

# Summary

## 1. Introductions

Participants from varied locations reintroduce themselves, recalling former names and different experiences on campus. Many are reconnecting for the first time in decades.

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## 2. Major Theme: The Vietnam Draft Lottery

### 2.1 Listening to the Lottery

- Many recall gathering in dorm rooms or listening on WVBR radio as numbers were drawn.
- Several describe intense anxiety as numbers were announced out of order or skipped due to station interruptions.

### 2.2 Draft Numbers & Outcomes

- Participants shared their draft numbers ranging from very low (e.g., 69, 89, 92) to high (e.g., 300+).
- Stories include:
  - Going to **Syracuse** for the physical exam.
  - Attempts to fail the physical: eye infections, chemical irritants, soaking feet, etc.
  - Temporary or permanent medical deferments.
  - Strategies like pursuing deferable fields or considering **Peace Corps/VISTA**.

### 2.3 Impact on Life Choices

- Some changed majors to seek deferments.
  - Others considered enlistment in Coast Guard or other branches to avoid Vietnam.
  - The draft shaped academic paths, stress levels, and long-term outlooks.
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## 3. Political Activism & Campus Climate

### 3.1 Anti-War Protests

- Students recall walking out during the lottery and participating in D.C. demonstrations.
  - Some lived in Cornell-affiliated housing in Washington while volunteering with congressional offices.
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- The campus atmosphere was highly politicized and emotionally intense.

### 3.2 Cambodia & Early End of Semester

- The **U.S. bombing of Cambodia** triggered widespread protests.
  - Cornell's classes ended early or were disrupted; some students took:
    - **Pass/Fail** options
    - **Incompletes** to finish coursework later
  - Faculty responses varied—some were flexible, others refused adjustments.
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## 4. Social & Academic Life

### 4.1 Living Situations

- Men could live off-campus earlier than women.
- Women sometimes faced discrimination from landlords reluctant to rent to female students.
- Some had to obtain **parental signatures** to sign leases because they were under 21.

### 4.2 Daily Experiences

- Comments include:
    - **Cold Lake Cayuga** (“numbingly cold”).
    - Difficulty finding parking; one person's car was towed from a hydrant.
    - Observations that **men commonly had cars**, while women rarely did.
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## 5. Women's Roles & Cultural Change

### 5.1 Feminism on Campus

- A course titled “**History and Evolution of the Female Personality**” is remembered as one of the first feminist academic offerings in the U.S.
- Discussion touches on:
  - Shifting expectations for women.
  - Access to birth control (e.g., Dr. Flacco prescribing pills freely).
  - Limited access to abortion; some women traveled to Philadelphia for the procedure.
  - Early versions of emergency contraception (“morning-after pills”) being used unofficially.

### 5.2 Broader Cultural Shifts

- Contrast between early-college coed expectations and more liberated senior-year attitudes.
  - Growing women's movement influences choices, identity, and academic interests.
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## **6. Summer in Ithaca**

Some stayed in Ithaca for summer jobs, coursework, or incomplete classes. Experiences included:

- Working on sociology research projects (e.g., family planning study).
  - Discovering differences between living in Ithaca as a student vs. as a resident.
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## **7. Additional Reflections**

- Some discuss anti-Semitism (in reference to recent Cornell events) though this part of the transcript is only briefly touched before the text cuts off.
- Participants reinforce the importance of collecting memories for future historical understanding.