

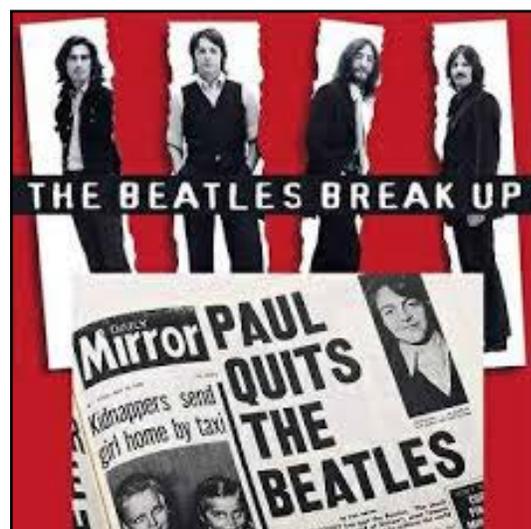
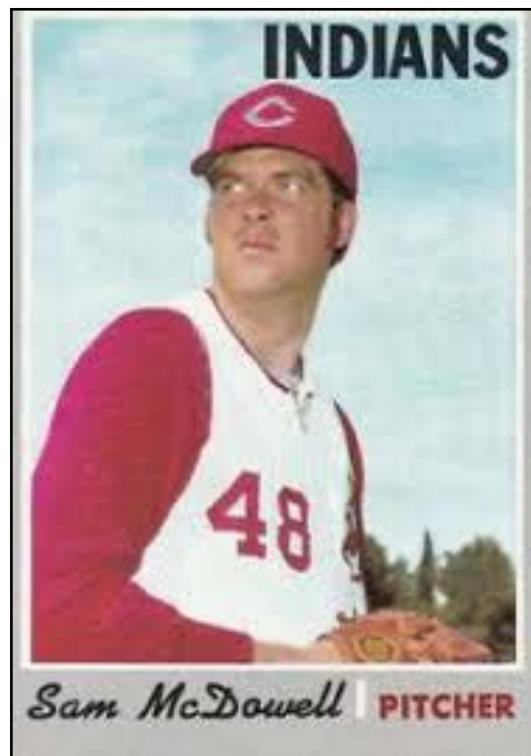
April 5-11, 1970

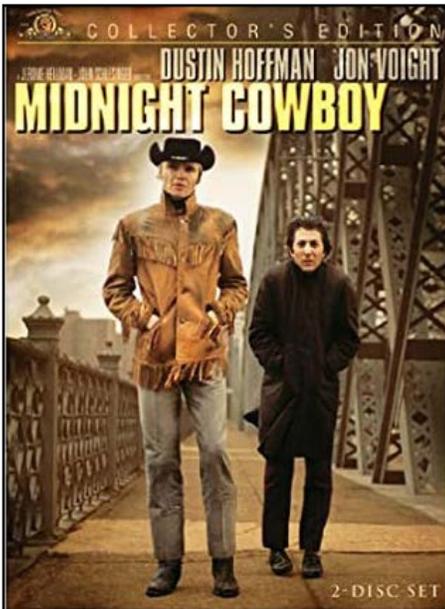
By Tom Bodle

“Take me out to the Tribe game!” Yes, the first full week of April presented the opening of major league baseball. The 1960’s proved to be a dismal period of professional baseball in Cleveland. The change of the decade hoped to bring a turn of fortunes for the Indians franchise. The year 1969 was the worst of the worst. Cleveland was at the bottom of the American League East. Manager Alvin Dark welcomed some talented young players in Ray Fosse and Tony Horton along with all-star pitcher “Sudden Sam” McDowell in hopes of changing the misfortunes of the past. Tuesday April 7th was opening day. The cavernous Municipal Stadium was only half filled with 38,000 fans. The weather was more suited for a November Browns game. A temperature of 46 degrees, under cloudy skies and a cool lake breeze chilled those in attendance. What was even more chilling was the Tribe’s performance. A Baltimore Oriole team, shocked by the “Miracle Mets” in the 1969 World Series, were in town with “an axe to grind.” The “Birds” rudely treated McDowell and Oriole starter Dave McNally put Indian bats in the freezer as Baltimore won 8-2. After a 3-2 second game loss, the Tribe was pummeled 13-1 as Baltimore swept the series. For Indian fans, the long awaited “next year” had finally arrived, but it was not looking so good.

