

Class of 1964 History

By: Mike Powers

About 400 of us arrived in September of 1960 basking in the pleasant Eisenhower years when life seemed basically good, opportunity ever present, and no raging .com technology filtering down to the masses and significantly altering our lives.

The freshmen came from an ever widening number of states and foreign countries and were immediately plunged into the "New Curriculum" which had been designed to broaden our liberal arts experience and narrow the number of courses per semester, ultimately to round out the school's previous reputation as a feeder for medical schools closely followed by a strong reputation for preparation in the field of geology. The tuition was \$1,390.

After the embarrassment of wearing our beanies (dinks) and being harassed by upper classmen and surviving and actually coming out on top of the pants rivalry we settled down into the routine of studies, sports events, fraternity rush and parties, and the ever present quest to locate female acquaintances to soften our all male school. In 1961 the student body engaged in a bit of rioting in front of the President's house making rude demands for more accountability. Most of us didn't have a clue what the issues were. President Bolman did his best to address the students then and later at various campus meetings, but he wasn't very warm and cuddly, and ultimately this probably added to his fall from grace with Chairman of the Board William Schnader, and his eventual firing/resignation in the fall of 1962. Things finally settled down, and later in 1963 Keith Spaulding was appointed President and started his long and successful career with the School.

In 1962 the School purchased Baker Field in hopes of trading it to the City for Buchanan Park. The effort failed and eventually the school developed the property into Baker Campus athletic fields.

In 1962 Woody Sponagle made the mistake at a pre-season football rally of saying, "Where can we go but up?" Unfortunately the season ended with a 0-8 record. They had won a single game the year before!

The years between 1960 and 1964 were clearly defined by the return to the White House of the Democrats, the election of our first Catholic President, and the tragic assassination of JFK in November of 1963. At the same time we suffered through the aborted Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, survived and triumphed over the Cuban Missile Crisis, witnessed the continuing turmoil in Berlin and saber rattling of the Soviet Union, and felt the stirrings and emergence of the ever widening Vietnam conflict. The awareness of and use of marijuana began to take hold and peaceful and not so peaceful protests and marches became a tool for students to demand political change and action. (Social Awareness by Fred Orner & Criss Juliard) Dale Kistler led our class as President, Bob Lasky ran the Student Newspaper, the Student Union was always being criticized as inept, fraternities continued to be a thorn in

the side of the administration, especially Dean DePuy, Slater food was simply awful, and mooning took hold as the ultimate youthful symbol of defiance and disrespect. The Protest tree contained daily communiqués outlining campus issues, expressing outrage, and venting with sarcastic humor. Rich Wolfe arrived at the Boyd Theater in a limo impersonating Paul Newman and carried it off with aplomb. The local paper swallowed it hook, line and sinker.

For entertainment we heard and saw Fats Domino, Duke Ellington, Oscar Brand, Josh White, Pete Seeger, The Lettermen and The Brother Four and heard lectures by Henry Kissinger, Indira Ghandi, Archibald MacLeish and Martin Luther King. Sean Cunningham reigned supreme in the Green Room, Dave Orman kept us abreast of sports, Jeff Slavin directed the Inter Fraternity Council, Al Cossari took on the Student Council and Bill Behringer headed up the Student Union Board. Of all things, yours truly was Chair of the kangaroo court known as the Student Judiciary Board, over which the school administration kept a very strong hand. (I never could sufficiently explain to economics professor Vladimir Treml the motivation for mooning, I tried to equate it with swallowing gold fish).

All of this ended with graduation on the Hartman Hall Oval with Chet Huntley and David Brinkley delivering the graduation address from opposite sides of the podium and with an honorary degree for President Dwight David Eisenhower. (A small group of celebrators, myself included, were impounded the evening before graduation in the Lancaster Jail, and walked back to Campus in the early morning sun just in time to participate). By the end of our term tuition has crawled up to \$1,700 a year, the average salary for a professor was about \$7,200, formal Arrow shirts sold for \$5.00 and LB Herr & Sons in downtown Lancaster were still advertising in the School Paper as "The Typewriter Store".

How things have changed!