



## The Summer of '69

By Tom Bodle

As the last weekend of summer vacation 1969 arrived, Vikings were perhaps headed to the movies to catch "Alice's Restaurant", a quasi-autobiography of Arlo Guthrie based on his popular song. Maybe others spent their last time at Euclid Beach Amusement Park, or enjoying the beach at Mentor Headlands.

In a summer of historic events, it was time to focus on the return to school. World events, social changes and economic influences weighed on us all as we became seniors. The Vietnam War and the associated military draft were causes of concern. Social unrest throughout the world, changes in the Church inspired by Vatican II, new technologies and transitional approaches in education and teaching techniques would greet us as we became seniors.



Economic issues would hit all of us. Inflation in the United States rose considerably in the three years we had been in high school and was at an annual rate of 5.6%. Gasoline had risen over 15% in that time, from \$.32 to \$.37. Minimum wage was at an all time high of \$1.30 an hour in 1969, but was of negligible help for those of us trying to keep up with a 50% increase in tuition from \$300 for our junior year to \$450 our senior year.



In spite of all of these things cars streamed into the parking lot on orientation day. Music blasted out of car windows listening to Mike Rinieri on WIXY 1260 "Super Radio" playing the number one song of the day "Honkey Tonk Woman" by the Rolling Stones. It was exciting to take advantage of our first "senior privilege", a parking pass for the year. Meandering into the building, friendships were renewed, memories revisited and upcoming events contemplated.



The administrative team led by Bro. Philip Aaron, deans Jim Simonis and Norbert Ruffing and Guidance Director Bro. Ken Templin greeted us along with Student Council President Phil Herrick. Through the orientation the new "Modular" schedule was explained along with the "unstructured time" and resource centers created by new trends in education. It was nice to be able to enter the school year with the relaxed



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dress code, eliminating the ties and sweaters required in our first three years of school. Orientation was completed with the tradition of long lines in the gym, securing books, notebooks and other commodities for the work ahead.

Schedules having been checked, money spent and minds overloaded with all things changed and new, there still were a few days of reprieve before classes began after Labor Day weekend. Many of us returned Friday of orientation week to assist the incoming class of '73 through the Big Brother program. In its second year, the program was created for seniors and this year juniors, to attend freshman homeroom sessions and be grouped with as many as four students to discuss the handbook, school building, spirit and traditions in the Viking village.



Upperclassmen wore a distinctive blue pin with a red, small b inside a capital B to be easily recognized in the halls. In a measure of Viking brotherhood, it was a welcoming to our almost 500 new school mates. Messers Hugh Howard, John McMahon and Larry Cummins moderated and gave direction to the program.



As orientation week finished, in the quiet of the Labor Day weekend, spirit committee members were painting signs and covering the hallway walls with them. It would be "Euclid week" and a new school year was about to explode.

