mailto:sf.79@rogers.com)

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Dear Syd, I know that it must be almost impossible to remember all of your former students, so let me give you a hint or two. Graduate of '61, blue 'wash and wear' shirt, brown tie, hair parted on the left, 5ft. 7'3/4"...remember? I thought you would. I have nothing but fond memories of those three wonderful years in RTA and you, dear sir, are there right at the top, Stanislavsky and all. Thank you for everything and have a great Birthday lunch.

Your ever enthusiastic student,

Fred Steinmetz  
RTA '61  
[steinmetzalfred@gmail.com](mailto:steinmetzalfred@gmail.com)

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**Happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday wishes to Syd Perlmutter**

**Syd, your signature, as Course Director, is one of three on the Ryerson diploma I received in Spring 1963. That diploma with your signature has travelled with me around the world over the past 52 years.**

**That diploma with your signature permitted me to work in Canadian broadcasting, the New Zealand film industry, and the advertising and public relations business. I continue to consult, write and produce radio commercials, print ads and even on-line advertising. I still can't resist the temptation to perform before a live mic.**

**Click on [www.usedoilrecyclingsk.com](http://www.usedoilrecyclingsk.com). Go to the Current radio commercials. Then click on the beaver illustration and hear the 60 second commercial. My Ryerson diploma guaranteed employment and in 1967, I was able to write to my future father-in-law that I had stable employment at CJAY-TV, Winnipeg and could afford to marry his daughter, Candy. A father's blessing is important. I married well. We raised three sons who are a credit to their parents. Well, most of the time.**

**So, Syd, your influence as instructor and Course Director has carried on through my life. And I appreciate the fact that your signature is on my Ryerson diploma. Thank you. Happy 90<sup>th</sup>, Syd. Kindest regards,**

**Bill "Whipper" Watson  
RTA '63  
[bill.watson40@gmail.com](mailto:bill.watson40@gmail.com)**

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**I was hoping to make it but I cannot. Please send my congratulations to Syd on his birthday and thank him for being such a great teacher and inspiration to generations of broadcasters.**

**Valerie Pringle  
RTA '74  
[vpringle@sympatico.ca](mailto:vpringle@sympatico.ca)**

\*\*\*\*\*

Syd,

Thanks for extending a friendly welcome to a young and innocent teen from Nova Scotia back in 1959. I remember well your passion for the RTA Course and great enthusiasm in motivating us to pursue our dreams of a career in Broadcasting...mine was as a Television Producer and Director in Sports and Entertainment mostly for the CBC.

Your greatest gift to me will always be your teaching of the course "Understanding Theatre Arts" with such dramatic flair; it benefited me greatly, both in professional guidance and personal enjoyment throughout life. Thank you.

Robert F. Smith  
RTA '62  
[robfsmith@sympatico.ca](mailto:robfsmith@sympatico.ca)

\*\*\*\*\*

Hello Syd,

Congratulations on celebrating 90 years young and I have no doubt you are still as young at heart as ever.

I'm sure over the years, the faces of your students at Ryerson may at times, have blurred together, but I want you to know that \*you\* stood out as our teacher.

Day in and day out, year after year, your enthusiasm and passion for television, for what the industry was and could be, and for the power that a good show could achieve made us sit up and take notice. You inspired generation after generation.

Thank you and All the Best, Good Health and Happiness,

Marlane Oliver  
RTA '80  
[Marlane.Oliver@rci.rogers.com](mailto:Marlane.Oliver@rci.rogers.com)

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Hi Syd:

Congratulations on turning 90. They say only the good die young. Just kidding. Seriously, I have fond memories of my days in RTA in large part due to great teachers like yourself.

