

Juniata in the Sixties

An excerpt from *Juniata College: Uncommon Vision, Uncommon Loyalty*
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❧ JUNIATA COLLEGE ❧



❧ CLASS OF 1967 ❧

That June the college changed the day of commencement. From 1879 to 1921 graduation exercises had been a Thursday affair. From 1921 on they took place on Monday, the day after baccalaureate services. At that time both became the Sunday ceremonies of today.

A profile of entering freshmen for fall 1961 showed the sexes all but equals on combined SAT scores: women (1,067); men (1,056). The rigors of gymnasium initiation that Senate President James Hunt, back in 1955–56, had tried to outlaw, went out with the Class of 1965. No more mud, no more syrup. No more jeers, “Pray for rain, Frosh!” But other regulations remained in force, as did the “frosh-soph” Homecoming games to determine if dinks came off or stayed on another week. And “storming the Arch” continued to embroil freshmen in a fall donnybrook.

Calendar year 1962 started out with the student body rejecting a second revision of the honor code on January 9. The vote buried for good all senatorial hopes. By this time the Senate was in the bike rental business, and on a Saturday in late March twenty-seven Juniatians headed for Harrisburg in a bicycle marathon. It was to be a test of endurance. Sophomore Richard O’Connell, averaging fifteen miles an hour, reached the Capitol steps first, at 12:55 P. M., after a ride of six hours and twenty-five minutes. All was deserted. His first act was to hunt for a water fountain. Twenty-four out of the twenty-seven contestants, all males, made the ninety-eight-mile trip. O’Connell had done some winter training, and it paid off.

Two Masque plays, *Liliom* and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, both directed by Prof. Bruce Spencer, caused a flurry of excitement over the question of censorship. Dr. Ellis thought *Liliom* “out of line,” as did many of the college constituents. Not wanting to be a “censor” he nevertheless made it plain when the latter production took place: “We must be careful not to have profanity or drinking on the stage.”²³

Individual faculty members entertained in their homes nearly 450 students over the year, their hospitality partially reimbursed by the college under a policy dating back to 1955. (The policy was discontinued in the early 1990s.)

Innovations seemed to be the order of the year all of 1962–63. Homecoming Day featured a pregame parade through Huntingdon that included the Juniata and Huntingdon High School bands. Seniors Judy Carleton (Barnett) and Judy Fairweather (Young) started a kind of journalistic fad on the Hill—they were the first of three successive duos to coedit the *Juniatian*. In April students, clamoring for “big name” entertainment, brought to Oller Hall the Lettermen, popular recording artists. Ronald Smelser, in Germany for his junior year abroad, won the Senate presidency in an unprecedented write-in campaign. Thomas Paxton, a philosophy major, wondered why “there is no active student peace movement” on the Hill and urged the formation of one. A request from Class President Louis Browdy, Indian mascot of the football team, set the tradition of seniors wearing white (B. A.) and yellow (B. S.) tassels on their mortarboards at commencement.

The academic year 1963–64 had some new twists, too. For the first time in Juniata’s history the faculty reception had no receiving line—a concession to the size of the student body. Chapel, or convocation as it was now being called, was scheduled once a week (Wednesday) and extended to forty-five minutes. The emphasis would be

religious rather than a combination of worship service and cultural programs. Periodic public lectures and performances, by the same token, went under the rubric Focus Series. Juniata that fall was the first of the Brethren schools to employ a campus minister, the suggestion of a student Religious Convocation Study Committee. He was Robert Faus, a young Pennsylvania Dutchman with an endless repertory of jokes. The jolly reverend and his musically gifted wife, Nancy, soon won the hearts of all on the Hill. The house at 410 17th Street became the College Manse.²⁴

Hardly had the Fauses moved in when, on September 19, "Book Switch" took place. Early morning of that day nine hundred students and faculty members began to move books, President Ellis leading the first group, from the old to the new library. Over sixty thousand volumes were moved by yellow, blue, and red teams under the direction of "traffic cops" headed by Dr. Ronald Cherry, wearing a big, black, broad-brimmed hat. The band provided peppy music and halfway through the morning there was a break for coffee and donuts. The operation took less than six hours, counting the midmorning break and an hour-long lunch period. At 2:45 P. M. Dean Morley Mays placed the last book, a biography of Zwingli, on the shelf. The tolling Tower Bell officially signaled the end of library moving day. Over forty students had won assorted prizes.

