

## Class of 1982 History

When 550 frosh arrived at F&M in late August, 1978, they hailed from 24 states and Puerto Rico as well as 10 foreign countries including, among others, Iran (this was before the American Embassy hostage crisis). The class was unique in that the male to female ratio was 55 to 45, the closest the College had come to a balanced ratio since the school went coed a decade earlier. Also, our class had 22 black students, double that of the previous year. Tuition was \$4,130 and residence fees, which entitled you to dine at Saga (which later gave way to ARA), was \$1,565.00.

If the tuition figures seem laughable now, that's because it was a much different time. The only computers on campus were six feet tall with tape reels. Our only exposure to a mouse was in the dining hall, and the meaning of spam, cookies and virus had not yet been co-opted. CDs were bank instruments then – we listened to 8-track tapes and vinyl 45s and enjoyed the art of album covers and liner notes before they were downsized. There were no ATMs or credit or debit cards – instead you had to cash your check with the bursar or at the bookstore. You didn't need too much money then though pitchers at Hildy's were \$3, Asteroids was a quarter and a dime for the jukebox. There was no email and no internet so no Google to help us with our term papers. Since there was no cable, we struggled through without our MTV and managed to pound out assignments on manual typewriters, using white-out since you were your own spellchecker. In those days, there was only one phone company and it didn't offer cell phone service and you actually had to dial the number.

In our first year, we survived Three Mile Island and got a "Radiation Vacation" in the bargain. Some of our classmates created an ersatz hot tub in Buchanan and made the Associated Press wire. That year the basketball team went, via the "Rock Island Express", to the Division III championship and emerged third in the nation. We got to watch the 76ers, and the legendary Dr. J, practice at Mayser and attended the premiere of alumnus Franklin Schaffner's "Boys From Brazil" at Hensel Hall. The next year, many of us got to vote in our first presidential election. We watched Saturday Night Live because it was funny back then though some of the laughter died with John Belushi. Many were transfixed by the fate of Luke and Laura on General Hospital. In the wider world, we witnessed the bungled rescue attempt of the hostages in Iran and their eventual release, the Miracle on ice at the 1980 Winter Olympics, John Lennon's tragic murder, the assassination of Sadat, the attempted assassination of Reagan, and the Falklands War. On campus, we witnessed the chain go up across the Old Main entrance and braved trying Dutch scrapple at Dempsey's diner. We dreaded being "pennied" in our dorm rooms and became "throats" when finals came around. George and Martha watched over us but alas are now gone. A lot has changed but, at heart, we're still the class with character.