

**Summary of Discussion (Cornell Class of '71 History Project Call):**

- **Purpose:**  
Kickoff of a memory-collection project to preserve personal stories for Cornell archives. Participants introduced themselves and discussed creating smaller “affinity group” sessions (e.g., band, sports, newspaper).
- **Participants:**  
Alumni from across the U.S. (e.g., Florida, Colorado, New Jersey, California, Wisconsin) shared backgrounds, majors, and post-college paths.
- **Key Themes & Memories:**

**1. Campus Life & Academics**

- Shifts in majors due to academic challenges (e.g., organic chemistry).
- Notable professors, including one who later won a Nobel Prize.
- Efforts to reshape academic departments (e.g., pushing psychology toward more human-focused topics).

**2. Activism & Vietnam War Era**

- Strong recollections of campus activism and protests.
- Story of students boarding buses to Washington, D.C. for anti-war demonstrations.
- A defining moment: a professor calmly absorbing hostility (egg thrown at him), influencing a student’s anti-war stance.
- Tension between students, administration, and families over political involvement.

**3. Student-Led Initiatives**

- “Psychology Conference” formed during campus unrest to voice student concerns and influence curriculum.
- Temporary success in adding more relevant, human-centered courses.

**4. Campus Culture & Environment**

- Informal and sometimes chaotic housing for transfer students (e.g., ballroom living arrangements, damaged fraternity house).
- Shared experiences of extreme weather (e.g., freezing temperatures during finals).
- Social life, including dorm traditions and food (e.g., daily ice cream rumors).

**5. Historic Events & Legends**

- References to campus unrest, including fires and protests.
- Stories/rumors about campus buildings (e.g., Rockefeller Hall funding issue).

- “Campus legends” about donors influencing policies (dogs on campus, food traditions).

#### **6. Personal & Nostalgic Moments**

- Yearbook photo anecdote (participant unknowingly featured).
- Travel to protests via unconventional means (e.g., U-Haul truck).
- Reflections on how unpredictable events (e.g., accidents vs. protests) shaped perspectives.
- **Overall Tone:**  
Reflective and conversational, blending humor, nostalgia, and serious recollection of a politically and socially turbulent time.
- **Next Steps Mentioned:**
  - Continue collecting individual stories.
  - Organize smaller group sessions based on shared experiences or affiliations.