Then, on November 22, a concealed rifleman, Lee Oswald, killed President John Kennedy in downtown Dallas, Texas. The assassination shocked the Hill, as it did all America. Oller Hall had standing room only on the 25th, a national day of mourning, for a Juniata memorial service. The college community listened in sober silence as Dean Mays paid tribute to the first Catholic to occupy the White House. For many of them the tragic and senseless murder opened their eyes to the enormous capacity of evil in this country. The dean articulated their sentiments when he said, "May our rededication be not only a renewal of confidence in our American idealism, but also an act of contrition before God."²⁵

Already the Senate of write-in President Ronald Smelser was hard at work trying to set up a system for evaluating courses. And Simpson-scholar Rodney Jones, son of missionary parents, had in September authored for the *Juniatian* an exceptionally perceptive two-part serial on Vietnam titled "Southeastern Sickness."

Senator John Fike, Jr.'s religious activities committee sponsored a three-day symposium on racial tensions in February. The committee made use of outside speakers and faculty. Then in March Elmer Maas (New York Univ. M. A., 1962-68), a philosophy professor and social activist, arranged for the Freedom Singers, a vocal group representing the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), to make two campus appearances. SNCC was a recent integration and civil rights organization that grew out of the 1960 sit-down movement in the South. This was not the last contact the Hill would have with this largely college-based movement.

One member of the Class of 1964 caused amused excitement when he drove off in a steamroller being used to pave College Avenue, which bounds the east campus. The Cloisterite learned how to control the machine by watching the operator through binoculars. One night he took his place at the levers and rumbled in toward town, thirty or more fellows draped all over the behemoth, which turned left on 18th Street, and

with borough police in pursuit, came to rest against a tree beside Leshner Hall. A state trooper, not a local gendarme, made the arrest.

Another 1964 senior, Senate President Ronald Smelser, learned he had been designated a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, a coveted honor. Three other Juniata students would be designees over the next half-dozen years. Two of them got their fellowships during the Ellis II era: Janet Kauffman and Mary Harsanyi (Miller), both in 1967. Among other things, the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation of Princeton, New Jersey, founded in 1945, has been committed to supporting students in doctoral programs. Smelser did his graduate work in European history, Kauffman in English, and Harsanyi in biochemistry.

Mountain Day had undergone a slight change by 1964, as the one at Colerain State Park on October 14 illustrated. The student-faculty softball game, a rivalry that came after World War II, had now been replaced by touch football. Moreover, the competition, involving some rough play, would hereafter pit seniors-only against the professors. The latter, after these encounters, limped into class on the morrow, bruises and abrasions all too evident. A new winter recreation made its appearance in December: skiing at Blue Knob, promoted by the Outing Club.

The Barry Goldwater-Lyndon Johnson presidential race remained a dead issue on campus. A few Hilltop Republicans did turn out when the Arizona senator's train made a whistle stop in Huntingdon. The candidate looked tired; his rhetoric fell far short of rabble-rousing.

Until the fall of 1964 a faculty committee chaired by the college treasurer administered the financial aid program. Historically, with the exception of a few honor scholarships, aid had been based on need. The number of scholarship funds had grown over the years to forty-one in 1964. There were also a number of loan funds, and many students received outright grants. And, of course, Hilltop jobs were available for earning part of school expenses. Approximately eighty Juniata students were then in the college's employ in some capacity. An Anti-Poverty Bill passed by Congress in the summer made possible further work-study grants, which would involve students in certain kinds of community activity. The aid program had now become too much of a burden for the faculty. So in September Robert Doyle, an assistant in admissions, became the college's first director of financial aid and placement.

Allotting financial aid had become onerous not only because of a growing student body, but also because of mounting governmental red tape. The post-Sputnik hysteria had demanded federal aid to education. Thus in 1958 Congress passed the National Defense Education Act (NDEA), which provided, among other things, long-term low-interest loans. The NDEA called for expenditures to higher education of about one billion dollars over the next seven years. Then in the mid-1960s Pennsylvania, like other states, established a Guaranteed Loan Program for college students from middle- and upper-income families.

