

Citation for the Green Class of 1974

On the Occasion of the 50th Reunion

October 26, 2024

The Greens of '74 arrived at Trinity in the fall of 1970, in the midst of a revolution that we feared we might have missed. Woodstock was long over; Kent State shook us to our core the previous spring. So, we set about making our own revolution! Has anyone yet owned up to removing and hiding the large paintings from Social Hall? Sr. Ann Gormley was not amused. Strains of Buffalo Springfield echoed through Main --- "For what it's worth." Later on, criticism posters in the style of Mao's Red Army appeared on the doors of administrators up and down the Marble Corridor. Sr. Margaret Claydon was not amused. We railed against curfews, we demanded parietals. Dean Coleman was not amused. Some tried to emulate the IRA, and I don't mean those retirement accounts we all love today! Back then, we only had hall phones, magic markers and poster board to mount our revolution --- imagine the havoc we could have wreaked with cell phones and TikTok!

But we were also serious students. We marched with the Student Mobe antiwar demonstrations and then raced back to campus to complete our papers and final exams. We contemplated Aquinas with Sr. Helen James John, argued about ethics with Dr. Guzikowski, studied dictators with Dr. Willke, opined on Rousseau with Dr. James, learned social justice with Father Mathews, read tombstone inscriptions with Dr. Kinnaird. Some classmates disappeared into the Rat Lab with Dr. Steinman. We knew who the math majors were because they had to wear skirts for Dr. Varnhorn. The bravest went to the Science Building each day to joust with Dr. K. and examine plants and turtles with Sr. Elizabeth Henry and Sr. Marie Dimond. Dr. Kershenstein tried to teach some of us the Physics of Music. Some of us disappeared into Cuvilly basement to write screeds against the administration that were published in the *Trinity Times*.

Some went to the Rat Race at Georgetown while others among us just hung out at the Rat back when beer and cigarettes on campus seemed normal. We played basketball under the Chapel, with Miss Durbin coaching us to "aim for the third tile" on the ceiling to make our shots; and for the first few years we could actually compete against the women's team at Maryland; but then Title IX came along in 1972 and the Maryland women went into the big arena with its high ceiling and bright lights while we kept aiming for the third tile under the Chapel --- the metaphor for everything that happened to the remaining women's colleges in the 1970's and 1980's.

Graduation Day came in 1974 and off we went to fellowships, law school, medical school, other graduate and professional studies, jobs and careers, marriages and families and new life experiences. We were determined to change the world for the better, and each in her own way did just that through teaching and preaching and healing and advocating for justice. The revolutions kept coming, and we kept riding the crests of change --- raising children, taking new partners, caring for aging parents, coping with political upheavals and economic challenges, moving along our own inexorable pathways through life. We now realize that it's not at all "terribly strange to be 70."

Today, Green becomes Gold for this shining moment of our 50th Reunion. But we are not done, not at all, so we will leave this reunion recommitted to Trinity's mission and ideals to change the world for the better each day. Congratulations, my sisters in '74!