

History

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for change in the early '60s was the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

"University students reacted in unpredictable fashion. A student who rushed into the Honors College Lounge with the news met disbelief and laughter and left. A girl in the Fishbowl heard the death announcement, looked around and said, 'It was the first time I've ever seen men cry in public.'"

The late '60s

Look no further than the late '60s to find a complete contrast to the early '60s. Students began to question the system and take action against that system.

ASUO President Kip Morgan was sentenced to two years in prison for purchasing a shotgun while under indictment for a felony offense. The offense was that he had interrupted draft board meetings in Eugene and Springfield.

"FBI to aid local police in blood-throwing case," reads the caption to one ongoing Emerald story. Unidentified women, "threw three plastic bags of animal blood at ROTC recruiters and students," the article says. After the incident, leaflets were found in the area that read, "Avenge My-Lai...Smash ROTC...(signed) women's militia."

Soon to follow was a letter explaining the militia's action.

"What we did was pretty insignificant compared to what the United States military has done to Guatemala, Vietnam or the 'third-world'," the letter began. It ended with "We feel that as women we are specifically oppressed by the system and we are aware of our oppression."

Draft deferment stories became a constant in the Emerald pages, as were articles about destruction of the environment and the University's ties to imperialist actions. One student group, Students for a Democratic Society, made plans to put the University on trial for "crimes against humanity."

"The People's indictment charges the University with: owning stock in corporations of the 'ruling class,' financing the corporations and profiting from them; training individuals for work in corporations; maintaining a department of military science, as well as supplying manpower for the U.S. military; and seeking to thwart the people of its own country in a struggle for social justice."

The SDS said they "freely predict a guilty verdict will be returned to the University."

How were students able to take on the injustices of the world and study? Easy.

"The epic professor" was the title of an article about an English professor who had a unique way of teaching.

"He asks for either a five-page term paper or watercolors, collages or films, which he doesn't grade. He gives a final exam to see if the students have read their books, but does not grade that either. He asks the students what grade they want and gives it to them."

Near the end of the decade came more tragedy. In April 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn. The effects rippled across the nation and through the University.

The Black Student Union responded to the assassination by saying:

"It is indeed too great a price that has been paid, this brutal, wasteful, racist slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, a noble man dedicated to a cause. This cause was non-violence. This cause which, it seems clear in the light of this wanton killing, no longer holds relevance in the land of the free."

Summing up a decade

"How do you characterize a decade?" asked an Emerald reporter in 1969. "Journalists and popular historians have given us the roaring '20s and the terrible '30s and will no doubt find a similar short hand evaluation of the sixties. Such brevity of description, of course, isn't very accurate.

Causes for change in the '60s

- 1960 ■ John F. Kennedy elected president
- 1961 ■ Bay of Pigs
- 1962 ■ Cuban missile crisis
- U.S. military council established in Vietnam
- 1963 ■ President Kennedy is assassinated
- Civil rights agitation and campaign against segregation begins in Selma, Ala.
- 200,000 "freedom marchers" descend on Washington
- 1964 ■ Race riots in Harlem, Brooklyn and Rochester
- U.S. bombs North Vietnam
- 1965 ■ Malcolm X is assassinated in New York
- Race riots in Los Angeles
- Demonstrations against war in Vietnam across the United States
- Lyndon Johnson inaugu-

- rated president
- Civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.
- Martin Luther King Jr. is arrested
- 1966 ■ Race riots across the country
- U.S. bombs Hanoi
- Color TV becomes popular
- 1967 ■ Race riots intensify
- Martin Luther King Jr. leads anti-Vietnam march in New York
- 1968 ■ Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated in Memphis, Tenn.
- Sen. Robert Kennedy assassinated in Los Angeles
- My Lai - civilian massacre in Vietnam
- Nixon elected president by thinnest margin in history and promises to end the Vietnam War
- 1969 ■ Neil Armstrong sets foot on the moon
- Woodstock

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