

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.

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.

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.

- 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.