

May 2019[Click here for a printable PDF version
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Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

Class of 1969 Thornton Fractional Township South High School, Lansing, IL

Looking Back at the Future—

50 Years Ago

by **Bill Haub** (Nevada)

1960s Lansing was a Midwest microcosm where the sky was the limit for those coming of age, spawning a full spectrum of famous, infamous, unique, and common. We were almost guaranteed a life better than our parents and grandparents. Everyone fit in somewhere and no one fit in everywhere; The Establishment, The Thespians, The Jocks, The Turtles, etc.

Within this environment **Marilyn Stone** and I were each asked to write our Class of 1969 legacy to the students of 2019. The letters were to be placed in a time capsule entombed in front of the “futuristic” River Oaks Theater, unearthed fifty years later and read to the students of 2019. An 18 year old writing to students two plus lifetimes into the future was daunting.

Fifty years is a long time to project, let alone survive environmental extremes and redevelopment. The capsule, not surviving either, was unearthed a few years ago by the theater manager on the theater's last day of operation in 2006. The contents waterlogged/damaged/destroyed. My

“wisdom” will most likely encounter a similar fate.

The letter was my attempt in 1969 to communicate with the future. These prose were influenced by lively discussions in TFSHS Rhetoric 6-7 and edited by our TFS teacher Miss Judy Kaufer, now Mrs. Judy Lohr-Safcik.



Now, approaching the 50-year legacy timeline and reading “sage” advice from an emerging adult, I am struck by how much has changed and how much remains fixed. Today’s youth still question and challenge, still protest, still seek the allusive “whys” of the world, and still damage their goals/causes through immature actions.

Myself, I continue to ask “why” and believe that “why” is the most important question to be answered in rational discussions or disagreements. If individuals can agree on why, the what, when, how, and who seem to reach mutual accord.

As a generation, the class of 1969 was/is a caretaker of heritage. Our actions and inactions affect others beyond our conscious surroundings. We owe past and future generations a debt of opportunity and hope.

Have we squandered our legacy of promise? In our wake, are we leaving this universe better by our passing? I believe the answer is yes and no.

By continuing to seek “why” and participate in respectful rational discussions and debates, the TFSHS 1969 class will continue to positively affect the world.

Bill's original 1969 letter did not survive in the time capsule, but he had kept a copy, which we include here.

TO THE STUDENTS OF 2019:

The student population of 1969 is a rebellious group full of protest and question. Rebellion per se is nothing new; the United States would never have become a reality had it not been for rebellion. Rather it is the overt protest and the verbalized questions that have become synonymous with today's students.

With the slightest provocation, the youth of 1969 seems to protest for or against any and every cause. But why? Could it be that advanced education has illuminated the faults of our elders that have previously been engulfed in darkness? Or could the educational system in effect be a headquarters through which the ideas of a few become the ideals of many?

Despite the motivation, it is interesting to observe the topics singled out for protest and the methods by which the protest is employed.

Wars are a major concern, as they have been throughout history, but for the first time there is support for open defiance of our government's involvement. Presently, Viet Nam is the specific target of this dissention.

Another major concern is civil rights, for our country functions on the principle that "all men are created equal." Specifically, the rising generation desires no discrimination based on physical or theological differences - an honorable cause for which many past greats have fought valiantly.

Today's youth essentially has one concern, regardless of specific issues. They are searching for the answers to their multitudinous "whys." They are unable to comprehend why they should forfeit their lives for cloudy causes. They cannot understand why certain ethnic and religious groups are barred from residential areas and allegedly public universities. They ache to know why many obsolete guidelines are not modernized. And they want to know why their voices cannot be heard when they personally will be directly affected by the decisions made.

Although these ideals for which the youths demonstrate are valid and although their concerns are indicative of a better informed youth, their means of protest are frequently inadequate. Often their actions illustrate a reversion to infancy. Instead of temper tantrums, they rely on sit-ins, walk-outs, strikes, protest marches, and all out riots. Rather than aiding their goal, their actions are destroying their aims. It is unfortunate that a group who can think maturely act and react immaturely.

By 2019 the student population of 1969 will be "the older generation", the ones clinging to passe' ideals, and the ones who will be supplying answers to the more immediate "whys".

History has shown that people learn from others' mistakes. It is our fervent hope that you, our children and grand-children, have learned - and continue to learn - from our mistakes so that your hopes and dreams will be realized in a dignified, mature manner. This, although meager, is our legacy to you.

Sincerely yours,

William C. Haub

A Few Words from Marilyn Stone Weintraub

I have very, very vague recollections of the River Oaks time capsule, perhaps because you brought it up. Unlike Bill, I didn't save whatever it is I wrote. And actually, I'm glad the contents (or at least my letter) didn't survive because I'm not sure I could bear the embarrassment of reading what deeply profound thoughts I had as a 17- or 18-year old! I'll let Bill speak for both of us.

I wish everyone an enjoyable and fun 50th reunion. It's hard to believe it's been that many years. Even now when I hear about events I clearly remember, I'm always shocked when the event is described as happening 30, 40, or more years ago! If only youth realized how fast time really does go by. I guess that would be my message for the younger generation.

Best wishes,

Marilyn Stone Weintraub (Israel)

What's in Your Time Capsule?

The TFS History Club is collecting TFS high school memorabilia for a historical display for the school. They are looking for varsity jackets, t-shirts, pictures, or any other things that can be displayed and enjoyed by students and alumni.

The purpose of the Rebel Relics project is to aid students' understanding of their school and community of what TF South was and how it has changed over the years.

