

Class of 1963 History (September 1959-June 1963)

The class of 1963 witnessed some of the most significant changes in the history of Franklin & Marshall College. These were events that changed the course of learning, living and thinking at Franklin & Marshall College. Many of us were spectators, some of us were participants, but only a very few of us realized that these changes would shape the future of the College. Most of the accounts that follow came from the pages of the Student Weekly (September 1959 through June 1963); if there are any errors or omissions they are solely the responsibility of the staff of the Student Weekly and are not the responsibility of the historian. For the most part, the descriptions of these events are considered to be accurate.

September 1959 started out the same as all other freshmen orientations with 400 freshmen being herded around the campus by upperclassmen. On Thursday, September 10, the young men began what the Student Weekly called "a new way of life, a college way of life." President Bolman gave his convocation address but this year it had a different twist. No more "write home" and "study hard" pep talks. The subject of this convocation addressed the impact of uninterceptible ballistic missiles. Obviously, Sputnik was on his mind.

This topic was really not on the minds of the freshmen or the upperclassman. They had more important things to do than watch the skies for ballistic missiles. The Student Weekly noted that the Student Union Board (SUB) was working feverishly to arrange for the visit of the Wilson College girls. This was to be the mixer of all MIXERS. SUB was wrestling with one very serious problem. The girls would be spending Saturday night in Lancaster and there was no housing available for 100 young ladies. Some fraternity brothers were making their rooms available and would sleep in cars, while others would break out

Two new buildings were dedicated in September 1959: Schnader Hall and Appel infirmary. Mr. Schnader, F&M class of 1908 and an Attorney General of Pennsylvania, was chairman of the Board of Trustees; and Mr. Anthony R. Appel, F&M class of 1935 was also a board member with three generations of F&M College Presidents in his genes. The financial support from these two gentlemen was significant. However; many people asked "why did the college build an infirmary on campus when there were two major hospitals within walking distance of the college?" There seemed to be a greater need for an activity center where Maynard Ferguson and his band could entertain at the 1959 homecoming dance. The event was held off campus at the Moose Lodge. Can you imagine the invitation? "Return to Homecoming and dance at the Moose." The college also bought Baker Field, which is located a mile off campus. The college attempted to trade Baker field for Buchanan Park. This deal never materialized. Mr. Schnader and Mr. Appel, the two trustee benefactors, could not convince the city to make the trade. However, these two individuals weave their way back into the school's history prior to our graduation. They would have been heroes if they had converted the 45-acre Baker field into a weekend tent city.

Everyone seemed to have advice for the new freshman. The September 16, 1959 Student Weekly advised "If studying is hard for you, force yourself. In college, no one suffers except you and your parents. Should you fail, a year at college costs \$1900 plus what you would have made if you had been working. If you waste \$1900, because studying is too hard for you, it's your loss, no one else's." The same article recommends "Set aside a part of each day for study and force yourself to do it. Remember college is not one big weekend,

They were busy selling tickets to the fine arts film "A Night at the Opera" starring Groucho, Chico and Harpo Marx. The tickets were being sold at the same price as the bus trip to Chambersburg. Now we really needed a lesson in decision-making. \$2 would buy you all six of the Fine Arts Club's productions and you didn't have to ride in a bus for 5 hours. If you missed the 5:20 p.m. bus to Chambersburg and missed the last showing of "A Night at the Opera" you still had an option to compete with studying. Take a bus to downtown Lancaster, where the top movies showing included; "For the First Time," "The FBI Story," and "The Man Who Understood Women." If you had a car you could drive to the drive-in theater to see "Mr. Corey" and "The Incredible Shrinking Man". Remember that freshmen were not permitted to have cars on campus. The best show in town was at the Green Room, but the theatre didn't start its production until mid-November.

If you didn't like buses, couldn't afford movies, didn't get an invitation to go to Princeton, then the newly arrived freshman might relax and read the Student Weekly. The story line in one article might have been taken from the annals of "The FBI Story." The finances of the 1959 yearbook were being investigated. The former business manager of the yearbook had been expected to appear to explain the situation but a reported military assignment prevented his coming to Lancaster. This investigation took up a good deal of time from the other important matters that the Student Council had to consider.

Finally culture arrived in the form of F& M's radio station FM 680. The station had been off the air for several months, while the electrical engineers moved the station to Schnader Hall. FM 680 played a lot of folk music, which apparently didn't require paying royalties. 4 student folk singers filled in when records were not available. The station ended the day with the results of the sports car races

There were many other highlights in 1959-60 including the performance of the football team, which started the year with only 30 players showing up for practice. The F&M freshman team defeated Baltimore Junior College by a score of 14 to 0. The varsity team wasn't expected to win a game, but they beat Washington and Lee by a score of 41-0 and ended up with a 4-3-1-record. The 1960 track and field team was undefeated and the wrestling team had a 7-4 combined meet record. The swimming team had a 5-4 record. The basketball team, which was building for the future, had a 3-16 record. By the time we graduated the team had a winning record of 10-9-0. The swimming team was undefeated in 1962 and 1963. Unfortunately the football team had a losing record of 0-8-0,

The argument that the faculty doesn't respect athletes prevailed in 1959-1963. This argument continued throughout our four years at F&M and 45 years since graduation. The Student Weekly noted that "all athletics and especially football have become a part of the culture and life here at F&M. To have poor athletics means destroying a segment of college life, so well represented by Saturday's football game. Many professors say, "To heck with athletics. They are not important!" These professors, however, do not share college life with the students. The faculty members have their wives and families and teaching as their important consideration. Naturally, what is important to students is not as important to them."

