

the years of change: a Macalester microcosm

cool
groovy
where it's at
way-out
turn me on
grab on
fabulous
Macites
pinko
total college experience
academic pressure
Barry Knight, bfd
Squat on the Johnnies
Harvard of the Midwest
shit a brick
paranoia
petting
have a cow
up yours
the finger
bugged
artsy craftsy
off campus
bust
narc
sip me
women's hours
grace minutes
Crystal Bole
the fishbowl
get polluted
DH
Clan Chatter
hawk
dove
over thirty
peacenik
the Movement
make the Revolution
I've been shat upon
get screwed
hooked on life
booker
sock it to me
whatever turns you on
Waste not in the Big Muddy
in loco parentis
genesis
the Man
expression
Edinburgh across the sea
gret me
greasy Art
Harvey's plaid jock strap
would you believe?
Princeton of the Prairies
turn-on
spaced
right on, brother
Establishment
pig
fascist pig
dirty fascist pig
Columbia of the cow-pastures
community
convocation
confrontation
water fight
political awareness
pimp
crave
the rock
porn
keyed
women's hours

1965—1970

When we first started talking about "Years of Change" we could not have predicted the events of this week. We didn't know that Nixon would enter Cambodia, that six students would be killed in Kent, Ohio and Jackson, Mississippi, that college campuses all over the country would rise in spontaneous protest to the widening of the war, that tens of thousands of students would converge on the capital without months of planning and organization. What is happening this week, today, tomorrow, Saturday, in the streets of Washington, in the Senate and House corridors, on the campuses—the agony we are going through now is a logical conclusion to these four or five years of change.

In many ways Macalester is a microcosm duplicating the social growth of New America at large. When we were freshmen the predominant attitudes were: (1) fundamental confidence in the responsiveness of our governmental and educational institutions; (2) broadly based willingness to let the establishment leadership carry the ball; (3) a prevailing belief in something called the public interest; and (4) a fundamentally nonpolitical self-perception.

ALL THAT HAS CHANGED. A gaping breach of confidence has opened between "the people" and established institutions and leaders. Witness the astonishing disaffection with President Flemming, a man who was praised, respected and trusted by students when he came to Macalester two years ago. Meanwhile, less and less rhetoric is dedicated to espousal of "the public interest." We have pragmated into dozens of special interests. And none of them claims, as General Motors did some years ago, that what is good for "us" is good for America. We have become a nation divided. And finally, more and more people have been "politicized," or "radicalized." Not that any more people are necessarily more radical in their behavior or more sophisticated in their ability to use the political system. But at the very least, more people than ever before, in every social stratum, have become aware of the political dimension of their lives. And if few of them are disaffected enough to engage in so-called radical action, at the very least more people than ever before have come to the realization that the customary responses simply are not going to work.

In these few years, we have witnessed significant changes at Macalester. Our academic structure has changed, and these changes have reflected changes in attitudes towards virtually all of the premises on which higher education had operated for decades.

We no longer compel students to study subjects which we grant are requisites for a liberal education. Five years ago compulsion along this line was considered natural and normal.

WE NO LONGER, as an institution, circumscribe students' nonacademic lives so as to compel them to obey certain standards of moral purity. Five years ago, though the

moral standards were subject to serious debate, the right and responsibility of the institution to enforce its own standards were just beginning to be challenged. This right was widely held to be inviolate.

We have engaged in a continuous reevaluation of what education is all about. The influence of structural components like grades, requirements, etc., on the educational process. And we have been accused of lowering standards with our experiments.

OUR STUDENT BODY has gone through all the changes mentioned earlier. True, in many respects we are the same. We're still a fundamentally conservative lot; we still

have our jocks; we still have the fringe political groups like YSA, which still engage in their futile efforts to proselytize among the masses; we are still plagued by pitiful fly-by-night causes that attract a moment's notice, provide us with a welcomed diversion, and then withdraw into the background.

BUT FIVE YEARS AGO GRASP would not have existed. Grand Avenue would never have been occupied. A real student strike in protest of a national issue would never have been seriously contemplated.

No, beneath the sameness, much has changed.



Homecoming was a major event 1965

another view: no change

by Bill Whitlow

In the four years that I have been at Macalester, there have been many changes in the physical plant and in the members of the college community. A new science hall will open in the fall, the Business Office has moved out of Old Main, Old Main itself has been redecorated extensively, the field house has been completed, the foreign language departments have acquired houses, the black students have acquired a center—these changes in the physical plant have reshaped the campus. There have also been personnel changes such as the departure of Harvey Rice and subsequent arrival of Arthur Flemming as president, the loss of Mr. Holly as head librarian, and the acquisition of administrators. The appearance of the student body has changed, the curriculum has changed, and the interests of the people at Macalester have changed.

Most of these changes are superficial, in the sense that they can be readily seen and are indisputable. They are very important in that they are the changes that will make my memories and render my experience at Macalester obsolete almost as soon as I leave. After I graduate, I won't be able to say what life at Macalester is like, because I won't know. Even now, my experience differs from the experience of freshmen and sophomores here.

MOST PEOPLE would consider this sort of change a trivial fact, though. The sorts

of changes that are interesting are "deeper" and "more profound." These are changes in attitudes or convictions. If one looks at Macalester in isolation and with no reference to the world beyond Grand and Snelling Corner, then he may say that there seem to be these "deeper" changes as well. This year there was a "student strike," for instance. However, Macalester is not isolated; it is a part of the world beyond. And in the context of that world, in which there have been changes of this "deeper" sort, Macalester is simply keeping abreast of the times. This trend, though, is not at all new; Macalester has always tried to maintain appearances that conform to the general context.

If one wishes to probe even deeper, and ask about "really fundamental" changes, then he will find that there have been none at Macalester. The chapel is still an important part of the social activity of the community, the tradition of social concern that marked the 40's & 50's is very much alive, and the general liberalism that pervades Macalester has remained, although it has changed from a Republican to a Democratic breed. The quality of instruction is still the same, although many of the teachers that were young when I came are showing signs of middle-age. There are not any more interesting people to talk to than there were before; there is just as much crap floating about now as ever.



from
required
religion
to
"clean
for
Gene"

