

SUMMARY

1. Introductions and Single-Word Descriptions of Junior/Senior Years

Participants introduce themselves and choose one word to describe their experience. Common words included:

- “Tumultuous”
- “Terrified about what came next”
- “Didn’t want to leave” (continued into grad school)

Themes: uncertainty, excitement, emotional closeness to Cornell.

2. Historical Context: Vietnam War and Student Activism

1. Campus shutdown during junior year to protest the Vietnam War
2. Many classes going pass/fail and concerns about graduate school admissions
3. Recollections of political unrest and activism culture on campus.

3. Campus Traditions Recalled from the Late '60s–Early '70s

3.1 Major Traditions

1. Spontaneous crowds leaving the library for the Straight at ~9 PM
2. **Chimes/Bell Tower** – beloved daily musical tradition; admiration for the chimes masters
3. **Tray Sliding** in winter as a common freshman-year activity

3.2 St. Patrick's Day & Engineering/Architecture Traditions

1. Annual stunt anticipation; dyed Beebe Lake green; dragon parade from the architecture school

3.3 Hockey Traditions

1. Sleeping out for season tickets until the university attempted to curtail it by keeping locations secret
2. Long lines and early arrivals; balloon games before the game started
3. Sitting at the penalty box for fun interaction

4. Student Life: Dogs, Dorms, Clothing Rules, Social Norms

4.1 Dogs on Campus

1. Dogs roamed freely; myth of a donor requiring that dogs be allowed to run free.
2. Dogs were allowed in classrooms as long as they behaved

4.2 Dorm Rules and Dress Codes

1. Requirement for skirts/dresses for Sunday dinner in the dorms
2. Contrasted with today where students dress far more casually.

4.3 Changing Social Norms

1. Hot pants era by the time they graduated
2. Stories of panty raids and slips being stolen (humorous retellings)

5. Academic Life & Learning Environment

5.1 Handouts, Notebooks, and Cursive Notes

1. Heavy reliance on paper handouts per course
2. Note-taking by hand, often in cursive, contrasted with modern technology

5.2 Textbook Strategies

1. Borrowing library copies for the whole semester if no one else requested them

5.3 Physical Education Requirements

1. **Mandatory Physical Education for two years**
 - o First year: calisthenics, wrestling, etc.
 - o Second year: electives like golf (done in cages hitting balls against a wall)

5.4 Swimming Test

1. Students had to strip down and swim across the pool or be placed in remedial swimming

6. Entertainment: Movies, Concerts, Films, and Barton Hall Events

6.1 Local Theaters

References to the Strand, Ithaca, State, and Temple theaters, with multiple films running simultaneously

Students often ran between theaters to create an impromptu double-feature experience

6.2 Cornell Cinema & Ives Hall Films

Foreign films and student-favorite screenings in large lecture halls such as Ives 120

6.3 Barton Hall Liberation

Recollections of the Barton Hall protest/occupation; appearances by figures like Father Daniel Berrigan

7. Weather Memories

1. A major late-season snowstorm during senior year; first class cancellation in ~50 years
2. Regular May snows remembered with a mix of humor and frustration.

8. Campus Geography & Space Usage

1. Swimming in the gorges, now prohibited; unrestricted access in their era
2. Access to unusual campus spaces such as the brain collection in Stimson Hall and other anatomical collections

9. Drugs, Woodstock Era, and Campus Culture

1. Discussion of the cultural shift around drugs at the time.
2. Woodstock occurring while they were students. Alumni debate whether that was the beginning of changes or an inflection point

10. Reflection on How Much Changed During Their Four Years

1. More change in a short time than in decades prior.
2. Women's rules, social expectations, dorm life, and broader campus culture transformed rapidly.
3. Incoming freshmen after their class experienced a completely different, far less regulated Cornell.