

## Class of 1972 History

In order to relate the history of the Class of 1972, one has to recall the events in this country which took place during those four years at Franklin and Marshall. At the time of our admission, national events were having a tremendous impact on us. The year 1968 will be remembered for many reasons. In his book, 1968, Charles Kaiser said in his introduction that, "1968 was a pivotal year. It was a moment when all the nation's impulses toward violence, idealism, diversity and disorder peaked to produce the greatest possible hope and the worst imaginable despair."

Leading up to the fall of 1968, we experienced the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy. We watched the turmoil of the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. The Vietnam War was the main feature on nightly news as well as the civil rights movement. There were riots in U.S. cities.

And then there was freshman orientation! Our class was required to read The Assassination of Malcolm X and The Kerner Commission Report. Our freshman handbook showed high school senior pictures of conservative looking eighteen year old males. That's right! Our class was the last all male class at F&M.

We survived the sticker shock of fall mid-semester grades and then first semester grades in which it seemed that one-third of our class was on probation. We watched Richard Nixon's election. We experienced a debate over going coed and remember the tombstone placed by the Protest Tree of Mona T. Cism, 1787 - 1969. We experienced the good old mixers where girls from Wilson and Goucher Colleges were bused in. We paid 37 cents for a gallon of gas and mailed letters with 6 cent stamps. The primary method of communication was by hall rotary phones and writing letters.

We were introduced to President Keith Spalding as well as Dean of Students, O.W. Lacy (OWL).

Our class had the usual high percentage of pre-meds who quickly earned the nickname of "throats". We made our daily trek to the post office at Old Main hoping for letters. Many of us made the trek at night to the library to study in the "stacks".

The Vietnam War was a dark curtain hanging over our heads. However, we were in the Selective Service 2S category of deferments while our non-college attending peers, a large percentage of whom were minorities, were selected to serve and experience the horrors of war. While we spent our time in conservative, idyllic Lancaster, it was understood that flunking out of college meant substantial certainty of military induction.

Anti-war protests included a candlelight march one night through downtown Lancaster. There were anti-war protests at the Hamilton Watch facility down the

street. We watched the annual Loyalty Day Parade march through Lancaster. We experienced the tragedy of Kent State in the spring semester of our sophomore year which resulted in the choice of taking our grades as they were or taking a final exam. Don't forget the student take over of the Administration Building and watching the Draft on television to determine our Draft number.

Our freshman year revealed the experience of dorm life which included such notable cultural events as sliding naked down soapy hallways, playing Lacrosse in the halls, the waft of marijuana combined with rock music, beer can bowling and late night snacks with Dino the Tuna Sub Man or treks to the House of Pizza on James Street. Oh yes, there were also fire alarms. Campus life included playing Dutch Trivia on WFNM, spending time in the coffee shop, actually doing activities in old Hartman Hall, listening to the music of Steve and Steve and going to concerts such as the Beach Boys, James Taylor, Laura Nyro and the Grateful Dead and paying \$4.00 a ticket.

Some of us stayed in the new dormitory which was aptly named "New Dorm". Some of us joined the Student War on Poverty, the Students for a Democratic Society, the Afro-American Society, the Ecology Club, and eleven fraternities with pledging and rush. Fraternity life was a big part of our experience.

We also had the wonderful theatrical renditions at the Green Room, including watching Treat Williams '73 perform as well as listening to the Poor Richards Group, featuring Bruce Sussman '71. With regards to sports, wrestling was king. Remember, going into the "pit" to watch wrestling matches with all the lights out except a spotlight on the main mat. We were fortunate to watch All American classmates Chris Black and John Stevenson perform. We experienced the devotion of many coaches including Bill Ianicelli, Ron Sachs, George McGinness, Ron Gray and our rookie basketball coach, Glen Robinson. The baseball team had its first spring training trip which was underwritten by creative fund raising such as sports betting pools.

We were educated by a number of professors who devoted decades of their lives to Franklin and Marshall such as Professors Wise, Schier, Michalak, Darlington, Pittinger, Pinsker, Russell, Lane, Vanderzell, Jeannet, Pike, Philoon, Brubaker, McDermott, Haag, Wank, Shively, Bedient, Klein, Heller, Mickey, Miller, Snavely, Dewey, Van Horn, Wickstrom, Ritter, Moss, Phillips and Enck. We could not forget John Peifer, Jr. or Hugh Galt. Nor could we forget athletics trainer, Jim Warfield, who went on to become the head trainer of the Cleveland Indians before his premature death a few years ago.

In 1972, tuition was \$2,500.00 a year and room and board was \$1,120.00. Shortly after graduation, we learned of the tragic death of Williamson Award winner, Gregg Weir.

On a positive note, our class has consistently led all classes in yearly donations to F&M. At our 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion, it was noted we had five class members on the Board of Trustees. Our library is known as the Shadek-Fackenthal Library thanks to the continual generosity of the Shadek family including our classmate, Larry.

Our Oriflame yearbook in 1972 gives us an indication of the transformation of our class. This is probably the smallest yearbook in the history of Franklin and Marshall. The short-haired class members from 1968 were now depicted with long hair, beards, muttonchops and bell bottomed pants.

Perhaps President Spaulding described our class best in his letter in the Oriflamme which stated:

“It would be difficult to characterize the world during your time at Franklin and Marshall as other than a period of flux. Some of the experiences of these past four years have surely been traumatic. But with all the uncertainty and ambiguity you faced in the world’s expectation of us, as I reflect upon it, I am impressed with the fortitude, and the resistance to the fears and pessimisms of the day, which most of you exhibited. While some will remember your generation of students for the excesses which captured headlines, I will remember a large body of young men and women who were generally good natured, reasoned earnestly about their own problems and the problems of the College, and cared about what they were doing.”