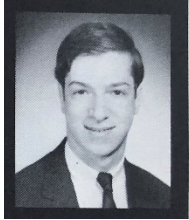


Notes from the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion of the BU Class of 1969

(compiled by Rachel Markenson; interviews conducted by Rachel Markenson, Alyssa Goins, and Kadie Cathcart)

## James Sherman



Personal Facts and History:

College of Business Administration (now Questrom) alum

Dual degree in business and a masters in the school of education

Enlisted in the Army Reserves on April 16, 1969; was accepted on May 17; graduated on May 18; began basic training on June 2. He says that this “kept me out of Vietnam.”

Interesting tidbits:

700 (Warren Towers) was opened to men in 1967. Dorms were previously all one gender.

Edmund Muskie was a speaker at graduation. He ran as the Vice President on Hubert Humphrey’s ticket in 1968.

Quotes:

“If I flunk out of school, I could get drafted.”

“Vietnam was always a controversial war.”

(paraphrased) The climate demonstration yesterday (September 20, 2019) brought back memories of a protest of Dow Chemical. They were interviewing students for jobs. There were so many protestors that the representatives couldn’t get out of the building.

## Jose

Personal Facts and History:

Majored in philosophy and religion, received his BA in 3 years (Class of 1968).

Gained a master’s degree in theology (Class of 1969).

From Puerto Rico. He met 3 other Puerto Ricans during his time at BU.

Lived in West Campus and did some work with the baseball team. Athletes were housed in West.

He attended a few meetings of the Latin American Student’s Association. He says that it was made up of upper class people who thought too highly of themselves.

Interesting tidbits:

West Campus is located where Braves Field (a baseball stadium) used to be located.

Howard Zinn was a leftist professor; there was a movement by the parents to get him fired.

President Silber worked to put down the parent revolt, as well as a burgeoning “student’s revolt against the Establishment.” “...and he did so very successfully.”



Professor Kohák, a Czech philosopher who had fought against communism, “would let us know [his views], but would not expound on his views in class,” unlike Professor Zinn.

Quotes:

West Campus was “pretty much conservative.”

“BU News was ardently against the war in Vietnam,” pro-Civil Rights, and so forth.

When the two groups (athletes from West and journalists for the newspaper) would mingle in the GSU, “fights would break out.” “The two groups were not particularly fond with (sic) one another.”

## Yearbook Contrast: 1965 and 1969

First here is the email for Sara, who is in charge of historical yearbooks and can provide us with access to them: [saras@bu.edu](mailto:saras@bu.edu).

Side note: these yearbooks don’t have captions for their pictures, so I’m (Rachel) inferring what I can and much of the information will be incomplete. I’ve also included some of my own interpretation in my comments on the pictures (feel free to take it or leave it).

The 1969 yearbook did not have a list of clubs and organizations that I saw. The 1965 list of organizations did not include CORE, SNCC, SDS, or any other prominent national civil rights or New Left organization.

### 1969: Images of Protest

The 1969 yearbook included many photographs of marches, rallies, and other protests. The overall content and feel of this yearbook was much different than the 1965 yearbook, with images of a lighter nature.



