

senior year 1951 - 1952

INITIATED by a simple installation ceremony for the new University president and rounded out by the traditional graduation exercises in Barton Hall, our senior year had been one marked by very few of the spectacular events—both locally and nationally—that caused heightened emotions the year before. The Korean war dragged on through an endless chain of skirmishes and truce negotiations, Cornell's football team enjoyed a not-too-successful season, and the Student Council, though hard-working and efficient staged none of the heated debates that had occurred so frequently when we were juniors. If campus attitudes were to be summed up in a few words, the editors of Time magazine's "Silent Generation" article might indeed clap their hands in glee, for Cornellians displayed a subtle, yet notable, "don't care-ism" toward almost everything.

As organizations got under way with the first fall meetings, President Malott showed an active interest in student affairs by dropping in at unexpected times to express his willingness to consult with undergraduates on any and all matters of campus interest. Within a few weeks, SC had voted to rejoin National Student Association.

The campus was shocked a few weeks later when a first-term freshman, a scholarship student in the I&LR school, leaped to his death from Triphammer Bridge after noon on a beautiful October day.

In Korea, UN troops finally captured Heart-break Ridge after a series of bitter battles, but stymied truce talks gave little promise of an early end, to the fighting. On the other side of the world intense nationalism was rearing its ugly head in Iran and Egypt—and the tottering British Labor government was forced to yield to the forces of Conservative Winston Churchill.

The Cornell football team, starting the season rather impressively, again ran afoul of one Richard Kazmaier (he's in here three times), who personally engineered a humiliating 53-15 defeat of the Big Red. The gridders redeemed themselves with an unexpected (to say the least) 20-7 victory at the expense of Michigan. Pennsylvania, however, spoiled Cornell's chances to win four straight games at Franklin Field with a 7-0 decision at the season's end. Football stayed in the news all fall and winter beginning with a bland "purity" (in athletic subsidization) statement by Yale, Harvard

and Princeton and ending with the announcement that spring football would be discontinued in the Ivy League. The Cornell Sun, following what it deemed journalistic principles, came in for much criticism when it vigorously followed up the "New Yorker incident", in which part of a speech by President Malott appeared side-by-side with a fragment of an address by President Taylor of Sarah Lawrence College. The two speeches were almost identical, and President Malott stated, at length, that he had apparently picked the paragraph up from a journalistic "hand-out" that had passed through his hands some time before.

Meanwhile, Will Herberg was spending a great deal of time on campus addressing various groups. Work by the SC Rushing Committee resulted in recommendations that deferred rushing be instituted when dormitory facilities improved. The five-year engineer was at last given official status by the Council, and a large cement mixer, in protest, rolled down State Street and turned over at the corner of Aurora.

In England, King George died in his sleep, succeeded to the throne by his daughter, Elizabeth II, amid much pageantry.

Cornellians were impressed by a performance of Christopher Fry's "A Sleep of Prisoners", and continued their dramatic trends by engaging in a long debate over the merits of "Desire Under the Elms", a dramatic club presentation. WSGA, in a long-sought-for vote, abolished compulsory registration in elections, as the Student Council moved to outlaw parties in the 1952 campaigns. Ken Tunnell was elected first alumni president for the class of 1952, as this edition went to press.

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Our four years as Cornell undergraduates, we know only too well, have been years of international crisis and conflict—years in which most of the world was gripped in either "hot" or "cold" war and in which the almost extinguished torch of peace that had burned so brightly at San Francisco in 1945 grew ever dimmer. Yet a traditional spirit of idealism and liberal thinking remains strongly in evidence as we take leave of the University, and the success of our years at Cornell will be measured in the future in terms of the degree to which we apply to the larger world the concepts of free and responsible thought to which Cornell is dedicated.