Sorry I can't be at your birthday celebration but I will raise a glass of wine to you – something I got quite good at as the PR guy for the LCBO for 30 years! Happy birthday and hope you enjoy many more. Best,

Chris Layton  
RTA '77  
[laytonchrissusan@gmail.com](mailto:laytonchrissusan@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Syd Perlmutter**

**You made it! When I heard four years ago you were the featured speaker for our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion, I wondered if you would even be able to stand up. You seemed so very mature when we were all your students in the old aircraft buildings.**

**And there you were, looking great in a slick suit; sounding accomplished with a few amusing stories to tell. ALL THERE! I was very pleased.**

**One episode I remember with gratitude: I showed up in your tiny office to sobbingly tell you I had to quit the course. Ran out of money. You not only arranged a \$100 bursary to tide me over, you referred me to a job running elevators at the Eaton's store in our off hours for their Christmas rush. Milo Ringhame, Flo Louey and I would trudge down, put on our uniforms and punch our card for the evening hours. I hadn't any idea what was beyond my elevator and when riders asked, "Where is . . ." I confess, I guessed. In any case, the elevator was long gone before anyone could complain.**

**So often I typed your name in much later years in Bobcaygeon as I volunteered to typeset at the local newspaper where I found your golf game was winningly reported. I hope you play many more rounds.**

**Connie Neil  
RTA '61  
[conneil39@yahoo.ca](mailto:conneil39@yahoo.ca)**



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**Happy Birthday, Syd, and congratulations on reaching 90 – something you usually do by about the 14<sup>th</sup> hole! It's a great accomplishment, but don't get too cocky – you're going to have to wait another 15 years to have any chance of shooting your age. See you on the 1<sup>st</sup> tee at Sturgeon Point. Love,**

**Mac Bradden  
RTA '73  
[mac.bradden@utoronto.ca](mailto:mac.bradden@utoronto.ca)**

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There used to be a column ...‘according to Hoyle’

This is Syd’s story at Ryerson according to Guilfoyle’

1925 – You were born Sydney Perlmutter – but you know that – you were there! Of course, none of the rest of us were born yet, and back then, Ryerson taught teachers, instead of kids.

1958 – Syd began his lifetime affair with Radio and Television Arts at Ryerson when he arrived from Winnipeg with Mauri Desourdy and trainloads of students from the west – or was that trainloads of wheat?

1960 – You were 35 and everybody thought you were 22, Syd – and that’s when many of us pre-boomers first met each other at the Ryerson Institute of Technology.

May 1964 – You took a phone call after 5, Syd – from a guy named Fast Eddie Hall at CKLB Radio in Oshawa – and Guilfoyle was on his way down the 401 to sell time where GM was king – and single women didn’t exist or had already fled to Toronto.

December '64 – Paul Mulvihill came to Rye High looking for national time sellers like Bruce Hawkins, Tony Viner, Peter Jackman, Bob Dale, - Syd, you helped Guilfoyle escape to Montreal with another endorsement.

1975 – RTA is now granting B.A.A. degrees – who shares hints on how to speed up the process – Uncle Syd of course!

1980 – RTA '63 becomes the first Ryerson class (that we know of) to celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *starting* Ryerson instead of graduation. Naturally, Uncle Syd heads the delegation of a dozen (or so?) teachers attending. Class attendance, for the first time, was nearly perfectly with only Lynn Arnott hiding in Windsor.

Meanwhile, Uncle Syd Perlmutter became ‘the flamboyant personality’ of RTA at Ryerson, spokesman, recruiter, Mr. RTA.

1990 – Despite his efforts to hold back time, Uncle Syd turns 65 and the word ‘retirement’ is whispered throughout the halls of the Rogers Communications Centre, new home of RTA.

To keep on dancing and acting in starring roles – and to make sure his hair doesn’t turn grey – Uncle Syd takes on many honorary Ryerson roles which continue to this day.

Now let’s admit it. Did any of us, including you Uncle Syd, did we ever imagine back in the 50s, 60s, 70s, or 80s when we were sitting in class at Ryerson that one day in 2015 we’d all be celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the guy who never showed a day of aging!

SO - Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Uncle Syd -- see you in 10 years!

Norm Guilfoyle

RTA '64

[norm.guilfoyle@sympatico.ca](mailto:norm.guilfoyle@sympatico.ca)

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Syd, you are truly one of a kind! Your infectious enthusiasm, innate showmanship and legendary humour have left quite an impression on all who have known you.

Although you retired from RTA, 35 years ago (I was at the retirement party), you remained close to and part of every graduating class from your long tenure. It's as if you never left us, you are the common denominator of several generations of RTA students and we are all the better for it.

It seems that you've enjoyed every minute of it, you are a role model for all to aspire to and I am among the fortunate to have had your light shine on my life.