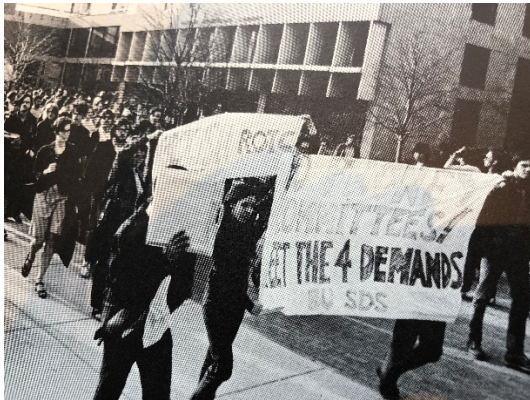
Draft-card burning



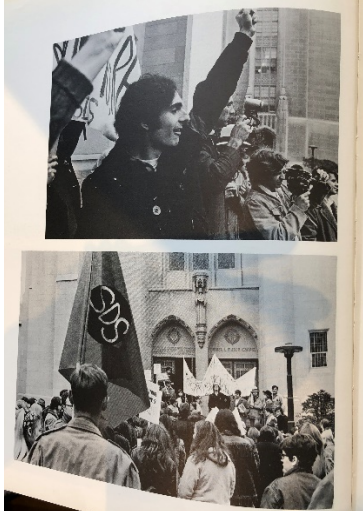
Vietnam War protests. The sign on the left page reads “G.I.s and veterans for PEACE in VIETNAM.” The sign on the right page reads “There’s nothing to negotiate. Get out of Vietnam now!”



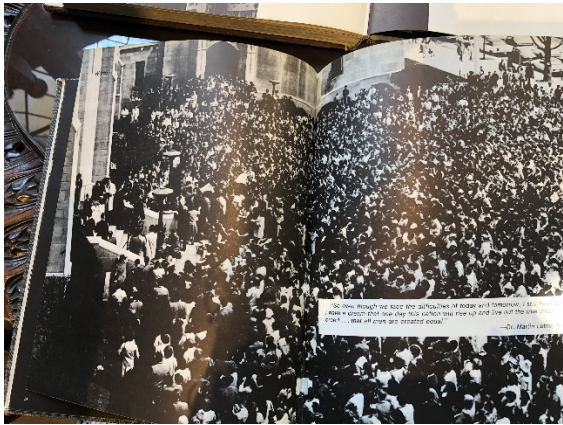
Unidentified protest.



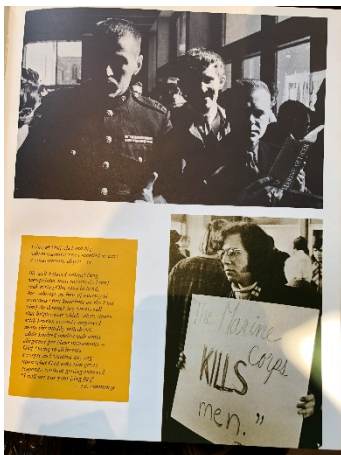
The signs read “Abolish ROTC” and “No phoney (sic) committees! Meet the 4 demands. BU SDS”



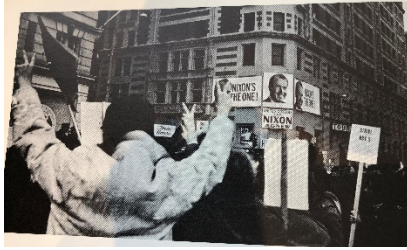
Unidentified SDS protest.



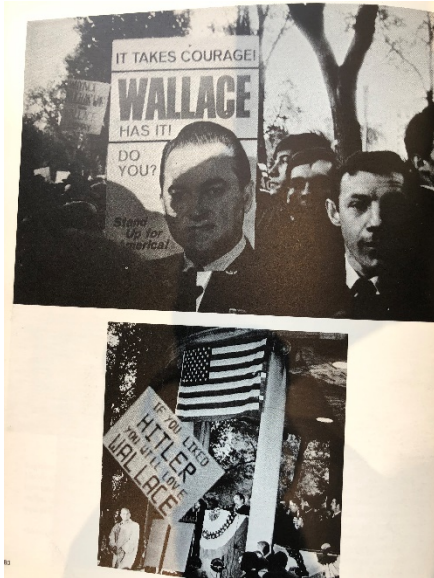
Rally in Marsh Plaza; quote reads "So even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream... I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed...that all men are created equal."  
 –Dr Martin Luther King, Jr.



The sign reads "The Marine Corps kills men." The poem is "i sing of Olaf glad and big" by ee cummings, and it ends "I will not kiss your f.ing flag."



