

REMEMBER WHEN



...by Marion Basha

I remember when.....

These cold winter days remind me of the dress regulations during my University years. It was unheard of that a co-ed would show up in class attired in slacks, no matter what the temperature was. Many's the time we walked across the field from the "Old Mount" with slacks under our skirts, and slipped into the ladies room prior to class, to shed the unbecoming garments.

Residence living in my day was the in thing. There wasn't enough accommodation on campus to house all that applied. Waiting lists were very long and vacant spots were scrambled for. In the four years I was here, 1965-69, I lived in The Sister's of St. Martha old mother-house (better known as the Old Mount), as a Freshette; in Marion Hall as a Sophomore; back to the Old Mount as a Don in my Junior year; and into Bernardine Hall as a Don in my Senior year. Bernardine Hall opened in 1969 and prior to that there were several off-campus locations rented by the University to house the female population.

We had to make our own fun in residence because we spent the majority of our time there. Curfews were somewhat different, and visiting hours for the opposite sex were unheard of. 7:30 was our week-day evening curfew unless you were going to the library, then it was 10:00 pm. There were study halls in all of the residences, and although unsupervised, the silence was respected. Friday nights we had a late pass until 12:30 pm, Saturday until 12:00, and if you went home on Sunday, you had to be back by 7:00, hopefully to attend Benediction. Through the year we were allowed two or three special late passes (12:30 pm) to be used for personal, special occasions.


Since we were home, we had to make use of the time somehow. Some people became quite skilled at bridge; raiding kitchens; throwing people, fully clothed into bathtubs; talking about who's dating whom; and some even studied! Studying always became a more serious habit by about the Junior year. The Sisters were Dons and Head Residents in those days, and were still wearing the habit. If you were lucky enough to get on the good side of one of them, you could depend on being treated with a treasure load of goodies from her big pocket - tea pots, cookies, cake, etc.

I remember my second year in Marian Hall. It was a bitter cold winter, and I slept in a room along the front of the house. There was quite a large lounge on second, right in the middle of the floor. The windows and the heating system were no obstacles to the bitter cold that got into those rooms. So what did we do -- ten of us pulled our mattresses out into the corridors and slept there. This went on for about three nights, and finally the weather changed.

The campus atmosphere was much different than it is today. Because there were so many people living on campus, many turned out to attend events. Debating, political parties, yearbook, and the newspaper were among the most popular events. There was also an active drama society, glee club and band composed of people who enjoyed acting, singing, or wanted to learn to play a musical instrument.

One of the big theatrical productions during this time was called the Centennial Revue put on at the Confederation Centre. This was directed by Bert Tersteeg and involved people from all segments of the University. It took the shape of a variety show with many dance routines, skits, and appearances by the glee club. This production also made two appearances, one in the east end of the Island and one in the West. The enthusiasm, the esprit d'corps and the fun generated by this adventure will live long in the memories of those who participated.

The Coffee Shoppee was another area that was very popular. During my years it was the building which is now our University Chaplaincy Centre. It was the centre of the campus, and to go and come from class you had to walk around it or through it. If you happened to walk through, chances were great you would miss your class. There were many informal debates, and class discussions here, as well as new friendships formed. Being in the centre of campus, the Coffee Shoppee meant seeing old friends and possibly meeting someone new.



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