Very Best Regards,

Larry W. Horne  
RTA '73  
[horneland@sympatico.ca](mailto:horneland@sympatico.ca)

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Dear Syd:

Unfortunately, I will not be with you on Friday as the gang, the mob and the unwashed gather to help you celebrate your birthday.

Gord may tell you the reason I am absent from the party is that my dear Judy is in the hospital and that I don't want to be too far from her bedside. Poppycock!

The real reason is the damn photographs that he, Swain, and Reilly take of the lunches. You are the youngest-looking dude in the joint and all of the others, including me, look so friggin' OLD when sitting or standing (those of who can) beside you. My vanity prevents me from being near you! Sinatra sings, "You Make Me Feel So Young". Perlmutter makes us look so old!

I'll never forget the evening when Tony Galasso and I motored down from Hamilton to see a Leaf game (they were still contenders in those days), stopped in to visit Ryerson and you were there. You exclaimed, "Boys, they're hiring at the CBC!" in your wonderful Winnipeg Yiddish voice. Let's get Gord planning a luncheon at the Rogers Centre for your hundredth birthday. As Tony Bennett sings, "The Best Is Yet To Come!"

You changed my life and I am forever grateful to you. God bless you and keep us safe until we can meet again.

Affectionately,

Bert Allen  
RTA '62  
[bert\\_allen1@hotmail.com](mailto:bert_allen1@hotmail.com)

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Dear Sydney,

50 years ago in May I graduated from RTA.

I was 20. You were 40. (I had never thought of your age before as you were pretty much ageless.)

And now I am 70 and you are 90. You still look 40, and I look...well let's not go there.

The fact that you are still in my life after 50 years speaks volumes about you and what you meant to a young kid, and still mean to his well aged self.

Happy Birthday Syd. I am proud to be one of your "kids".

All My Best

Tom Williams  
RTA '65  
[tsmessy@gmail.com](mailto:tsmessy@gmail.com)

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Though it has been more than a few years, the invitation to your birthday celebration brought back many fond memories of my days around the Quad. Your professionalism and humour displayed in class were just as important to my education as the information you imparted. Though broadcasting never became my career, the lessons you taught still benefited me throughout my life. Thanks Syd, enjoy YOUR day!!

Alan Fram  
RTA '75  
[big\\_al@ispnook.com](mailto:big_al@ispnook.com)

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Uncle Sydney(or "Shikey" as your Southern California friends call you):

Happy 90<sup>th</sup>. Sorry Samm and I could not make the RTA luncheon. I understand that there will be a record number in attendance. Understandably so!! You are well loved and respected by your former students (or "kids" as you call us).

You may remember that the last luncheon we attended, about a year and a half ago, we were seated right next to you. As I looked around the table at my fellow classmates, you looked much younger than all of them. It appears that from the subsequent pictures Gord has sent us, you still do. We are looking forward to seeing the pictures from this luncheon.

Have a fabulous celebration . . . and many, many more!!!!

Roger and "Samm" Williams  
RTA '63  
[theroger@cox.net](mailto:theroger@cox.net)

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Dear Syd,

Your thoughtfulness, caring and devotion to the things and people that matter to you like your wife Mary and your children David and Leah and grandchildren, and your assorted RTA “kids” is evident to all for more than a half century.

All these “kids” have gone their own way, built their own lives based on the foundation that you provided. Because of your guidance, we are all here today to honour our mentor, friend and our second father.

Syd, on behalf of Fran and your chauffeur, I am honoured to be here today as part of your family and one of your “kids”.

Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Gord Shlanger

RTA '63

[gordshlanger@hotmail.ca](mailto:gordshlanger@hotmail.ca)



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## **RANDOM NOTES ON RTA A HUNDRED YEARS AGO!!**

Compared to the politically correct world we live in today, my RTA years were nothing less than the Ryerson, 'wild west' era. We studied in corrugated, galvanized steel, Quonset huts that were left over from the Second World War and our study world was pretty much a free styled one or, at least, that's the way it seemed. Little did I know that my first year was also Syd Perlmutter's first year as head of the Department. Truth be known he was probably suffering the jitters just as much as we were.