By that time, Southern resistance to legal and legislative gains in race relations had aroused idealistic indignation on northern college and university campuses. And March 1965 witnessed the baptism of Juniata students into civil-rights protest action—and violence. A group of students and faculty, inspired by Harriet Richardson (Michel), a

beautiful black woman, and Galway Kinnell, poet-in-residence, decided to join in demonstrations for voter registration in Alabama the week of the 15th. This was in response to a plea for help from SNCC. Plans called for a four-day, fifty-mile Selma-to-Montgomery pilgrimage. Supporters nominated by acclamation four leaders to organize the movement on campus: Miss Richardson, James Lehman, recently elected student body president, and Michael Marzio and Gary Rowe, both underclassmen.

Twenty-one persons, forewarned of the dangers that lay ahead, made the trip. Three Huntingdon pastors were in the group. A Hilltop company numbering more than one hundred marched from the college through downtown Huntingdon and bade farewell to those Alabama bound. There the Juniata people joined with hundreds of colleges throughout the nation at Montgomery, the state capital. Meanwhile in Selma, Martin Luther King and Ralph Bunche, two black Nobel Peace Prize winners, told the crowd that "no tide of racism can stop us." But the police tried. Mounted troopers and possemen assaulted demonstrators in Montgomery with cattle prods, clubs, and whips, tossing canisters of tear gas into their ranks. "Every white person in Montgomery would have killed us, with no questions on their part," railed Charles Lytle on his return.²⁶

Several from the Juniata contingent suffered injuries. English professor Donald Hope received head wounds, was hospitalized, and released. The *New York Times* carried a front-page picture of Elmer Maas administering first aid to Hope after he was struck down. Galway Kinnell and the Rev. Gerald Will, one of the pastors (First Evangelical United Brethren Church), also took beatings. *Life* magazine that week in March printed a half-page photograph of Richardson (a future Juniata trustee), her brow furrowed from strain, tenderly wiping at Galway Kinnell's bloodied face. It was a photograph that angered many unsympathetic Juniata alumni and parents. (The *Life* picture later appeared in Michael S. Durham's book, *Powerful Day: The Civil Rights Photography of Charles Moore*.) On the way back the motor of one car was ruined after someone put sugar in the gas tank; its riders had to call home for money to buy another car. A highly emotional debriefing took place in Oller Hall on an evening soon after the Alabama demonstrators returned.

Another Hill group—sixty-four in all—traveled to Washington, D. C., on Sunday, March 14, to participate in civil rights demonstrations there. Juniata students carried signs proclaiming such slogans as "Freedom takes time—and time is running out," "United we stand, divided we fall," "All men are created equal." They also carried placards bearing the equality emblem. Some fifteen thousand protesters rallied at Lafayette Square. Nothing happened to mar the peaceful rally. Strains of *We Shall Overcome*, the "national anthem" of civil righters, filled the air the whole day.

Out of these experiences sprang SCORE, the Student Committee on Racial Equality, a campus organization that was open to faculty and administrators. Some of its projects included collecting clothing for the South and tutoring blacks in Huntingdon and Mount Union. It also worked with the Tri-County Anti-Poverty Program. Gary Rowe, a philosophy major, was the prime mover behind SCORE, his department professors, Frederick Brouwer (Yale Ph.D., 1964–67) and Elmer Maas, working closely with him.

The civil rights movement on campus, besides raising everybody's consciousness on race, said Michael Marzio, was "valuable for secondary reasons." It was "prolonging an aggressive turn" for change on the Hill. He had in mind the Senate-drafted "Suggestions to Faculty" concerning course structure and teaching methods. He also was referring to the unrest over Totem Inn. Students had returned the fall of 1963 to find the snack bar ousted and replaced by vending machines. Grumbling and Senate pressure never ceased over the next year and a half. By April the snack bar was back.

