

Replaced by Seventies' quiet

Sixties were days of riots on campus

Editor's note: This is the second of five stories dealing with the changes in campus attitudes during the last eight years.

By MICHAEL KESTEN
Of the Emerald

On June 15, 1969, a black graduating senior interrupted acting University Pres. Charles Johnson during graduation ceremonies and told the audience of several thousand, "We are all under arrest for supporting a murderous war from afar."

Three days later, Johnson died when the Volkswagen he was driving collided head-on with a logging truck on the McKenzie River Highway. Shortly before the accident, Johnson had been reported missing from his home in Eugene. In an all-points bulletin teletyped to Oregon police agencies, police said Johnson had "left mysteriously" that morning and was "mentally depressed."

Some say that Johnson was literally driven to his death by the burdens that befell him after assuming the University presidency just nine months before. Those burdens included:

- An obscenity campaign testing the courage and conviction of the University's policy of free speech.
- Pressures from students to change closing-hour policies in campus dormitories.
- Receipt of a critical public letter from then Gov. Tom McCall.
- Demonstrations and demands regarding corporate and military recruiters.
- Disputes over hair-length rules for campus athletes.
- Construction of shanty-town shacks on the EMU lawn as a public exhibit of the plight of the poor.
- Legislative task force hearings held on campus.

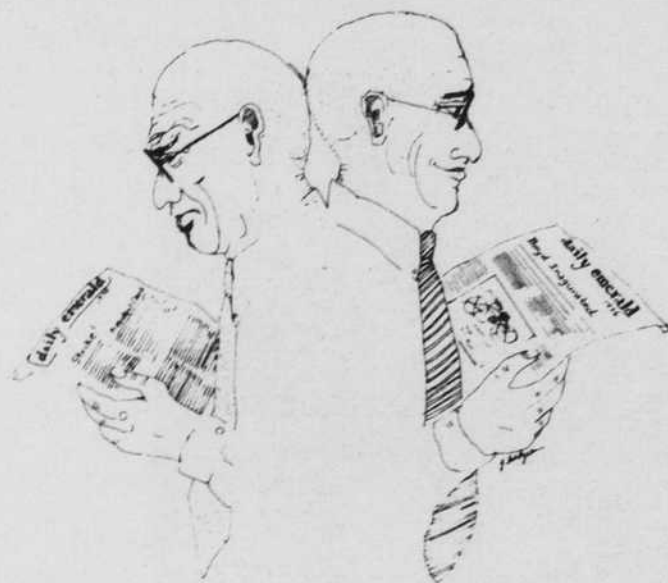
One long-time University administrator described the 1968-69 school year as the most tense period the campus had ever seen. By 1970, the tension was giving way to violence. Riots took place outside Johnson Hall, trash was thrown at ROTC buildings and bombs exploded on campus. But gradually, the days of riots turned to days of quiet.

What happened?

Many administrators and faculty agree that the big issues are gone.

"I think the smartest thing Richard Nixon ever did was to change the draft," said University Pres. William Boyd. When upper-middle-class youth were no longer threatened, the movement lost substantial support. There was a change in national policy and it was believed the war would end.

"It's also true that the civil rights movement changed," he continued. "Black leaders let it be known that they could speak for themselves. They told the white kids to stay out of the ghetto and go take care of their own problems."



Drawing by JoAnn Fahlgren

Boyd also said the young radicals were a "bunch of male chauvinist pigs. The rise of feminism was another blow that hit the movement."

The expanding economy of the sixties also made a difference, according to Boyd. "There was a feeling of optimism—high expectations, the spirit of revolution, if you will. Students didn't think they were risking much by demonstrating (violently). People don't take lightly being arrested today," he said.

Robert Clark, president of the University from 1969 to 1975, doesn't think the lack of protest means that students have returned to the complacency of the fifties.

"The difference between the years '67 through '71 and now is a difference in tactics and approach," he said. "Students set out to get a job done, whether through OSPIRG or similar channels. They want more constructive change. And my hat's off to them."

Glenn Starling, vice-provost for academic planning and resources, guesses that students changed their tactics because they were not successful.

"Students decided if they were to change the system

they had to join it," he said. "There's been a big increase in those interested in becoming doctors and lawyers. Business. Architecture. People wait three years to get into medical school who have straight four point."

Ken Metzler, journalism professor says students in the journalism school are listening more.

"What has changed in my mind is that students are listening," he said. "It's tremendously stimulating for a teacher. We're listened to for help. The students have respect for the professional. They want jobs and they're scared."

"I'm a tough grader," Metzler said. "I've always been a tough grader. The subtle difference is they (the students) seem to appreciate it today."

Metzler pointed out another indicator of the change in students, his empty bottom drawer.

"Used to be," he said, "I'd have four or five cases a year of a student coming in my office and getting overly emotional about a criticism I'd made. I don't carry Kleenex in my bottom drawer anymore. Students are dry-eyed today. They're not only listeners but they're dry-eyed. Less emotionally involved. They're willing to take criticism."

James Davies, political science professor, sees the difference in the size of his classes.

"During the height of the student movement there were lots of students in my classes," he said. "Within two years' time it went down 48 per cent. Enrollment in political science courses dropped through the department."

"People are deciding for themselves how to integrate into the system—a discriminatory response. When these people get out and circumstances call for involvement, they'll get involved," Davies said.

As Oakley Glenn, campus security director, says, "You can't compare an apple with a pear. You've got to ask, 'If these same students were faced with the fact they would be drafted into a war they didn't believe in the moment they left the educational system, would they change?' If you don't have that pressure, that puts you in a different bag."

But Glenn also sees a gradual shift in students attitudes since the late Sixties. "There's more concern for people getting ripped off. We're getting calls from students when they see a bike getting ripped off. We never used to get communications from students."

Robert Bowlin, dean of students, leaned back in his chair and looked out at the Coburg Hills from his office in Oregon Hall. "Wouldn't it be nice," he said, "if we could look at today with the perspective of ten years from now and could see what it all means."

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WOMAN: HAVE A HAPPY 21st or I will beat the
shit out of you.
Love, Wussy 4308:3

THERE ARE NOW on campus fifteen brand new
gone-through-hell-and-back animals. Congratula-
tions to the new Taus. From your Big Bros. 4310:3

NANCE: THE MIDNIGHT rendezvous were great.
Until we meet again at Duffy's don't do anything
rash. Cleo 4312:3

HEY HEY BILL DILL. Is Sue on the Pill? Curious,
but Mellow. 4313:3

HEY STONEY "FROG"-Wanna drink some Mad-
dog? F.S., thanks for "everything!" J. 4314:3

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOO-MOO! Get ready for
another fantastic, load-kissing year! Love, Pooree 4317:3

MEMBER BRAD: I nosed you could do it.
Congratulations, Sis 4407:3

JILLOID (FAVORS), FISHLIPS, BUTT-Large
Rudeness! Butch casts his (happy?) shadow at
Duffy's. Be there if you dare! Junglebunny 4408:3

FISHLIPS-One suffered a atrocity deserves another!
Chunk-style, anyone? Quasi-Queen of Spades. 4409:3

SNAKES COME TALL AND
Snakes come small
But Snakey K pledges are
the best of all!
Love, your new Sisters 4410:3

LIZZIE — Does Nance need her hat at Duffy's tonight?
-Annie 4414:3

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