

The Sixties

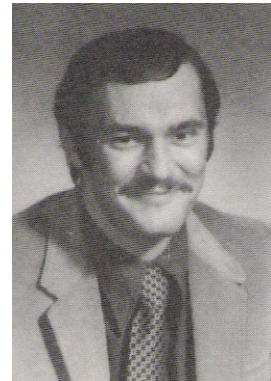
Written by Maurice Bourdon, Frank Graf, et al, for the Homecoming 1980 Yearbook



Maurice Bourdon,
French teacher

The sixties provided the world with social and political turmoil. Despite the apparent isolation of Timmins, staff members of that era plunged headlong into the lifestyle of the day - and the result was a microcosm of the decade (or if one prefers, a microcosm of the lunatic fringe who stood at the vanguard of this progressive society).

Who can forget Harry Nesbitt after an evening on the town attempting to unlock the front door of his residence with a lighter, only to be greeted by his understanding wife. Frank Wood, the Latin instructor answering the staff room phone with the words “Buckingham Palace, King George speaking”, was greeted with the voice of the Vice Principal Howard Runnalls who quipped: “Excuse me, King, but I believe your class has been waiting your arrival for the last ten minutes.”



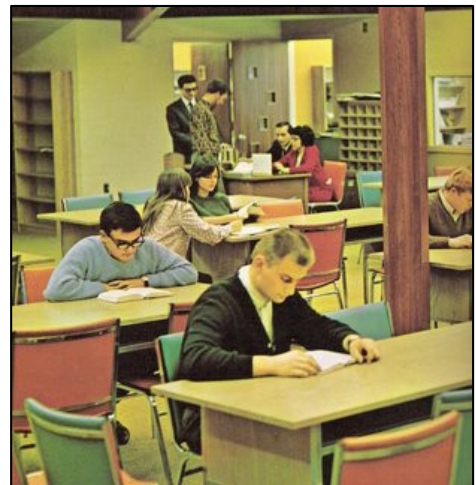
Frank Graf,
English teacher &
Librarian

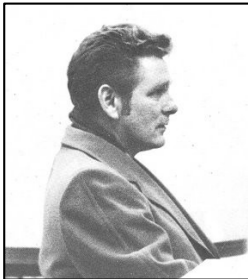
Former English teacher, Doug Craig called the same Howard Runnalls one fine morning. It seems that Mr. Craig was quite ill and would not be reporting for duty. Mr. Runnalls wished Mr. Craig a speedy recovery, and told him not to worry because not much was happening on this particular Saturday morning.

Another Latin teacher, Jack St. John, would occasionally add spice to his classes by arriving in a toga. This classics major would also keep parties going by standing on the railings of second storey balconies and threatening to end his existence in the fashion of Brutus, Cassius and Socrates himself. Jim McNamara, our crew cut math teacher would consistently lecture other staff members on the evils of tobacco and alcohol addiction. These harangues were delivered as Mr. McNamara was quaffing his nineteenth and twentieth “Cokes” of the day.

We wonder whether Joe “Alphabet” Zelicovics can still spell his name, and whether Ken Currie is still playing his ash-can styled bass fiddle long into the nights, hours after he couldn’t read music and couldn’t tell when a piece had ended.

Does Gene Burdenuk, our former Librarian at the desk in the Allan G. Baker Library picture to the right, still have ski-doo parties in London?





Jack McIlquham

Does Jack McIlquham, our former plumbing instructor still warble the earthy folk songs inspired by his close relationship with the sea, and friendship with other like-minded individuals who could be found in great numbers in a group known as the British navy?

Does Colin Gosselin still use \$300 worth of tape per season for his injured athletes? Is George Luedekke still looking at the world objectively? Does Phil Betcherman, the original jack rabbit, still eat a nutritionally-balanced and sensual meal? Has Jim Alexander maintained his record of never having made a mistake in his life?

And finally, where are you, John Martin, our fine Biology teacher of years gone by? John's laboratory blackboard had a sign on which it instructed students to "Please Leave Your Stool on Top of Your Desk." John was also a communications expert obviously because each morning anyone within ten feet of his door made a mad dash for the Pinesol.

The 60's? California, Hippies, Yippies? The Chicago Seven? Woodstock? No. It was more fun here, and these and many other staff members of the era made us take our lives a lot less seriously.



Quill'69 was dedicated to the seven staff members in the picture (left) to honor their many years of service and commitment to TH&VS students.

L to R back: Chester Jury, Colin Sellar, Gerry Pelletier, Don Clarke

L to R Front: Lily Anderson, Doug Carriere, Rita Seccombe