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Our twenty-fifth reunion coincides, roughly, with what is for me a midlife metamorphosis and restart. The first half was fine, even great: two terrific kids (who are now my best friends and one a Yalie); started and built two companies; dabbled in other businesses; built the house that had become my obsession; got close to my brothers, sister, mother; started making real friendships; became more self-confident...and there were, of course, not so good aspects: marriage didn’t work out; failed to catch market peaks for selling companies; missed having breakfast and dinner with my kids; misspent my time and focus and emotions.

Now I’m optimistic and eager about the second half. I want to transform my company from an entrepreneurial cauldron to a professional well-oiled machine, or sell it. I’ve started doing business in Ukraine—hotel, trucking, trade, medical—on a catch-as-catch-can basis, and fantasize about building up a substantial, effectual organization there, maybe even personally becoming part of the community (in the latter regard I’ve already become a founding trustee of a new, independent university in Kiev). I plan on testing myself again in business, to see if my previous success was an accident of fate or a consequence of skill.

I’d like to create a risk-free, judgment-proof nest egg so as to obviate abiding financial insecurity. I’d like to grow as a friend to my friends, a father and relative to my children and family, and a companion/friend/lover to a woman I’ve yet to find. And I’d like to return the decency and kindness to all those people (alma mater not excluded) who formed and nurtured me in the past. I look forward to the second half and the challenges and pleasures it will bring.