

May 2020 Newsletter

DOWN MEMORY LANE: 50 YEARS AGO

JFK IN THE EARLY 1970'S

In 1970 senior high schools in Taylor were comprised of grades 10, 11 & 12. And even though only 3 grades were in the building, JFK was overcrowded as the building was designed for 1,250 students and 1,800 were enrolled. This created the need for unique class scheduling, such as, how to provide students with enough time to eat in the cafeteria. This was solved by creating 3 different blocks during 4th hour.

√ Block "A" had 30 minutes to go to the cafeteria and then to a 60 minute class.

√ Block "B" had 30 minutes of a class, then 30 minutes to the cafeteria, then back to the same class for 30 minutes more.

√ Block "C" had a 60 minute class and 30 minutes at the cafeteria.

Obviously, tough to schedule and could not possibly split some classes such as Physical Education or those that required set up time such as Wood Shop, Chemistry, etc., so Block B was made up of Math, Languages and Social Studies classes. Not ideal but it worked.

In addition to the unusual lunch program, other steps were needed to house that many students. Some of the Advanced Placement (College Curriculum) courses had from 70 to 90 students in a class in the cafeteria with 3 instructors. Each instructor had an assignment to teach from a position on the stage while the other two monitored and assisted the class. Regardless of its limitation, the system proved very successful.

CLASS OF 1970 —50 YEARS AGO—

Do You Remember

The JFK Marching Band under the direction of Mr. Roger Craig bringing honors and recognition to Taylor and JFK by participating in the Hudson's Thanksgiving Parade and at halftime of a Detroit Lions Football Game.

The boys, gymnastics team under Coach Roger Bechtol winning the State of Michigan Championship after compiling an undefeated season and winning the District Championship. George Olson was crowned top All-Around Gymnast in the state. Second best was also a member of the JFK team, Rick Restaino.

Participating in one or more of "would you believe 21 Clubs". I admit forgetting about some of the after school clubs such as "Quill and Scroll" offered for those interested in becoming future journalists and aspiring authors. Faculty sponsors were Mrs. Bonner and Mr. Dickelman and President was Diane MacEachern. A few of the other 20 clubs were, SLAAM (State Library Assistants Association of Michigan), VCY (Voice of Christian Youths), Chess Club, Radio Club and Weather Observers Club.

Your Class Officers were **President**,
Tim Estep, **Vice President**, Val LeBlanc, **Secretary**, Diane MacEachern and **Treasurer**, Terri Bass.

The 1970 Athletic Banquet, who would have ever thought Mr. Hockey, Red Wings #9, the great **Gordie Howe** would come to JFK to be the guest speaker. He not only came, but would not accept any money for his appearance. Gordie was presented a JFK blanket.

During the ceremony, Mike O'Malley was recognized as "Most Valuable" in Football, Basketball and All-Around.

Who was **Your** counselor? Carl Bargamian, Leo Goetz, Vera Manley, Stan Trierweiller, Frank Troesch or Anna Weaks?

ALUMNI NEWS!

DONATION TO ALUMNI MUSEUM

Mrs. Dinco donated over 25 Elementary
school yearbooks. Your Taylor Alumni

Association is very thankful for the donation
and ask that others of you that have things
for the Museum will also choose to donate
the items.

RECENT COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS IN A TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL

The Principal gave the following speech:
Seniors, being a teacher at heart, I just can't help myself but to take every opportunity to teach a lesson. This is a lesson that has its roots with the well-known billionaire, Bill Gates, who used this lesson while giving a commencement speech. But not to worry, there will be no homework or quiz, but there will be a test and that test is real life.

In life there are ten rules, they are:

- 1. Life is not fair; get used to it, and nobody wants to hear you whine.
- 2. The world doesn't care about your selfesteem, nor what you have to say. The world expects you to accomplish something before you feel good about yourself, and before others will listen to what you have to tell them.
- 3. You will not make a hundred thousand dollars a year right out of high school, nor be the vice president of a major company, until you've earned it.

- 4. If you think your teachers were tough, wait until you have a boss who isn't emotionally vested in your wellbeing, or focused on your success.
- 5. Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping; they called it opportunity.
- 6. If you mess up, it's not your parent's fault, it's not your teacher's fault, it's not your buddy's fault, it's your fault; live up to it, and learn something from it.
- 7. Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning up after you, feeding you, housing you, supporting you, and loving you. So, before you go off to save the rain forest, or clean up the mistakes made by your parent's generation, why don't you start first by cleaning up your own room; and by giving your parents the respect and appreciation they deserve.

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- 8. Life is not divided into trimesters. You don't get summers off, and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. You can do that on your own time.
- 9. Television is not real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to work.
- 10. Be nice to nerds..... Chances are you'll end up working for one.

Let me know your thoughts on this speech. Send your response to johnpantalone@ sbcglobal.net.

MEMORIAL DAY - Along with our fallen hero, let us remember those classmates who are no longer with us. Their names can be found on our website tayloralumni.org



A LITTLE HUMOR

Now for a little humor during these challenging times.

- * What is the difference between Wuhan China and Las Vegas? What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas
- * THIS "STAY AT HOME" MANDATE IS LIKE BEING 16
 AGAIN . . . GAS IS CHEAP AND I AM GROUNDED
- * FIRST TIME IN HISTORY WE CAN SAVE THE HUMAN RACE BY LYING IN FRONT OF THE TV AND DOING NOTHING . . . LET'S NOT SCREW THIS UP PEOPLE.





OBITUARIES



The Alumni Association members would like to extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the former classmates mentioned below. You will forever be in our thoughts and prayers.

If you know of a deceased graduate that is not listed in the Memoriam section of our website please let us know the name, school, graduating class and date of passing.

John F Kennedy High

Charles Reed, Class of 1973 (passed March 1, 2020) Eva Gomez, Class of 82 (passed March, 26, 20) Eva Bonner, wife of Charles Bonner, Alumni Social Media Director (passed April 10, 2020)

Truman High School

Mike Kolomietz, Class of 76 (passed April 27, 20)

Taylor Center High

Nada Forth, Class of 73 (passed April 18, 20)

Staff

Chet Gryzbowski, teacher and coach at TCH (passed April 16, 2020)

The Taylor Alumni Association extends our appreciation to Gail Holland's family, Sister Sharon Cruden, TCH 1964, Brother David, JFK 1976, Brother-in-law John Cruden, TCH 1964 and companion Jim Fraser for asking that Memorial contributions be sent to the Taylor Foundation Scholarships. These memorial contributions will help students to defray higher education costs and be a memorial that will live on for years.

For more information about the deceased and their families, please visit the alumni website tayloralumni.org and click on "In Memoriam".