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ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

1969

SJ chronicles Sept.1-6, 1969

By Tom Bodle

It was 6:30 p.m. September 1, 1969. The Jerry Lewis Labor Day telethon, in its fourth year of raising money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, had just concluded. This iconic program had become the informal signal that summer vacation was over and students across the country were about to begin another school year. The next day, a harbinger of the future of automated consumer services was introduced in the United States. The first Automated Teller Machine (ATM) was opened by Chemical Bank in New York City.

As Vikings returned to their hallowed halls, innovation also was introduced. A modular schedule was enacted. This actually required thinking "if this is Tuesday, it must be large group religion" or do I have English today? Is it double period or not at all? This was so unlike the traditional schedule of the past. Two of the most perplexing issues were about lunch and study halls. There was nothing providing a slot for those. The concept of "unstructured time" permitted us to make choices as to when we could eat and what to do with times not in class. The cafeteria became an open space, with mods in the middle of the day used for lunches. Study halls were no longer. Instead, students could go to the library, an open lab, one of the new departmental "resource centers, the cafeteria or work in designated study rooms. The long promised "Student Lounge" was created in a small space adjacent to the Student Council office. Having spent our first three years in a traditional academic schedule and with some of these new areas not yet complete, the first week of our senior year was filled with flux, uncertainty and anxiety.

School spirit was not an issue however. Talk in the hallways was about the opening football game against Euclid. The Panthers were loaded and primed to end the Vikings ten game undefeated record and the eight consecutive losses in head-to-head competition against the Vikings. The walls in the halls were plastered with spirit signs as students returned. The traditional "Bonfire Rally" was set for Thursday night. Vikings were motivated to make this one surpass the '68 rally. Throughout the school day a stack of wood was assembled in the "starter area" of the track. From classroom windows students watched the pile grow as students, alumni and even parents piled on "all things wooden." At dusk, well over



S. C. CREATES STUDENT LOUNGE

One of the newest and most fascinating innovations accomplished by the 1969-1970 Student Council is the creation of a new student lounge. The four Student Council officers have moved their desks into the old Student Council officers have moved their desks into the old Student Council meeting room, leaving the former Student Council office plus its small antechamber as the student lounge. The wall between the two rooms will be knocked out, the room will be knocked out, the room will be patient, furnished, and simplied with a second council of the student of the student of the second council of the second counc













1,000 gathered as Ed Zivkovich led his spirit committee with torches to light the fire. Sounds of "the Saints Go Marching In" from the spirit band and "Beat Euclid" echoed on the lake front as the flames engulfed the stack of wood. There was no official measurement as to whether this was the biggest bonfire ever, but the flames were so intense, the Cleveland Fire Department had to douse the remnant of the fire at the end of the rally.

In the overnight, several Viking marauders slipped into Euclid Stadium to claim our foothold on the rivalry. Ed Zivkovich led one such contingent of his spirit committee. The committee had prepared an enormous sign reading "Home of the Vikings". It was measured to cover the "Home of the Panthers" sign on Euclid Stadium. Fighting some stiff winds, the crew secured the sign. Tape master Jim Guy battened down the edges with a crew that included Ed Acton, Rich Laurie and Tom Bodle. Staying at Zivkovich's home, the crew returned to Euclid at 7 a.m. to take a picture. Euclid students were already scaling the stadium wall to tear it down. The battle had begun!

On Friday, the first issue of the Norseman was distributed to students. Editor Ken Kampman and the editorial board had published a very informative debut. It was Mark Hummer's article "Vikings Look for One Heck of a Ball Game" that sounded the theme for the day.

The game lived up to its billing. A standing room only crowd of nearly 12,000 and a city wide (delayed) television broadcast on WVIZ-25 witnessed a hard fought struggle between what would eventually be two of the top three teams in Cleveland. St. Joe overcame five fumbles and 76 yards in penalties to squeak out a 14-12 victory. Quarterback Bob Bobrowski accounted for 155 of the 215 yards for the Viking offense, including two long touchdown runs. The defense was steller, holding the potent Panther offense to 146 yards as well as stuffing their two critical points after attempts. For his heroics, Bobrowski was the Plain Dealer's "Player of the week." Euphoria permeated the corner of East 185th and Lake Shore to begin the school year. #