Most of us ended up at RTA because it was really the only game in the country if you wanted to learn something about writing, directing, production and the like. That's not to say the course was entirely without redeeming graces and it did have the added attraction of fitting into the self-styled, would-be, bohemian atmosphere we were trying to create right there on campus. Remember we were mostly middle class, urban kids, fresh from living with our parents, whose idea of bohemia came straight out of the world of novels. It didn't hurt that the rest of the school thought we were a bit off the wall as well. In retrospect I must concede that it was quite tame when compared with the years of the sixties and seventies that lay ahead of us, post graduation. Nonetheless, We did have our own way of doing things and it was not always compatible with faculty views. For example about a dozen of us decided there was no need for *each* of us to attend *all* classes all of the time. We developed a system where each member of the group would faithfully sit in on a certain course, summarize what was learned and then print it off for distribution to the rest of the group. It really worked quite well until Syd caught me in his office, using his Gestetner machine (they sell as antiques now) and using his supplies to run off copies of the notes.

I'll never know whether or not it was out of retribution, but one instructor named George Hayward was sufficiently annoyed with us that he set an important exam with questions that were taken from material entirely outside the curriculum. The result? Some 25, very irate students chased him down the hall to the instructors' office, where he locked the door and barricaded himself inside until Syd came along and persuaded the assembled horde that lynching would not be the best alternative. The exam was withdrawn by the way.

Some of the antics our students got up to would probably hit the headlines if undertaken today. For example one wag thought it would be extremely clever to plant a hidden microphone in the women's' washroom. No doubt that would be grounds for harassment charges and expulsion today and I am by no means condoning it even though it still gives me a chuckle. The sound feed was piped throughout the halls. The funniest part was that much of the stolen conversation centered on the perpetrator and it was none too flattering. Even the girls got a laugh out of this and I'm not sure they weren't aware of the whole plan right from the beginning. In our second year we planned a trip to New York City to visit broadcast facilities at ABC and NBC. Just before scheduled departure we were told that the excursion would not be allowed. I can't believe Syd had anything to do with this decision. Being of independent mind, however, we went ahead and hired the bus on our own and made the trip, without faculty oversight, even after being told we had better not miss any school days. Wiser, faculty heads must have prevailed for not a negative word was heard nor consequence paid after a most successful, 5 day journey. And of course what happened on the road



stayed on the road. Frankly this is the sort of spirit and initiative one needs to succeed in the tough world of Show Biz and we picked a lot of it up at Ryerson!

Many instructors came to RTA right out of the old Broadcast World and brought a portfolio of stories and anecdotes with them that always held our attention. People like Christine Macbeth, Maury Desourdie and Wally Ford were particular favourites. Even with all his foibles Wally was a particularly likeable character, who, fondly, put us in mind of Max Ferguson's lovable, CBC radio, alter ego, Marvin Mellowbell, radio host extraordinaire.

There were some traditions back then that carried on year after year. Each Friday at noon we would walk to the east end of Gould Street to the Town and Country Restaurant to gorge ourselves on their most magnificent, 50 foot buffet that boasted mounds of shrimp and lobster, Barons of beef, pork tenderloin, chicken and dozens of other items. It was probably in the \$3 to \$5 range and we scrimped for days to be able to afford it. No doubt they lost money on the starving, RTA crowd. In between T&C feasts we frequented the greasy spoon restaurant in the back of Sam the Record Man's shop where we got to know some of the city's top jazz musicians like Peter Appleyard and Russ Fearon. And of course Sam Sniderman often sat in with 'his' Ryerson students whom he enjoyed and made extremely welcome. Then there was Steele's Tavern, the place where we could make a meal out of mushrooms on toast and, if we had the spare cash, wash it all down with an 'exotic' Singapore Sling. A few years later, the owner, Steele Basil opened an upstairs room for live music and I helped get it off the ground for him by persuading a few up and comers of the day, including Gordon Lightfoot, to book in on a regular basis.

Did RTA help us with our careers? I went on to produce more than five hundred films and videos plus a healthy handful of live theatre and concert projects and I always thought Ryerson was something akin to chicken soup; it didn't hurt. One thing it did in a big way was leave us with a host of memories about our time there and the people like Syd Perlmutter who worked hard get us ready for the big time. Some of us are still at it and, as rocker Ronnie Hawkins is fond of saying, 'the big time is right around the corner'.

Col. Gil Taylor  
RTA '59  
[giltaylor@rogers.com](mailto:giltaylor@rogers.com)

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