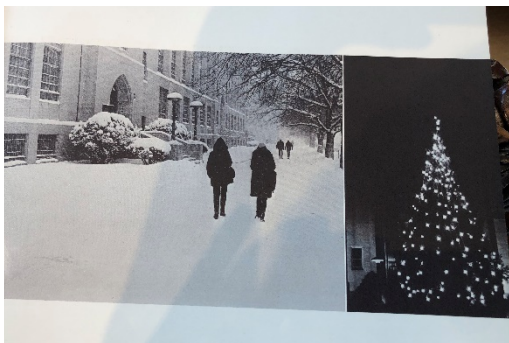
Rally during the 1968 presidential campaign for Richard Nixon.



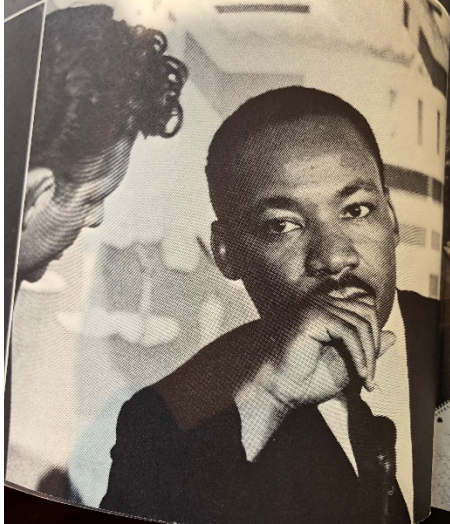
Two contrasting opinions of presidential candidate and segregationist George Wallace. The signs read “It takes courage. Wallace has it! Do you? Stand Up for America” (top) and “If you liked Hitler you will love Wallace” (bottom).

### 1965: Images of Order

The pictures in the 1965 yearbook did not address movements like the Civil Rights movement or the pacifist movement. Rather, they exhibited simple campus life. That does not mean that they simply ignored politics, however. But they reveal a more orderly campus than is evident in 1969.



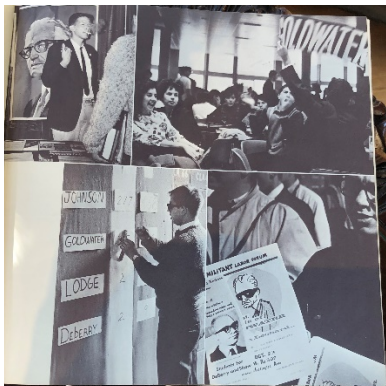
Campus life for the holidays.



The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



A political cartoon. I was unable to locate the original.



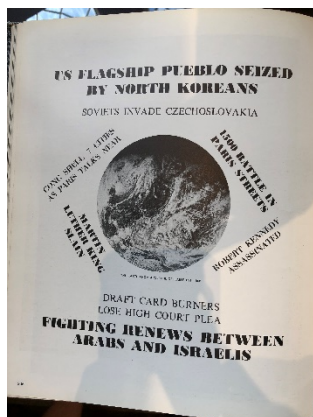
Election tallies for the 1964 Goldwater v. Johnson election. Note the contrast between the orderly manner in which this election is portrayed and the rallies and polarizing opinions that characterize the 1968 election.

## Yearbook News in 1965 and 1969

Several images of newspapers made their way into the 1965 yearbook. They reveal a connection with politics, but a major emphasis on university matters.



These newspaper pages feature 12 articles unconcerned with politics. They also feature 4 articles that more directly interact with the political climate: “Clergymen Charge Goldwater With Anti-Religious Viewpoint,” “Chuong Lectures on Vietnamese War,” “Dragon Lady’s Dad to Discuss \$1.5 million a Day Viet War,” and “King Predicts Decline of Segregation Only After Suffering, Arrests, Death.”



This image from the 1969 yearbook reflects the university’s decreased concern with more local issues. The headlines featured read: “US flagship Pueblo seized by North Koreans,” “Soviets invade Czechoslovakia,” “Cong shell 7 cities as Paris talks near,” “1500 battle in Paris streets,” “Martin Luther King slain,” “Robert Kennedy assassinated,” “Draft card burners lose high court plea,” and “Fighting renews between Arabs and Israelis.”