As you clean out your own attic or crawl space "time capsule" this spring, remember this: Your old treasure could be a new treasure at TFS.



To donate your memorabilia, email TFS Social Studies Teacher and Sponsor of The History Club, Mr. Chris Roberts croberts@tfd215.org

A 50th Reunion Message from Denny...

Hi, I thought I'd send a line to let you all know what I'm up to. We are doing great here in Roy, Utah. Love fishing, hunting, and just getting out. I'll be after turkey soon. I'm really looking forward to the spring, it's been a long winter.

Dave Dickinson (California) will be here in May for another fishing trip. He stays with Barb and me for a week and we hit the lakes and mountains for

the elusive fish and doing just man stuff.



Soccer is still our favorite thing to watch. Granddaughter Kathlene is still playing and we go to every game to cheer her on. See you in October for the 50th Reunion.

—**Denny Walton** (Utah)

P.S. I'd say more but my wife says I go on too much. Not me, see ya.

TFS '69 50th Reunion Committee Report

The TFS 50th Reunion Committee is planning an AWESOME reunion! We will have a TFS school tour Friday, Oct. 4 at 4 p.m. Our tour guide, Mr. Chris Roberts, TFS Social Studies Teacher, invites family members to join us on the tour! He says, “We love to share our school with other family members. Just as long they don’t mind hearing old stories and doing a little bit of walking!”

A pre-reunion gathering is planned for Friday, Oct. 4 beginning at 6:30 pm, at Lencioni’s Pub, 3325 Glenwood Dyer Rd., Lynwood, Illinois. Our classmates Bill Hutchison and Dean Groom will be playing at Lencioni’s with their band, Lake Effect, from 7:30–10:30 pm. More details to follow soon.

The 50th Reunion party will be at Villa Cesare in Schererville, Indiana, Saturday evening Oct. 5. The banquet will be a family-style dinner of soup, salad, 2 entrees, 2 sides, pasta, and dessert.

Tickets should be available for purchase online in June. Watch your newsletter and email inbox for further announcements as we move forward to our 50th Reunion! You can reach the committee by sending an email to tfs69.50threunion@gmail.com

SAVE THIS DATE!

TFS CLASS OF 1969 50TH REUNION PARTY

Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019

**at VILLA CESARE Schererville, Indiana,
along with a full weekend of activities, too.**

Our Heartfelt Condolences

Classmate Christine Nelson Haro of Indiana has bravely and strongly faced the loss of two dear family members in March and April.

In March, Christine's mother, Noreen Nelson of Lansing, passed away at the age of 92. Mrs. Nelson was a member of the Lansing Presbyterian Church and an incredible seamstress and baker.



Then in April, Christine lost her best friend and husband of 30 years, Mario Haro, at the age of 71. Mario was originally from Mexico City and immigrated to the United States in 1972. He and Christine raised four boys and were blessed with 4 grandchildren. Following his retirement from Acme Steel, Mario returned to school and became a teacher's aide and Spanish translator at Hoover Schrum School in Calumet City, IL. Mario was also a folk artist who celebrated his Mexican heritage in his vibrant, colorful, and intricate wood burning art.

Our wishes for comfort and peace go out to Christine and her family.

Happy May Birthday!

Marlene Koster Taylor, Wayne Wilson, Kathy Orban, Tony Perovich, John Jones, John Link, Christine Markiewicz Paryl, Becky Bonnar Eck, Kathy Prondzinski Fabanich, Donna Torgerson Clark, Brent Brinkman, Alan Eckhardt, Paul Warn, Alan Grudzien, Barb O'dell Johnson, Norma Albertson Koch, Bud Jenkins, Patricia Walsh, Maxine Hinze Rogers, Anita Harris O'Dell

**Celebrating Their 50th Wedding
Anniversary in May!**



Classmates Celebrating May Wedding Anniversaries

Rich & Donna Fazio Mrskos (Indiana)—35 years

Jane (TFS '73) & **Dave Kats** (Indiana)—47 years

Debbie & **John Valco** (Texas)—37 years



Looking for Classmates

We've lost touch with some of our classmates. If you are in contact with anyone listed below, or if you are forwarding the newsletter to a classmate, please invite him or her to subscribe to the Life & Times through our website TFSClassof69.weebly.com or by contacting us at TFSouth69@gmail.com

Greg Polanski

Pat Padjen McNulty

Cheryl Oppenhuis Morrone

Daryl Olsen

Michael Olen

Alan Richardson

Tanya Reynolds Furr

Shirley Reiter Wolstenholme

Patricia Reidenbach Luedtke

Sharon Reid

Tom Reeb

Mike Rappatta

Bob Ranfranz

John Pranger

Update Your Info

Help us keep our Class of '69 database current. Send changes in your phone number and email and snailmail addresses to

TFSouth69@gmail.com

Keep in Touch

Our 231 classmates and "friends of the class" stay in touch by subscribing to our free monthly newsletter.

Not subscribed? Sign up at our website tfsclassof69.weebly.com

or email us at TFSouth69@gmail.com.



Share Your Vista

Send a photo of where you live and tell us what you like about the place you call home.

Email your photo to TFSouth69@gmail.com

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 [Our Website tfsclassof69.weebly.com](http://tfsclassof69.weebly.com)

Mission of the TFS Class of 1969: To promote and grow our network of TFS Class of 1969 friendships by sharing information and planning reunion events to keep the spirit of the 40th Reunion alive and vibrant.

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