

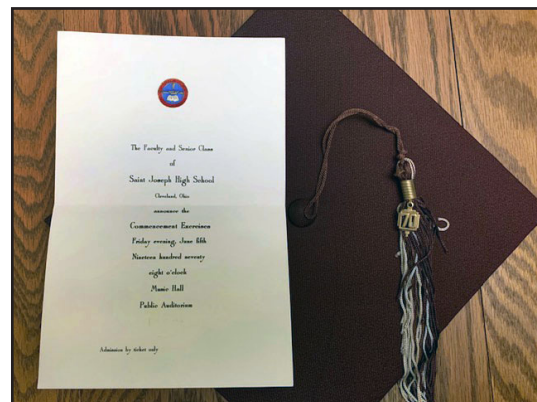
June 1-14, 1970

By Tom Bodle

It finally arrived, June, 1970! The final entertainment awards ceremony, the Emmys, endowed Robert Young as best actor and his series, "Marcys Welby, M.D." best drama to highlight the 1970 list. The final leg of the Triple Crown in horse racing, the Belmont Stakes was won by "High Echelon." The final Beatles' album, "Let It Be," rose to number one. It would reside there for one month.

At St. Joseph High School, it was the grand finale for the class of 1970. Final exams were completed in the first several days of the month. For some of us it would be our final finals. These days marked our final time sharing the hallowed halls of the Viking village.

On Thursday, we picked up our graduation package. A maroon cap and gown with a maroon tassel, laced with light blue and featuring a block 70. That evening we gathered in the parking lot of St. William parish in Euclid. The administration chose St. William as the site of our Baccalaureate Mass, for the church building had recently opened. It was beautiful and had a capacity to hold our graduating class along with family and friends. It offered a much more reverential space than our school's auditorium. The evening was warm and humid, with rain in the forecast. At 7:30 the sound of the St. Joseph concert band could be heard. Class officers Bob Biscup, Ed Bestvina, Ralph Troha and Jim Urbas led us down the aisle into our seats. School chaplain, Fr. Ken Sommers greeted us as chief celebrant and homilist. Student Council officers Phil Herrick and Dennis Minichello read the scripture passages for the "Mass of the Holy Spirit," while John Beran served as student emcee. The St. Joseph Glee Club provided the choral music. Classmates Gary Branstein, Joe Klements, Bob Pestak and Bob Somrak were featured as cantors. The Mass was an integration of expressions of faith which were part of our time at St. Joe. Following the final blessing, in unison we sang the alma mater and processed out.



THE NORSEMAN

Volume 19, No. 9 ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1970 TO GRADUATE TONIGHT

Commencement Day, begins today at 10:00 a.m. with rehearsal. Students are to be assembled in the parking lot at this time, to board chartered buses which will take them to Music Hall, in the Music Hall graduates will have the procedure explained to them and will have a chance to ask questions. After rehearsal, moderators and graduates will board chartered buses and bring with the end of the National Anthem, Bob Biscup will step forward to give introductory remarks. Then 4 student speakers, D. Minichello, H. Rutherford, P. Ciofani, and G. Lutkus. Diplomats will be



SENIOR MOST POLLS

compiled by Max Goodrich

MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED

MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED: In a class looking with prospective careers in the future, it is no surprise that the most likely to succeed is the one who is most likely to succeed. At the top of the list is Paul Steinhilber, followed by Don Steiner, Don Decker, and Bob Biscup.

1. Paul Steinhilber
2. Don Steiner
3. Don Decker
4. Bob Biscup

MOST ACADEMIC

MOST ACADEMIC: Education is the academic side of our class. It is very important. In fact, it is the most important. The list is headed by Don Steiner, followed by Don Decker, Paul Steinhilber, and Bob Biscup.

1. Don Steiner
2. Don Decker
3. Paul Steinhilber
4. Bob Biscup

MOST POPULAR

MOST POPULAR: Coming back to that time, we deserve a mention. It is no surprise that the most popular student of the Class of '70, maybe people just voted for him because they were sure of him. In any case, he is most popular. At the top of the list is Paul Steinhilber, followed by Don Steiner, Don Decker, and Bob Biscup.

1. Paul Steinhilber
2. Don Steiner
3. Don Decker
4. Bob Biscup

MOST ATHLETIC

MOST ATHLETIC: The Class of '70 is well served for its athletic prowess. It is also the most diverse. It is headed by Don Steiner, followed by Don Decker, Paul Steinhilber, and Bob Biscup.

1. Don Steiner
2. Don Decker
3. Paul Steinhilber
4. Bob Biscup

MOST SPIRITED

MOST SPIRITED: This has an obvious appeal. It is no surprise that the most spirited student of the class is the one who is most spirited. At the top of the list is Paul Steinhilber, followed by Don Steiner, Don Decker, and Bob Biscup.

1. Paul Steinhilber
2. Don Steiner
3. Don Decker
4. Bob Biscup

BEST DRESSED

BEST DRESSED: This has an obvious appeal. It is no surprise that the best dressed student of the class is the one who is best dressed. At the top of the list is Paul Steinhilber, followed by Don Steiner, Don Decker, and Bob Biscup.

1. Paul Steinhilber
2. Don Steiner
3. Don Decker
4. Bob Biscup

MOST HUMOROUS

MOST HUMOROUS: This has an obvious appeal. It is no surprise that the most humorous student of the class is the one who is most humorous. At the top of the list is Paul Steinhilber, followed by Don Steiner, Don Decker, and Bob Biscup.