Someone else had a winning record. The 1960 Oriflamme was dedicated to Dr. Bolman. With the notation "It is quite fitting that one who is dedicated and who bestows honors upon others is himself honored, in some small but meaningful way". This dedication was made in May 1960. This endorsement came back to haunt the trustees in 1962.

If you were not on the bus, and didn't follow the results of sports car races, didn't attend dances, and you didn't date or play on athletic teams, then advertisements in the Student Weekly had the answer for you. SMOKE. That is smoke cigarettes. The cigarette companies were paying big bucks to reach the college student and the Student Weekly certainly captured that market. The ads read as follows, "Still young and beautiful at 75! They said it couldn't be done but America's most famous lady (the Statue of Liberty) doesn't smoke a cigarette that's low in tar and more taste to it! Live modern with L&M," or

chemist is not a technologist. He is a part of the liberal arts. Science is nothing but technology." Dr. Snaveley finally did cross the line. He worked with a freshman by the name of Peter Buck to develop a solvent to remove the paint. The student did receive a \$10 reward and was reported to have switched his major to organic chemistry. If you are faced with the same problem the solution can be found in the Student Weekly of October 7, 1959 on page 3.

This history doesn't give sufficient recognition to the fraternities. This is because we've taken the position that "What happens in fraternities, stays in the fraternities." I can tell you that the 11 fraternities were a very important part of life at Franklin and Marshall College. The fraternities operated as freestanding social organizations with national affiliations. Code of ethics was governed by the Interfraternity Council and the national headquarters. Often these two bodies were in conflict. The fraternities were the glue that held the nonacademic aspects of the college life together. Over 50% of the class was a member of a fraternity. The fraternity system meant more than "friends for life". The fraternity system was the venue for academic, social, and athletic contests. Each fraternity was challenged to meet academic standards and pledge "brothers" who were leaders in organizations such as the Fraternity Council. Membership and officer rank were important to a fraternity's standing within the college community. Other competitions included building homecoming displays and escorting the homecoming queen to the football game and dance. Achievements in intramural and NCAA sanctioned sports also were criteria for judging status of a fraternity. The 1963 Oriflamme does an excellent job in describing the goals of each fraternity. The life and character of a fraternity was different for respective houses, but the enthusiasm was consistent and the lessons learned in the "house" often exceeded the lessons learned in the classroom. Phi Sigma Kappa is an example of both lessons coming together. The fraternity held its annual car smash demolition by which young men could relieve their frustrations (of academic life) by slamming a John Henry sized sledgehammer against an old automobile. The event was a fund raiser, but was almost stopped in its tracks when one of the brothers remembered that they had not siphoned off the gasoline tank. Lesson learned.

The Conestoga wagon, which was pulled around the track by pledges from the various fraternities, learned another lesson at the 1962 homecoming. The ritual was discontinued in 1958, and the class of 1963 elected to reintroduce the practice. No one could quite remember why the practice was discontinued. But ever since the wagon stopped going around the track the football team had an 0-12 record. It was only when the wagon was in motion that the freshmen realized that they were pulling a three ton wagon that was rolling forward without breaks. The wagon is now housed at the Alumni Sports and Fitness Center. Brakes engaged.

Calm seemed to blanket the campus during our sophomore and junior years. Those of us who signed up for Air Force ROTC in order to boost our Grade-Point Average found ourselves sitting on a bus headed to the Air Force Base in Middletown, PA where we would receive a physical examination that would forever determine our future. The following week I was on a bus with my fellow Geology classmates. We were on our way to Crystal

Jocks" also helped the GPA. There were no more paint raids, the scandal over the 1959 Oriflamme seemed to subside, many of us were in love and no longer needed to caravan to mixers and best of all recruiters were knocking on F&M's door, and professional schools were ready to place the healing arts graduates of 1963. It would take a major catastrophe to upset the world of Franklin & Marshall. And that's exactly what happened following the "resignation" or "firing" of President Bolman.

The authority of the Chairman of the Board of the Trustees was being tested and it impacted all of us, including the Trustees of the College, the President of the College, the Faculty, and the student body. The relationships were being redrawn and redefined for years to come. The Bolman resignation will probably go down in the academic history as the perfect example of what can go wrong when changing the president of a college. The story has its own hard driving characters.

According to accounts in the Student Weekly, on September 5, 1962, President Bolman was

The senior class of 1963 worked with four Franklin & Marshall Presidents. This is a record that still stands today.

The job description of the president changed over the past 45 years because of the Bolman "firing." The Student Weekly of September 17, 1962 explains that Dr. Bolman was fired because: 1) he refused to make friends for the community and to make the College a part of the community; 2) he did not try to develop a strong college spirit; 3) he was cold and unfriendly on-campus; 4) he failed to develop a strong alumni body."

In fairness, Dr. Bolman made numerous positive contributions to Franklin & Marshall College. But most importantly, he defined the characteristics that the trustees would be looking for in selecting future presidents. The college had 16 presidents between 1787 and 1963 and 4 of these presidents were responsible for the education of the men who became the class of 1963.