That was the month the Focus Series featured Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., noted historian and a former special assistant to a presidential pair: JFK and LBJ. He advocated "honorable negotiation" in Vietnam over the alternative of pulling out or escalating the war. At that time Dale Evans, editor of *Kvasir*, was fighting a skirmish of his own over censorship. The Student Relation Committee, made up of faculty and students, considered two proposed contributions to *Kvasir* in "bad taste" for a publication bearing the name of the college. The editor made certain concessions but he declared that the magazine, a creative outlet for College Hill, should not become a "tool of the administration's image-makers."²⁷

The touring choir, always an image-maker for the college, got a special thrill on Sunday afternoon, May 16. That was the day the choral travelers sang at the New York World's Fair (the Tiparillo Pavilion). Their appearance climaxed a year of forty-two concerts. It was Director Donald Johnson's on-the-road swan song (his baton would go to Bruce Hirsch, Lincolnesque in looks and build). Some of Choirmaster Johnson's senior singers counted among the thirty-one percent of 152 graduates that planned to further their education. This was up eleven percent over the previous year.

The enrollment that fall exceeded one thousand. New on campus was Robert Holmes (1965-68), an administrative addition as coordinator of student activities. Holmes (later principal of the Huntingdon Area High School) was the man through whom students had to schedule student events: date, time, location, nature, and size. His job prepared the Hill for the kinds of responsibility that would befall the director of the College Center, a building then in the planning stages. Holmes began putting out a weekly *Calendar* each Monday.

The mid-Sixties seemed to reflect campus indifference toward student government. Said outgoing president James Lehman in 1966, "The biggest problem the Senate faced this year was proving to the Juniata College Community that the Senate is a responsible, committed body worth existing."²⁸ To his disappointment the election of new officers in February showed no hopeful change in apathy about student government. The lack of a voter quorum (60 percent, according to Senate bylaws) forced a re-vote. Then, too, three of the four executive offices had no opposition. Things went better, however, in the chair election. The Judiciary was in even worse shape. From 1957 to 1962 students almost always chose to be tried by their peers. But, in the years since, the Judiciary had lost the confidence of the student body. During 1965-66, for example, the deans reviewed sixty-eight out of seventy cases—an option to those accused of an offense. The *Juniatian* assessed the Judiciary's future as "dubious."

As the decade passed the halfway point, debate and the General Information Test made their permanent departure from the Hill. More interest at the time focused on

what was happening at 1621 Mifflin Street. There, on February 11, Salut, Juniata's off-campus coffeehouse, opened to a more-than-capacity crowd. The place had once been a little grocery store, which the college bought and turned over to the students. With Senate funds a ten-member committee headed by the basketball team's towering co-captain Will Brandau, Juniata's folk-style Mitch Miller, began in September to renovate the frame structure. On opening night there were tables and chairs to accommodate fifty to seventy-five people, who paid a cover charge of twenty-five cents to get in. Murals, candles, and curtains were added extras promoting atmosphere. Waitresses took orders for tea, coffee, cider, and donuts. In the months ahead entertainment would include music, live and recorded, and poetry readings.

The musicians for the Grand Opening were the New Century Singers, Stephen Engle's popular campus group. The Hill first met them at an Oller Hall lawn folk sing for May Day weekend 1964. They cut three records, all original compositions, and traveled throughout the East and Midwest performing for colleges, high schools, conventions, service clubs, benefits, and other organizations. The New Century Singers won second place in an Inter-Collegiate Musical Competition at Lycoming College. Their final campus show was in May 1966. When the Oller Hall concert ended the student body presented Engle with a scroll recognizing his talents as a singer, composer, and director. Stephen's singers included, during their Hilltop existence, Susanne Judy (Wright), Robert McDowell, William Brubaker, Paul Morse, Patricia Dove, David Gould, Kirsten Miller (Gould), Donald Armstrong, and John Russell.

That same May students and faculty bussed to Shade Gap in southern Huntingdon County to help comb the woods for the "Mountain Man," who had kidnapped Peggy Ann Bradnick walking the lane to her home after school. It was a week-long search. The governor called out the National Guard, and the media kept the nation regularly informed on the hunt for the teenager. There was bloodshed, the kidnapper and an FBI agent left dead from gunshot wounds. But Peggy Ann was rescued, unharmed.

By mid-decade the college had come by several more endowed prizes, all of them extant. The Wilbur W. Oaks Prize (1964) honors a senior premedical student with a good academic record, pleasing personality, and with broad cultural interests. Mrs. Jane Swigart, wife of trustee John Swigart, established the award in honor of her cousin, a physician and surgeon. The Alice G. Blaisdell Prize in Geology or Mathematics (1966), established by Dr. Edwin Blaisdell in memory of his wife, honors a graduating senior with a strong academic record in each of the disciplines named in the title. The Charles M. Rice Accounting Prize (1967) recognizes a senior student outstanding in accounting. (Mr. Rice, a C. P. A. of Altoona, taught at Juniata 1932-43.)

