

# FLASHBACK TO THE '60S

Four Years of Tufts  
Class of 1969 on Campus





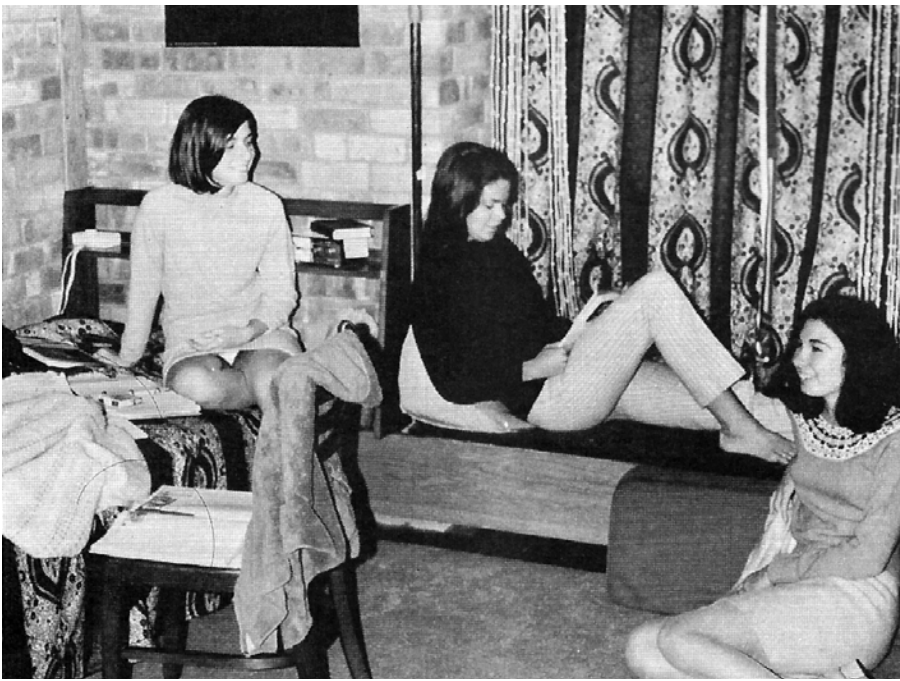
## Introduction

**P**erhaps no other year represents as dramatic a societal sea-change than that which occurred in 1965. The incoming Jumbos of both Tufts and Jackson (as the women's college was called) entered college at the cusp of a new era for women, African Americans, music, culture, activism and more. The average price of gas was 31 cents, the average annual income was \$6,450, and the Dow stood at 969.

The Civil Rights Movement was gaining steam, and after suffering atrocities during the march from Selma to Montgomery could celebrate the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act just prior to the start of the Fall semester. The Gemini space program was inching closer to putting a man on the moon, a triumph for mankind, but the war in Vietnam was escalating with Operation Rolling Thunder, a blight on mankind.

Music genres included the still rising British Rock and Motown sounds but also saw subtle changes as folk music turned to anti-war themes. And in the midst of all this change, freshman Tufts students found their way to "the hill" as members of the class of 1969.





*I grew up in a suburb of Washington D.C., I had researched the kind of universities I wanted. I was pretty academic, and I was interested in learning. It was really clear to me from a very early age that I was going to be a professional woman. And so I chose Tufts.*

**-Michelle Harway**

The four year stretch from Fall '65 to Spring '69 saw a whirlwind of change sweep over nearly every aspect of the country. From music and pop culture to war and political upheaval, there was a sense that the country was enduring a metamorphosis from an era when following the rules were and respecting authority was the norm, to a new era that was defined by a kaleidoscope of music, activism and a rejection of the status quo.



*Many people talk about the "60s as being a time of great change. When you really look back at the '60s as we think of it, the door to that didn't really open until half way through our four-year term there, around 1966. When we first arrived, Tufts would have looked like it was in many ways still like the '50s. For example, if we went to a football game in the fall of '65 or '66, the men wore jackets and ties to the football game. It is hard to imagine, but in fact, that is what was going on in '65 and '66. There were these things called mixers where you met girls down at the Cousins Gym, but those things disappeared by the end of that four-year period. The dorms were completely separate, men up on the hill and women down below, but by the fall of '68 they started to have co-ed dorms. People forget that the fraternities used to have a competition — a Spring Sing — where they sang songs in Cousins Gym: another old-fashioned tradition that went away by the end of those four years.*

**Walter Welsh**



*Spring Sing*

# Gender Codes

The early 60's, in terms of women's autonomy, were more of a reflection of '50s -era expectations and restrictions than a harbinger of changes to come. A combination of strict codes governing curfew hours, dress code, and parietal rules were part of the *in loco parentis* system common at colleges across the country. Unequal rules for men and women was the norm but the times were changing, and the class of '69 drove that change.

