

Summary

1. Introductions & Backgrounds

Many participants briefly introduced themselves, sharing:

1. Their academic majors and extracurriculars (e.g., **Glee Club, gymnastics, Octagon musical comedy group**).
2. Dorms and residences lived in:
 - o **Dixon Hall, Risley, Eddy Street apartments, Algonquin Lodge cooperative, fraternities and sororities, and lake houses**.
3. Student jobs, including pot-washer, cocktail waitress, secretary for the Inter-Fraternity Council, and library desk worker.
4. Unique family circumstances, including one participant's father enrolling at Cornell at age 48 and performing in the orchestra with his children.

2. Campus Housing & Everyday Living

1. **Dorm life:**
 - o Dickson 5/6, Donlon, and others are remembered fondly.
 - o Phillips House was described as cold, cramped, unheated, with windows required to stay open even in winter.
2. **Off-campus and shared housing:**
 - o Eddy Street apartments, Zeta Psi fraternity on Stewart Ave, and cooperative living at Algonquin Lodge formed major parts of students' lives.
3. **Risley Residential College:**
 - o A major hub of arts and theater, fully student-run, with its own performances, medieval festivals, and even a rescued movie-theater's seats transported by truck and installed in their theater space.
 - o The Risley dining hall became popular due to a creative, talented chef recruited from Cornell Law School dining.

3. Campus Communication & Social Life

1. **Pre-digital communication:**
 - o Students relied on **radio (WVBR)**, posters, "The Sun," word-of-mouth, and crowded tables in **Willard Straight Hall** for news and events.

2. **Willard Straight Hall:**

- Remembered as a bustling hub for student activities before its modern redesign; participants described the layout and social rhythms of the building .

4. Music & Concerts at Cornell (Major Topic)

This was the richest and longest part of their shared reminiscences.

4.1 Major Artists Seen in Cornell Venues

Participants recalled seeing or hearing:

1. **Peter, Paul & Mary** (Bailey Hall & Barton Hall), including discussions afterward with the artists .
2. **Grateful Dead**, in a tiny gym in 1970 before they became widely known; attendees were struck by the long-haired crowd and intimate setting .
3. **Ravi Shankar**, whose Bailey Hall concert was described as transformative and culturally eye-opening .
4. **Janis Joplin**, “the most fantastic concert,” remembered for its electric atmosphere, her intoxication, and the crowd response .
5. **Simon & Garfunkel, Tina Turner, Melanie, Joan Baez**, and others, mentioned with vivid anecdotes about performance style, crowd energy, or political contexts (e.g., anti-war events) .

4.2 Local & Regional Acts

- Regular appearances by **Buffalongo** (eventually **King Harvest** of “Dancing in the Moonlight” fame), **Big Daddy and the Dukes**, and bar-band circuit venues near the waterfront were popular student nightlife staples .
- The **Warehouse** nightclub hosted local bands and was a frequent hangout for students .

4.3 Campus Musical Groups

- **Cornell Glee Club, Chorus, Sage Chapel Choir, Octagon**, and Gilbert & Sullivan productions were cherished memories, with international tours and holiday performances like the midnight Christmas concert in Sage Chapel .

4.4 Record Collections & Popular Albums

Students recalled endlessly playing:

- **Beatles albums** (White Album, Magical Mystery Tour),
- **Simon & Garfunkel, Joni Mitchell, Carole King's Tapestry**,

- **Creedence Clearwater Revival**, initially misremembered as “Rolling on the River” before learning the title “Proud Mary” .
- **Bob Dylan, Firesign Theatre**, and folk favorites like **Tom Paxton**, prompted by radio play on WVBR .

5. Speakers, Events, and Cultural Life

1. **Muhammad Ali** visited and later went to a fraternity gathering where students met him up close; his size and presence made a strong impression .
2. **Bernadette Devlin**, the controversial Irish activist, spoke on campus, with one participant accompanying her to her plane afterward .
3. A prison troupe performed at the **Sadler**—a memory only vaguely recalled by some participants .

6. Work, Responsibilities, and Odd Jobs

Participants recalled:

- Pot-washing strikes after being told to mop floors (mass quitting at Kappa Alpha) .
- Serving meals in sorority houses, working at the Inter-Fraternity Council offices, and student jobs in libraries or dining halls.
- Fraternity house social dynamics and their own role as RAs or officers in organizations.

7. Personal Stories, Coincidences & Connections

- Serendipitous reconnections, such as two attendees discovering they attended the same high school, formed some of the lighthearted exchanges .