A new administrator joined the Calvert Ellis team in the fall of 1966: Dr. Charles Schoenherr (Columbia, Ph.D.). He came from Wheaton College (Illinois) to fill the new position of dean of student affairs. Under his charge fell the dean of women, coordinator of student activities, campus minister, director of financial aid and placement, director of student health services, and the residence directors. Paul Heberling, dean of men since 1957, joined the sociology department, to become, in time, its anthropologist. (Deans, both men and women, had relatively short tenures during the Ellis presidency. After Clyde Stayer retired from the men's post in 1947, there followed

Melvin Rhodes (1947–52), Dr. James Penny (1952–57), and Heberling. Six women deaned under Ellis. Edith Spencer was succeeded by Alice Dove (1952–56), Barbara Bechtell (1956–60), Christine Yohe (1960–64), Clare Low (1964–67), and Frances Helms (1967–68).

Of special interest to the campus community upon Schoenherr's arrival, was the news that his mother-in-law, Mrs. Margaret Landon, had authored *Anna and the King of Siam*. The Landons had been Presbyterian missionaries to Thailand. Rogers and Hammerstein turned her story into a Broadway musical hit and Hollywood filmed it. Ironically, this big-screen hit was one of the last movies shown at the Grand Theater before it closed in the spring of 1962, leaving Huntingdon with just the Clifton for cinema buffs.

Coeds greeted the incoming Schoenherr with an organized protest over a spot check for improper weekend sign-outs. The *Juniatian* editorialized that the administration had no "legal, moral and ethical right" to determine students' personal moral codes. Pressure was building against what one letter to the editor called the "bulk of our Puritan and archaic conduct rules." The immediate result was the formation of SCOPE (Student Committee on Policy Evaluation) to deal generally with the question of *in loco parentis* and to recommend policy changes where necessary. David Gould and Paul Morse were the organizers of SCOPE.

At halftime on Parents Day skydiving Jeffrey Dunkle made a free-fall jump onto the middle of College Field. While the plane, which took off from Mount Union, circled two thousand feet overhead in a clear blue sky, Dunkle's father communicated by radio with the pilot. It was the sophomore's ninety-third jump, and he landed within six feet of his marked goal on the fifty-yard line. When he took off his jumping suit at midfield he was in full coat-and-tie dress, looking as if he had just come from a dance.

A couple weeks after this aerial show, in mid-November, came the annual JWSF drive. One of the charity's favorite money-raising gimmicks had been the tricycle race involving faculty contestants. No longer did JWSF determine its goal by the numerals of the year. And in 1966—in an effort to bring their humanitarian projects "close to home"—the Senate reduced its causes to two: the World Service Fund and the Disadvantaged Student Fund begun by SCORE.

In February students went to the polls in Totem Inn to vote on a completely new type of student government. Seventy-five percent of them said "yes" in ratifying the proposed constitution drafted during James Donaldson's Senate presidency. This constitution divided the governing body into four groups: executive, legislative, cabinet, and dormitory government. Only juniors and seniors served on the old Senate but now the sixteen-person legislature would consist of four students from each class. The legislature was to deal with campus problems. Another change related to the positions of treasurer and assistant treasurer. They were to be hired and salaried, not elected. The cabinet and dormitory government embraced the former chairs, and their responsibilities would now be purely administrative, not combined, as before, with legislation.

The Spring Carnival, held outdoors on an April Saturday night, had become something of a tradition by the late Sixties. The lawn between Totem Inn and Students Hall became the location of all sorts of booths. Carnival-goers had a choice from a variety

of skill or try-your-luck games at five cents a turn. The Dunk-the-Prof booth was always one of the most popular. So was the Car Smash, scene of an old wreck decorated with names of the professoriate. Students could avenge themselves on particular ones with a twelve-pound sledgehammer. Afterward there was a dance and a drawing for door prizes donated by Huntingdon merchants.