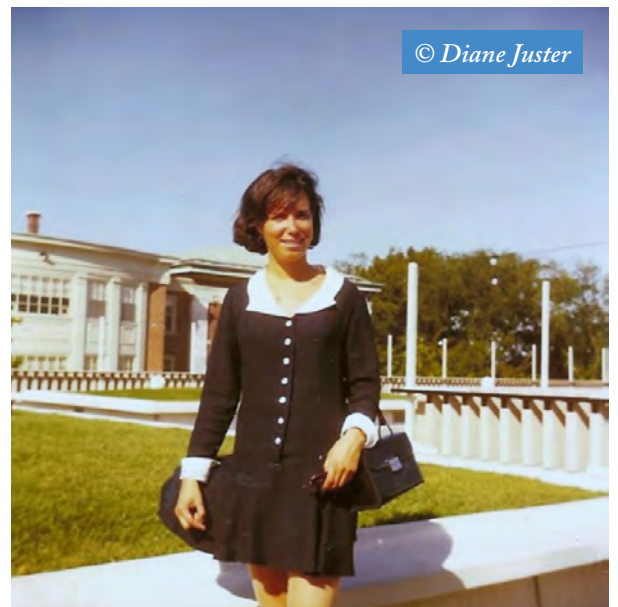
Tufts was still operating as two separate schools, Tufts for the men and, since 1910, Jackson College for the women. The rules for women, dictated by Jackson College Judiciary Council, required the backing of the Administration, which was led by the formidable Dean Herrick. And under those rules, skirts and stockings were required "on the hill" up until 1968 although pin curls were now allowed at breakfast. The fight for equality took the interesting form of Bermuda shorts, but ultimately led to the abolishment of most of the codes as well as a changing of the guard in the administration. Terms such as "suitability of costume" and "feminine" remained in the rule book until the rules were abolished in 1968.

Some of the rules to be faced by the class of '69 included:

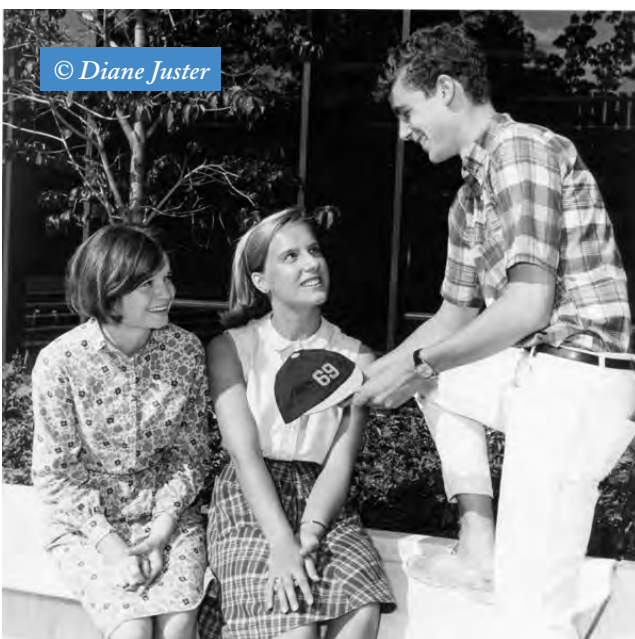
- Skirts must be worn at all times except for Sunday breakfasts and suppers, and holiday breakfasts and lunches and breakfasts and lunches during final examination period.
- Slippers are never allowed in the dining room.
- Girls may come to Friday and Saturday night suppers with their hair set, provided they wear a scarf or some other covering over their hair.
- On faculty night girls are expected to wear stockings to dinner.