Shocking not just the music industry, but the world was the April 10th headlines that proclaimed Paul McCartney had quit the Beatles. Rumors had abounded that the “Fab Four” was about to break up. In the previous week, Ringo Starr had released a solo album. McCartney’s announcement finalized the dismantling of the union of the most popular musical foursome in history. Ironically, this week, the Beatles “Let It Be” single rose to number one on the pop charts.

Early April offered the Academy Awards ceremony from the film industry. Receiving the “Best picture” Oscar was “Midnight Cowboy.” John Wayne won a long awaited “Best Actor” trophy for his performance in “True Grit.” Maggie Smith’s performance as the title character in “The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie” earned her the “Best Actress” prize.





Quietly in the news, Apollo 13 skyrocketed into space on April 11th. The lunar landing of Apollo 11 in July was historic and imprinted on the minds of millions who had witnessed it. Less attention had been given to the successful Apollo 12 mission in November. The launch of Apollo 13 was treated as just another routine space event with minimal coverage.

Student centered and student organized activities abounded in our years in high school. The school's administration was very encouraging and within reason supported efforts by the student council. A variety of activities, beyond the expected social, were planned and executed by our student council. A highlight of the year was the arranging of an assembly to hear the Mayor of Cleveland, Carl Stokes. Mayor Stokes had just been re-elected to his second term in office. In 1967, Mr. Stokes was elected as the first African-American mayor of a major city. In the late 60's Cleveland, as in much of the country, was rife with social unrest. Riots had occurred in Hough and Glenville. Bussing was being proposed to alleviate the racial segregation in the city school district. Industry was showing signs of age, creating problems involving air and water pollution. Infrastructure issues for streets and bridges were creating financial problems. With increasingly weaker wages as the inner city population became poorer, the city's coffers were stressed. In a rare appearance in front of a high school assembly, Mayor Stokes agreed to speak to the students of St. Joseph High. Mayor Stokes openly discussed the city's issues. He also explained his campaign, entitled "Cleveland Now" which he encouraged public and private efforts to take pride in the city, to clean up streets and neighborhoods and to restore Cleveland's reputation. At the end of his talk, Mayor Stokes openly answered questions proposed by designated students. It was quite an event for a high school to host.

Springtime activities were in full swing this first week of April. The intramural committee created a wrestling competition. Over 70 participants entered. Ping pong was an ongoing intramural activity and in the middle of its schedule. The Tennis team took on St. Edward in its second match against the Eagles in a week. Just as in the first match, Peter Fries was the lone victor in a 4-1 defeat. The Varsity Baseball team struggled to get out of the gate with several losses this week. The Varsity Track team encountered two major challenges. Perennial power Glenville was too much for the Vikings in head-to-head competition. The Tarblooders' were dominant in the sprint events and defeated our thinclads 67-46. The strength of the 1970 squad was in the distance and field events. It was a team built to participate in relay competition and in these it excelled. Travelling to Mansfield for the renowned Mansfield Relays on April 10-11th, the track team finished an impressive 15th place out of 290 participating schools. As the week ended, the Indians won their first game of the year, a 3-0 shut-out of the Yankees in New York. Tribe pitcher Dean Chance was the winner and Tribe faithful could now claim the Indians had a "Chance" in 1970.

Our Class of 70, 50th reunion this Fall is also in sight! If you want to plan ahead and buy your tickets for a fun filled weekend, you can start now!

Buy Tickets here! - <https://www.payit2.com/collect-page/107656>