1. Paul Steinhilber
2. Don Steiner
3. Don Decker
4. Bob Biscup

THINGS TO REMEMBER AND THINGS TO FORGET

REMEMBER

FORGET

Quotable Quotes

"When you are going to call a friend a friend..." - Mr. Lutkus

"Good Morning, gentlemen, today's the day we are going to be..." - Mr. Lutkus

"Keep it all my favorite..." - Mr. Lutkus

Quotable Quotes

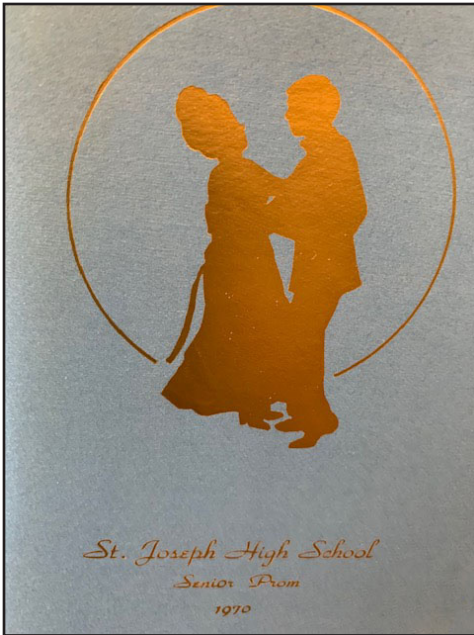
"I don't know if you've got one back of..." - Mr. Lutkus

"I don't know if you've got one back of..." - Mr. Lutkus

"I don't know if you've got one back of..." - Mr. Lutkus

During the last week of August, 1966, 509 freshmen gathered for the first time in the St. Joseph auditorium as the class of 1970. We lined up in snake like fashion as we purchased books and materials to begin our Viking saga. On June 5, 1970, one thousand three hundred and thirty days later, 484 of us lined up for the final time on East 6th Street in downtown Cleveland. Several of those who started the journey with us went to other schools. We gained others on our route. Tragically, Bob Bajorek passed away as he just began his life as a Viking. In December of his freshman year an aneurysm caused his death. His homeroom held him in esteem all four years, sporting the "Almighty Amoeba" caricature he drew as its symbol. As graduates were dropped off outside the Music Hall entrance on East 6th, no doubt memories were the main topic of conversation. On that day the final edition of the "Norseman" had been distributed, with the banner headline featuring graduation. Two pages were totally devoted to our senior year. One was a montage of pictures from our athletic successes. The second contained the senior "Most Awards" along with "things to remember and to forget." Final op-ed pieces were penned by Harold Rutherford, Bill Gabrenya, Henry Froehlich and Jim Guy with an assist from Jerry Hengenius. Greg Patt, whose monthly "Bull Scraps" column was featured for the final time. In a compliment to our faculty he wrote that it was the teachers who "made my education here, not the facts in their books. I learned the meaning of community and learning."

Pondering and sharing thoughts in the minutes outside of Music Hall, suddenly it was 8 o'clock. The instrumental entrance "Pomp and Circumstance" played by the school's stage band bid the class of '70 to enter as 3,000 guests consisting of family, friends and faculty proudly watched as the procession took us to our seats upon the stage. Principal Br. Philip Aaron along with the administration welcomed us with brief remarks and a benediction. Class President Bob Biscup spoke and was followed by four student speakers. The theme for our class was "People." It was chosen from the featured song in our school's musical "Funny Girl." Harold Rutherford, Dennis Minichello, Jerry Lutkus and Peter Ciofani had been chosen to present reflections based upon the theme and their experiences as members of the class of '70. Don Steiner was awarded the "Phi Beta Kappa" honor as the top student in the class, while Anthony Palella and Joe Klements were acknowledged as part of the top three. After diplomas were distributed with a handshake and "good luck" from Br. Aaron and special academic and service awards were given, one last blessing was conferred on the class. Then for the final time all of the members of the class of '70 proudly sang out "Hail Red and Blue, Hail to Our Alma Mater." The stage band sounded out the recessional and with heads held high the graduates of St. Joseph High School marched out of the Music Hall and into the rest of their lives.



One final weekend remained in our lives together, prom weekend. The class officers had led fundraising drives throughout the year to help defray the cost of prom weekend. A high percentage of our classmates did attend. On Friday June 12th, a formal dinner dance was held at the prestigious Statler Hilton hotel main ballroom on East 13th and Euclid. The renowned Al Sarafine orchestra provided music and Br. Aaron soloed our theme song "People." In the wee hours of the morning, after the prom, Eastgate's Coliseum provided bowling, swimming, billiards and arcade games for our enjoyment from 12:30-5:00 a.m. Saturday afternoon more swimming, picnicking and music was enjoyed by our class and their dates at Pioneer Lake Park. Sunday, after Mass in the school's chapel, prom revelers boarded busses for a day at Cedar Point. Throughout the day, we dodged thunderstorms to get on rides when we could. After a day of fun, we boarded our busses and returned in a storm to the St. Joe parking lot. In the midst of this late spring storm the class of '70's Viking saga would come to its conclusion.



In times of political and social unrest our final time together was prideful with hope in our future. As we moved on it seemed appropriate that the number one song on the hit list was from Ray Stevens, "Everything is Beautiful." To a St. Joseph graduate, it was a beautiful time...in its own way."

Epilogue

In a chronicle filled with finals, this is the final Norseman Chronicles. It has been fun for me researching, remembering and sharing the times and events of our senior year. I hope you have enjoyed reading these and perhaps they will spark renewed interest in the friendships you had and the legacy of our Alma Mater. God willing we may all meet again, hopefully at our 50th reunion. The committee has been working diligently to provide an enjoyable set of events. Whether you can come or not, please keep in touch, we are Vikings and our years together are sewn into the fabric of our lives. "We are St. Joe and we are one!"