*There were dating rules. In sophomore year, Simon and Garfunkel came and played at Tufts and I didn't have a date, so I couldn't go. You had to have a date to go to certain events. It was a pain in the ass.*

Diane Juster



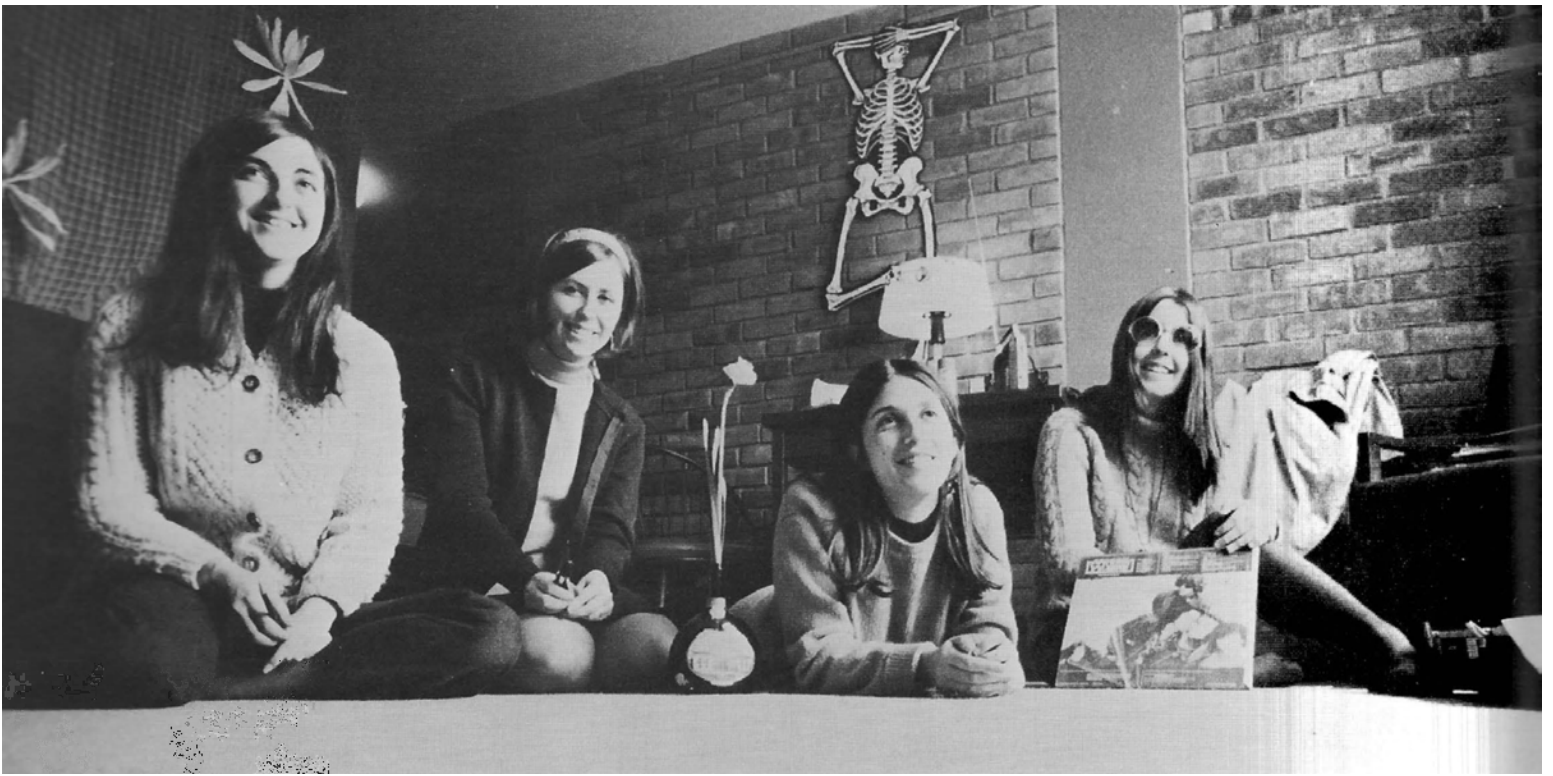
It was during the class of '69's freshman year that the tipping point was reached. As a result of yet another denial, this time over soda machines in the dormitory common areas, the Jackson Student Council disbanded in protest. Change finally came with the appointment of a new dean, Betty Bone, and the reconvening of the Jackson Student Council in the spring of 1967.