William "Toby" Dills, Senate vice-president, was a senior now. Toby will be remembered as a *rara avis* for thinking up outlandish stunts. Jeffrey Dunkle's parachute jump was Toby's idea. Some say Lee Harvey Samseil, the fictitious character whose name cropped up carved on many a desktop, came from Toby's own brain. Dills was Lee's campaign manager for president of the United States. The *Juniatian* (May 17, 1967) even printed a diploma for Lee.

The name of Dills also came in the same breath with "marathon" once the lanky chemistry major from Wilmington, Delaware, arrived on the Hill. A Dills-directed football marathon (63 consecutive hours) received national attention in 1964 as did a Dills media-reported softball marathon (55 hours, five minutes) in 1965.

Toby concocted his most famous stunt, however, his last days on campus: "Mammoth Monopoly." That was how the Parker Brothers' blurb booklet, for a period of years, used to refer to Toby's version of the absorbing parlor game. It began on the sunny afternoon of Saturday, April 29, ingeniously using an entire block of campus sidewalks whitewashed to resemble the playing board. Each class used four oversized markers. There were also giant money, real estate, and property deeds. From atop the Students Hall fire escape, Toby roll-dropped dice made of large foam rubber. Below a sign read: "Beware of falling dice." Walkie-talkies and messengers on bicycles informed players of their moves. The news media had great fun with the story.

Students returned in the fall to be greeted by news of Calvert Ellis's letter of resignation. During the president's final months the college took a notably politic step vis-à-vis student-faculty teamwork. During the Leadership Conference at Blue Diamond Camp in September, the idea of student representation on all faculty standing committees—with voting privileges—came up. (This was already a fact of the Student Activities Council.) The student government drew up a petition, which Earl Kaylor, its advisor, and deans Schoenherr and Helms carried to the next faculty meeting. The Student Government (SG) proposal got due debate for several months. In February it passed, but with one modification: no student vote on the Faculty Council. SG agreed, since that council dealt with professional matters of no concern to the student body. (In time, this restriction was dropped.) In this quiet way Juniata gave a strong voice to its undergraduates in the areas of academic policy and the administration of their welfare. They were franchises that the majority of colleges and universities would much later vouchsafe—and then only after discord and with media coverage.

Ellis's terminal year, on the other hand, did not spare him from campus unrest over the Vietnam War. Prof. Maas, who helped form what was called the Vietnam Summer Committee, led a small band of Juniatians to a Washington, D. C., antiwar rally in October. (Maas would later take up company with the Berrigan brothers, the Catholic priests, who for many became the war's iconic protesters.) Then in November Sotirios Nicolopoulos surprised Capt. John Brennan, a Marine recruiter, by presenting him

with a petition of 503 signatures in support of the war. Nicolopoulos, a Vietnam veteran, said the petition was evidence that the students who participated in the October Peace March on the Pentagon did not truly represent the prevailing sentiment on the campus. Yet a survey by mathematics major Linda Hartman (Bianchi) for an independent study in her minor, political science, indicated the Hill was of two minds about the situation in Southeast Asia. Her survey showed sixty-three percent of Juniata students disapproved of the government's handling of the Vietnam predicament.²⁹ But sixty-five percent opposed a withdrawal. Linda concluded that although a majority was unhappy about the present policy, they remained open to a negotiated settlement as long as it did not appear as a "victory" for the Viet Cong.

However, the antiwar faction on campus was at work in other ways than just marching around the Pentagon. They had become fans of dovish Sen. Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota, an idealistic and quiet-spoken ex-professor. His candidacy, taken seriously by few people, aroused countless numbers of college students. Hundreds of them descended upon New Hampshire for the state's early March presidential primary in what the media irreverently tagged the "Children's Crusade." The senator won, to the surprise of most politicians. Pro-McCarthy Juniatians and townspeople made a door-to-door canvas of Huntingdon alerting the local electorate that McCarthy was on the Pennsylvania primary ballot. Their watchword was "Make Pennsylvania Another New Hampshire." Among the Hilltop leaders were professors Maas and Sara Clemson, and students Christopher Moore, Marta Daniels, Michael Marzio, and Jeffrey Cawley. To "Be Clean for Gene" (another media label) the campaigners, both students and faculty alike, prudently gave up any sign of unkemptness. The Keystone State, to their dismay, did not turn out to be another New Hampshire.

It was becoming more evident by spring of Ellis's valedictory year that baby boomers had less interest in College Hill traditions than past generations. For the president the customs of Juniata were important because they signified a close-knit community that appreciated its heritage. It saddened him, therefore, that the Class of 1968 was the last one to observe the candlelighting and mantle ceremonies. Before many more years transpired, most traditions on the Hill would have vanished.

INDIANS OF THE 1960S

William Engel, the college's "Man Friday" in so many areas, showed the same kind of versatility in his own office of public information. Although not sports information director at Juniata, he prepared, beginning in the Sixties, an annual guide on all varsity athletic programs that became a model for small colleges. He also initiated the *J-Fan Letter*, a news coverage of each sports event that he sent to all alumni of the J Club. Juniata's first bona fide SID was Lillian Junas (1964-67), an assistant in the public information office. She was followed by David Leonard (1967-68).

The glory years of football had given that sport a major emphasis, and in 1960 James Harbaugh became Juniata's first full-time equipment manager. Over the rest of the decade he saw Kenneth Bunn and Fred Prender (1963-68) coach the gridiron sport much in the winning style of the Fifties (47-37-0). Prender, unsympathetic to the

Sixties' blasé attitude toward grooming, imposed a strict tonsorial code on his players: no flowing tresses. The Bunn-Prender teams also produced a crop of Little All-Americans: William Crowell (1963), fullback Mario Berlanda (1966), quarterback Donald Weiss (1967), and James Hartland (1968). Others of the 1960s posted record-making feats: quarterback Gary Sheppard; punter Grey Berrier; field-goal kicker Donald Corle; end Jeffrey Barnes; defensive backs Joel Delewski, Peter Straup, Randall Oeffner, and Barry Broadwater; extra-point kicker David Fleck.

All the while, Coach Snider's hill and dalers compiled an aggregate log of 61-31 before his coaching career ended in 1968. Between 1957 and 1963 the Snider harriers enjoyed five consecutive unbeaten seasons and ran up a thirty-eight-meet winning streak. From time to time, however, the cross-county course has been lengthened. Earl Samuel (1961-65) retired the record for the original 4.3-mile circuit (22:58:5), which began and ended in front of the press box on College Field. Another stellar long-distance runner of the Sixties was Richard Beard, Student Government president and thrice a Brown-trophy recipient, who in his junior year (1966) laid lasting claim to the 4.6-mile time (24:26:6). From 1967 to 1973 the course was 4.8 miles long, but the best time for it eluded a Juniatian.

Basketball had a harder time of it, three coaches posting seventy-two wins against 116 losses. Arnold Greene resigned after the 1960-61 season with a 103-131 won-lost total for a dozen years. High-school teacher Ralph Harden (1961-66), whose Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, teams had dominated the Mountain League for sixteen years, took over the Greenemen and relieved Philip Snider as athletic director. A first-rate administrator, he was bitterly disappointed with his five-year coaching mark of 27-61. His last season he termed a "personal nightmare" (2-15). Returning to high-school teaching, he never coached again. Fred Prender took his place in the AD's office but remained as head football coach. Keystone Russell Trimmer, who led Middletown Area High School to 120 wins, twenty-one losses, and five championships in the Capital Area Conference over nine seasons, became Hilltop cage mentor. Trimmer, a truly great coach, had an exciting Jekyll-Hyde aspect to his personality. Off-court he was relaxed and easy going, a soft-spoken, likable man. But after the opening center-jump of a game he became a towel-throwing, chair-kicking, red-faced, referee-scolding Bobby Knight type of coach. But within two years he had Juniata back on the winning track. Visiting teams dreaded Memorial Gymnasium, the din of cheering fans deafening. The place got the epithet of "Snake Pit." The Trimmer quintets boasted a number of outstanding players such as rebounding stars Charles Robuck, first in average per game (15.5), and Leroy Mock, second (15.2).

Wrestling won varsity status in 1960, but unlike basketball just about broke even in wins and losses over eight seasons (36-38-0). Outsiders coached Juniata matmen until 1962 when William Berrier stepped in. Under him the Blue and Gold went 33-28. The second best season in grappling history on the Hill to that time was 1964-65 (7-3-0). Senior Duane Ruble, strongman of the unlimited weight class, won nine matches by falls. When a sophomore, Ruble won the first David L. Helsel Wrestling Award (and won it twice more). In 1968 Christian Sherk, the 145-pound grappler, himself among the Helsel elite twice, ran up an undefeated dual meet record of 9-0-1, the only Juniata

wrestler to do so. He capped that with a second-place performance in the MAC championship meet, another College Hill first.

