

## Class of 1967 History

**By John Burness, Bill Eves and Tom Morris**

Oh how we lived at F&M in interesting times. Our four years were bracketed as freshmen by the assassination of a president and the rising tide of civil rights awareness and as upperclassmen by divisions on our campus, as elsewhere, over the war in Vietnam. In between, we accumulated the makings for memories – some lasting, some faded – of our four-year transition to the rest of our lives.

We entered F&M in September 1963, only a few weeks after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke in Washington of his dream. Dr. King's speech reverberated on campus. Dr. King's "Letter From Birmingham City Jail" was our freshman reading assignment, and Professor Sidney Wise of the government department led our freshman orientation discussions on what was described at that point as "the racial question." Dr. King himself arrived on campus to speak in December to a capacity crowd in Mayser Gym as part of the Topics series.

During freshman orientation, we donned those silly beanies and heard a stately Dean of Students Hadley DePuy tell us to look to our right, then look to our left and know that one of the three of us wouldn't graduate from F&M. We beat the averages. About three-quarters of us graduated. DePuy, though, left after our sophomore year, succeeded by a far more informal sort, Dr. O. W. Lacy, the Owl.

Keith Spalding was another newcomer to campus during our freshman year, but without the beanie. Following more than a year of internal turmoil within the college administration, Mr. Spalding, who was President Milton Eisenhower's assistant at Johns Hopkins, was inaugurated as president Sept. 26. During the 20-year tenure that followed, administrative turmoil was replaced by the start of F&M's growth into national rankings and the first serious efforts at fundraising.

We began settling into college life – going to classes, cheering at football games, enjoying the Smothers Brothers in concert. But the innocent days of beanies and orientation didn't seem to last very long in the Fall of 1963. Each of us remembers where he was when he learned of the tragedy in Dallas on Friday, Nov. 22, when President Kennedy was assassinated. From all parts of campus, we gathered around televisions or radios to learn more about what happened. A couple busloads of us went to Washington and waited in line six hours or more to file past the casket. On campus, we listened to broadcasts, alone or with friends. We mourned. The day after the assassination, the final football game of the season against Ursinus was canceled. Other campus activities were suspended.

After awhile, campus life resumed. The football team went 8-0 during our sophomore year, a remarkable turnaround from 1-6 the prior season, injecting more pep into rallies. For many if not most of us, the rule was to study hard, then play hard. Even some of our pre-med classmates were spotted leaving the labs on occasion. Friday night dances attracted

some Millersville coeds and Lancaster Lovelies. On celebrated Saturdays, buses arrived from campuses such as Wilson, Hood, Beaver and Goucher. In our senior year, the lead story in the College Reporter in late October proclaimed bluntly, "The Young Rascals and girls from twenty-five colleges will highlight the weekend of October 29." Through outings like these, some of us met our lifelong partners. Others enjoyed relationships of a far shorter tenure.

Along with hosting the dances and arranging for the buses to bring girls onto campus, the Student Union Board brought in big-name entertainers. The Inter-Fraternity Council brought in others during IF Weekend. During our senior year alone, we heard Peter, Paul and Mary; the Righteous Brothers; the Supremes; Johnny Mathis; Ray Charles; Sammy Davis, Jr.; Smokey Robinson and the Miracles; the Ramsey Lewis Trio; the Four Tops; Jerry Butler and Al Hirt; along with the Young Rascals.

Previously, in addition to those Smothers Brothers, we heard such entertainers as Dionne Warwick, the Beach Boys, Dave Brubeck, James Brown, the Four Seasons, Maynard Ferguson, Herbie Mann, the Kingsmen, Nina Simone, Dave Van Ronk, Woody Allen and Judy Collins.

F&M concerts by themselves could fuel a '60s radio station. They sure were fun, though those weekends certainly affected our bank accounts!

But not all sounds of the '60s were harmonic. As the Vietnam war escalated, so did opposition and protest against it. A contingent from F&M staged an all-night vigil in front of the Lancaster draft board towards the end of our junior year. After the bars closed that night, some town residents rode their motorcycles over the legs of students seated on the ground. A few others threw punches. Justice was light-handed. The charge against one man was resolved when he stood and recited an apology in open court. Another man was ordered to pay \$15.40 in court costs after being charged with assaulting a mathematics professor. Some F&M grads were drafted. Others enlisted. Not all returned safely, and we remember and honor them.

On campus, there were the perennial discussions about such hot topics as the quality of the food and laundry services. A successful protest at the President's House over the food service focused on getting Mrs. Spalding's attention, and sure enough, the food service was changed shortly thereafter. We also changed the fraternity bidding system and heard the first rumblings about offering courses and diplomas, as well as bus rides, to women.

But as we think back to our F&M days 40 years ago, we know that each of us will have a different set of memories. A review of the 1967 *Oriflamme* – by far the best issue of our four years at F&M – shows the permutations and combinations of student life. The *Oriflamme's* Senior Directory listed each senior's memberships and accomplishments. No two listings looked alike, as we chose courses offered by 26 departments or selected whether to join from among 11 fraternities, more than 50 student organizations and a dozen varsity athletic teams. In athletics our senior year, the wrestling team was spectacular, losing only to powerhouse Pitt en route to a 9-1-1 record. The squash team

was 3-3 in inter-collegiate competition in the team's first season with varsity status. Golfers were 10-3, the tennis team was 9-3, swimmers were 7-3, and the soccer team was 6-2-2.

Of the 430 of us who wore beanies as freshmen, 322 wore mortarboards at graduation. At the beginning, we lived through the assassination of President Kennedy and heard the stirring words of Dr. King. At the close, even in the joy of the college's 189<sup>th</sup> Commencement, Vietnam was front and center. Our speaker that day was U.S. Senator Joseph Clark of Pennsylvania on the topic, "In Quest of Peace: A Pragmatic Vision."

Today, too, the quest for peace continues.