

CLASS HISTORY

freshman year 1948 - 1949

class of 1952

THE CLASS of 1952 was established at Cornell University amidst all the calamity and confusion that attends the processes of welcoming (several times), orienting (to the nth degree), and registering (we're still not sure it's correct) some 1900 lost, wandering souls in a gigantic center of higher academic pursuits. But once firmly rooted as self-assured Cornellians, we settled down to a year that was marked by long-winded political vituperation on the national scene, further developments of the "cold" war around the globe, and University successes in a number of fields here in Ithaca.

Fall of 1948 saw the ground broken for Statler Hall; the opening of Watermargin, Inc., a group founded to "prove by living example that men of all races, religions, and creeds can live together in a constant harmony and respect", and the dedication of a two-million dollar nuclear physics lab. Cornell held a three-day celebration of her eightieth anniversary, while Madame Sabele Wehe, Ithaca song-bird, held some other kind of commemoration with her 223rd concert.

The Diminutive co-ed had not a moment's rest our first term at Cornell: at the same time that forty Dickson residents became deathly ill after eating tainted ham, another young lady was threatened by a knife-clutching attacker near Lincoln Hall. One co-ed was apprehended "in extenuating circumstances" at a flat in Collegetown with a male undergraduate, and was expelled. The proctor who walked in on the scene ran into some trouble with the police later that year himself—the Cornell Sun printing constant accounts of his adventures in the local courts before he was finally jailed.

In our first Cornell election, we voted Cliff Wade and Sue Spiers to the offices of class presidents. We were the first class to hold a freshman weekend, at which the frosh football team, led by Rocco Calvo, tripped Penn to complete an undefeated season. Success was not all that greeted us, however, for the sophomore vigilantes were active on several occasions, donating a few close haircuts to those freshmen who regarded the frosh cap as a desk ornament.

In what was probably the most outstanding athletic season of our four years at Cornell, the football team romped to the Ivy Championship, losing only to Army, and the soccer team won the Ivy laurels for themselves. Sad note of the season was

the death of Walt O'Connell, Big Red wrestling coach for 40 years.

On the national scene, 51,000,000 voters flocked to the polls to astound the political experts by returning Harry Truman to the presidency.

In Germany, the Berlin air-lift had started, while in Korea, the first hints of real trouble began when the Russians refused to remove their troops at the previously-stipulated time.

Campus emotions were aroused at mid-years over the proposal that Hoy Field be used for the new I&LR building, and the senior honoraries led the fight to convince the trustees otherwise. The latter relented, quite reluctantly. At just about that time, Myron Taylor donated \$1,500,000 for a new interfaith center on campus—a building which still hadn't been completed at graduation time in 1952.

With the new term, we saw the advent of a Sun campaign against fraternity discriminatory clauses and the beginning of thirteen-house sorority rushing. The intercollegiate wrestling championships were held at Barton Hall, Bob Mealy pulled an upset by winning the National AAU 1000-yard run, and the freshman basketball squad completed an undefeated season with a 70-46 romp over Mercersburg Academy.

The merchants' war over the Junior Blazer contracts got into full swing when Irv Lewis won the official recognition, a \$25,000 boathouse fire caused considerable damage, Senator Mike Monroney visited the campus to speak on Congressional reorganization, and news was received that Professor Charles L. "Bull" Durham had died in his sleep.

A filibuster in the Senate successfully tied up the President's efforts to push civil rights legislation; James Forrestal resigned as defense secretary and shortly after, died in a leap from a hospital window; and foreign ministers signed the Atlantic Pact. The Russians, after much mutual haranguing with the West, agreed to lift the Berlin blockade, while in the U.S., strong men wept at the tale of little Kathy Fiscus, who died in an abandoned well.

Spring brought a deluge of humor, including the architects' St. Patrick's Day parade, several eclipse parties, an incident involving three shots and a scream in the darkened Main Library, and the adventures of a cow who wandered across the quadrangle unapprehended, telling reporters later, "I lost my head."