Golfers of the 1960s had good and bad seasons that evened out at 46-46-0. The first year of the decade was their best. They won nine and lost two and finished second in the NCAA Coast Regional Championships. John Vernocy, three times the C. Blair Miller-cup awardee, won ten of eleven in fairway duels.

The tennis team in 1960 won two and lost six. Then Dr. Ernest Post became coach the next year and promptly turned things around. Six of the next eight squads were winners, taking forty-five matches and dropping thirty-one. The 1967 season (8-1-0) was an all-time second best on the Hill. Stanley Conner and Larien Bieber each got the Ellis tennis trophy twice in those years. His last year, Bieber, a premedical student, also won the John E. Blood Memorial Award instituted in 1967. It goes to the senior athlete, who has earned four letters in any sport, with the highest academic average. John Blood, food director at Juniata, 1964-66, was a baseball fan while on the Hill, the unofficial "batting coach." He had written a book on Ted Williams.

Tracksters fell short of tennis's upsurge and from 1960 to 1968 won only twenty-six dual meets while losing forty-two and tying one. Still they had their shining days. In triangulars Snidermen took four firsts. Three of these came in 1963, Juniata's best overall track season ever, when the squad piled up ten wins to one loss. The season climaxed with a third place finish in the MACs, the highest showing until 1973. The Tribe of the 1960s, paced by the speed of Don Layman, Robert Berthold, Robert Gardner, Earl Samuel, William Williams, and John Stultz, shattered their share of records. But these all fell in the early 1970s. Philip "Mike" Snider retired in 1968. He had been a member of the athletic department—instructor, coach, director—since 1930 (except for a three-year hitch in the navy during the Second World War).

Of all the Hilltop sports during the 1960s only baseball turned up professional talent. Nineteen sixty was the year of the "bonus babies," stirring memories of the early Twenties when Joseph Shaute went with Cleveland. Donald Ross, the Tribe's third baseman and leading hitter, signed with the Baltimore Orioles for a bonus in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars after getting offers from twelve major league clubs. (Ross was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers right after signing his contract.) William Berrier, who shared the Mickle Award with twin-brother James, an exceptional athlete in his own right, inked a professional contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers as an outfielder and received ten thousand dollars. The big surprise was Edwin Hoffman, a junior playing his first full season for the Indians. Hoffman, a left-hand hitting outfielder, signed with Cincinnati. In 1964 Grey Berrier, younger brother of identical twins William and James, signed with the Chicago Cubs. Only William Berrier stuck it out. He enjoyed a seven-year playing career that included Triple-A ball. He also spent twelve seasons managing minor league clubs in the off-months while associated with his alma mater in a variety of roles. Under coaches Bunn, Kaylor (1963), and Prender, diamond victories outnumbered defeats seventy-two to fifty-eight (one tie). In 1962 Anthony Faber captured the MAC batting crown. Gary Sheppard swung a bat to the MAC title in 1964.

For Chester Langdon and the athletic department, the spring of 1963 finally realized a twenty-five-year dream—separate baseball and football fields. Langdon Field (baseball), east of the old playing area, was ready first, in early May. But College Field (football and track) took longer, and the fall 1963 home gridiron games were played on Huntingdon's War Veterans Memorial Field. Gone now were familiar landmarks to Juniata athletes and fans for years: the old grandstand and the green, rickety fence that cordoned off the scene of play

Ellis-era athletics ended in a show of respect for a president who enjoyed sports and appreciated their place in the college's life. Robert "Bob" Richards, former Olympic pole-vaulting champion, a then-Brethren preacher, spoke to over 350 Juniata fans on Saturday night, May 25, at a banquet honoring Dr. Ellis upon his impending retirement.

JUNIATA COLLEGE



UNCOMMON VISION, UNCOMMON LOYALTY



**The History of an Independent College in Pennsylvania
Founded by the Brethren 1876-2001**

Earl C. Kaylor, Jr.

