

Remembering 1964–1968

Statistics of the class

- 1,388 men graduated from Harvard and 266 women graduated from Radcliffe.

Arts & Leisure

- On screen: *Goldfinger*, *Hard Day's Night*, *Torn Curtain*, *Belle de Jour*, *The Thomas Crown Affair*, *Funny Girl*, *The Odd Couple*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Lion in Winter*, *Oliver*, and *In Cold Blood*.
- On the radio: “I Want to Hold Your Hand,” “A Hard Day’s Night,” “Downtown,” “Born Free,” “Ballad of the Green Beret,” “Mrs. Robinson,” and “Stoned Soul Picnic.”
- On bookshelves: *Unsafe at Any Speed*, *Valley of the Dolls*, *Rosemary’s Baby*, *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*, and *The Great White Hope*.

Freshman Year (1964–1965)

IN THE WORLD:

US destroyer allegedly attacked off North Vietnam; US aircraft attack North Vietnam bases in reprisal; escalation of war, heavy fighting. Lyndon B. Johnson elected president of the US. Winston Churchill dies. Malcolm X shot in New York. North Vietnamese MiG aircraft shot down US jets. Students demonstrated in Washington against US bombing of North Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh rejected peace talks with US. US forces assumed expanded roles in Vietnam. War on Poverty Launched. In his State of the Union address, President Johnson announced the launching of a comprehensive plan to wage war on poverty.

AT HARVARD:

Freshman parietal hours were liberalized to give freshmen the same privileges as upperclassmen on selected nights throughout the year. Confessing, “I can’t remember when I have been more nervous in addressing an audience,” President Pusey broke tradition and spoke at the formal opening of Radcliffe held at the First Congregational Church. It was the first time a Harvard president had attended the ‘Cliffe opening ceremonies. Students challenged House dining halls’ coat-and-tie rules by wearing leather jackets, T-shirts, and blue jeans. A Harvard–Radcliffe chapter of the Students for a Democratic Society was organized. The Faculty Club menu still offered horsemeat, a last vestige of WWII rationing. Alberto Lleras Camargo, former President of Colombia, was the commencement speaker.

Sophomore Year (1965–1966)

IN THE WORLD:

Severe race riots in the Watts district of Los Angeles resulted in thirty-five dead, 4,000 arrested, and 40 million dollars in property damage. Indira Gandhi became prime minister of India. The Great Blackout of 1965 caused the power systems throughout the Northeast to fail, plunging New York, Boston, and other cities into darkness during the evening rush hour. New US immigration law classified applicants by family condition, refugee

status, and skills, replacing the 1921 law based on nationality. Ralph Nader LLB '58 published *Unsafe at Any Speed*.

AT HARVARD:

During the *New York Times* strike, *The Crimson* provided more coverage of national and international news. Alabama Governor George C. Wallace spoke at Harvard after refusing to debate civil rights with Mark deWolfe, Harvard professor of law. Four students were placed on probation for smoking marijuana. The Securities and Exchange Commission charged Thomas Lamont '21, Harvard Fellow and director of Texas Gulf Sulphur Company, with fraud and deceit regarding the 1964 purchase of 3,000 shares of Texas Gulf Sulphur stock. Samuel G. Wales '67, of Adams House and New York City, was killed when he fell under a moving train in South Station. Upperclassmen faced a housing shortage for the '66-'67 year because of the threat of the draft: few were taking leaves of absence, and those who had in the past were coming back. Radcliffe still struggled with identity at commencement. W. Averell Harriman, US ambassador-at-large, was the commencement speaker.

Junior Year (1966–1967)

IN THE WORLD:

Supreme Court decided *Miranda v. Arizona*. Three *Apollo* astronauts—Col. Virgil I. Grissom, Col. Edward White II, and Lt. Cmdr. Roger B. Chaffee—were killed in a spacecraft fire during a simulated launch. Biafra seceded from Nigeria. Israeli and Arab forces clashed in the Six Day War, ending with Israel occupying the Sinai Peninsula, Golan Heights, Gaza Strip, and east bank of Suez Canal. The People's Republic of China announced the explosion of its first hydrogen bomb. Racial violence in Detroit; 7,000 National Guardsmen aided police after night of rioting. Similar outbreaks occurred in New York City's Spanish Harlem, Rochester, NY, Birmingham, AL, and New Britain, CT.

AT HARVARD:

Hilles Library, in the Radcliffe quad, opened to the delight of the 'Cliffies. Harvard announced that it would build a large building for the study of government and economics on the site of the John F. Kennedy Library. The relatives, confidants, and advisors of the late President Kennedy gathered to celebrate the establishment of the "working part" of the Kennedy Library complex—the Institute of Politics. When Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara visited campus in November 1966, student protesters heckled him and blocked his car. A crowd of about 300 students surrounded him, equally divided between supporters and critics. Harvard Student Agencies came up with the novel idea of renting out Radcliffe Go-Go Girls for \$10 to \$20 an evening in the spring. *The Crimson* reported on a new fad in 1967: students smoking banana peels. Edwin O. Reischauer, University professor, was the commencement speaker.

Senior Year (1967–1968)

IN THE WORLD:

Thurgood Marshall was sworn in as the first black US Supreme Court justice. Dr. Christiaan N. Barnard and team of South African surgeons performed world's first successful human heart transplant, but the patient died eighteen days later. North Korea

seized US Navy ship *Pueblo*; held eighty-three on board as spies. Tet offensive was turning point in Vietnam War. My Lai massacre occurred. President Johnson announced he would not seek or accept a presidential nomination. Martin Luther King, Jr., civil rights leader, was slain in Memphis; James Earl Ray, indicted in his murder, was captured in London. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was shot and critically wounded in Los Angeles hotel after winning California primary. He died June 6th.

AT HARVARD:

Over 200 students took part in a sit-in, imprisoning a Dow Chemical Company recruiter in Mallinckrodt Hall. Senator Eugene J. McCarthy came to Harvard, where he started his campaign for the presidency. He was met at Logan Airport by John Kenneth Galbraith, Paul M. Warburg Professor of Economics. Cesar Chavez, leader of the Delano County grape strike, spoke at Harvard. Martin Luther King, Jr., who had been asked to give a speech on Class Day, was assassinated. 150 Harvard students held a long, fiery meeting to form the Harvard Draft Union, which signified that a tangible campus anti-draft campaign had begun. 442 Harvard undergraduates signed a statement that they would not serve in the armed forces so long as the United States was involved in the Vietnam War. Eighty-six men of draft age took out a full-page ad in *The Crimson* on April 17 stating, "We won't go to Vietnam." Harvard students mourned the lost of presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy with numerous reflections written for *The Crimson*. Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave the Class Day speech in place of her husband. Mohammed Reza Pahlevi, shah of Iran, was the commencement speaker.

Document given above was a handout in the 35th Reunion package. It has been edited. Sources for this document are as follows: Harvard University Archives, Harvard University President's reports, Class Reports, Yearbooks, *The Harvard Crimson*, *The Harvard Century*, by Richard Norton Smith, *Timetables of History*, 3rd. rev ed., by Bernard Grun.