The push was on to abolish the *in loco parentis* rules of dress code, required on-campus housing, and curfews. A Jackson Self Study Committee chartered by President Wessell, the head of Tufts University, made recommendations to the Board of Trustees, offering that matters of social concern should be determined by the Jackson Student Council. It was ultimately decided to abolish the dress code all together. The 1968-1969 Jackson College Handbook contained no dress codes.

*We had to wear skirts on the hill, despite the fact there was rain, snow, and it was cold. The women had curfews, the men did not. We had cigarette machines but no coke machines. We were told it was bad for our skin. There was no alcohol allowed in the dorms, of course, because there was a drinking age. But there was no such rule for the men. We carried beer from the fraternity houses back to Capen in cookie tins. Change was slow*

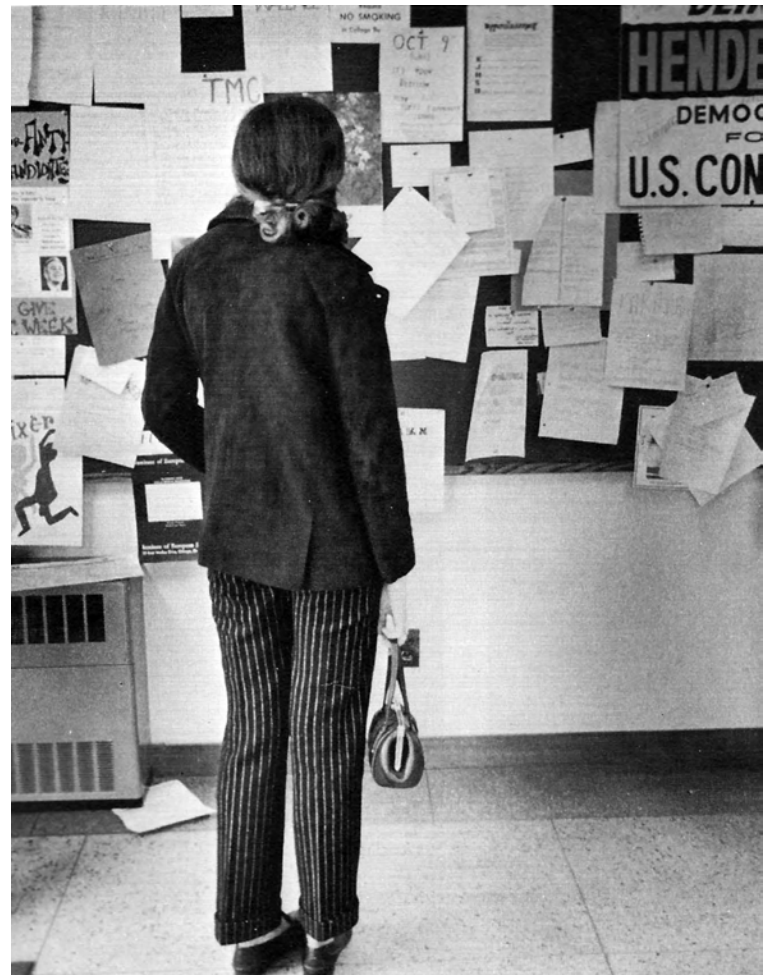




*mother... she said "You can go down to the laundry and wash your own towels!" But the men had white towels because they didn't do laundry*

**Ann Randall**

*From 1965 to 1969, colleges arguably went through the most dramatic change in any four years than any point in history. We were given this little Jackson rule book and we had to wear freshmen beanies and get them signed by fraternities, but we didn't really take it seriously. We had to memorize the rules, but we were not yet questioning authority as we would do in a couple of years. You could wear pants to classes if it was blizzard conditions and under 19 degrees. That's from the famous rulebook. We also had to take a little test about the rules.*



**Catherine Wolf**

*I still remember my roommate, Cathy, who died of ALS last year. We were supposed to wear skirts to meals, and Cathy was the editor of the Tufts newspaper, The Tufts. She wrote a tongue-in-cheek editorial about how ridiculous it was to have to put on skirts to walk into the dining hall. She estimated how long it took her roommate, who was studying in her dorm in pants, to change back into a skirt, and the study time she lost doing so, and how it might affect her grades. They changed the rule. