

Reflections of the Class of 1971

By Tom Lashnits 71

It was a turbulent time. The Vietnam War. The Draft Lottery. Black Power. Women's Lib, Kent State. And Closing Down the College

And the personal recollections . . .

During our four years, the Protest Tree was filled with signs and comments about the pros and cons of coeducation (and a lot of other issues like the Vietnam War.) The Class of 1971 was the first in the 200+ year history of the college to truly enjoy the benefits of co-education, beginning in our Junior Year. It was approved by the Board of Trustees and in the Fall of 1969, about 100 women showed up on campus and lived in Marshall Hall. Approximately 40 women graduated in our class. The odds on campus were 18 men to 1 woman and there would often be only one woman in a class! Lots of adjustments were made to the physical buildings, rules and policies, social atmosphere, extra-curricular groups, and the dating scene (Little Sisters initiated into Phi Sigma Kappa).

How many of us studied, or napped, on the comfortable couches in the Reading Room of Fackenthal Library?

Ray Zuschlag took freshman Bio (an 8:00 a.m. class!) and learned the genus and species name of every tree on campus by Dr. Shively reciting the names of all trees passed during periodic walking tours throughout campus. History classes with Dr. Thurman (Pall Mall) Philoon, an entertaining lecturer who did amazing things with his Phi Beta Kappa key.

Prof. Robert Russell died recently. Many memories abound. Harry Newbury took a Freshman English Composition course and remembers his vibrant personality. He was Vickie Ball's advisor and favorite teacher. She was always amazed that he recognized her footsteps when she walked down the hall and called out to say hello! Bill Avery only took one class with Professor Russell, "Eminent Victorian Writers" along with Jon Healy and Vickie Ball. It felt like Oxford College - a very small group around a single table, reading, writing and talking. Bill was so inspired that, after completing one writing assignment, he felt compelled to write another 1,000 words on a related subject - extra effort! Prof. Russell commented on the extra piece much more than the one assigned. Three years later, Bill applied to San Francisco State University's Radio and Television M.A. program and somehow briefly saw his application folder. As he flipped through the file, out popped an amazing letter of recommendation from Prof. Russell. Not only had he remembered Bill, the class, and the extra effort, he referred to the piece in more detail than Bill even could recall. He was very touched (and was accepted). "What a memory, what a mind, what a man." BT1 0 0 1 72.024 e(c)4(he)4(d (a)7(nd)-9(wa)6(he)4(d (a)108.02 owahe. ". Russellfr

Can you picture Sandy Pinsker's pipe and dickies and Henry Mayer holding class (and picnic lunches) on the lawn in front of Fackenthal after he had been fired in the spring of 1970? Bruce Frankel's favorite S&M (Stan Michalak) story was when "Bullshit" was stamped on every page o

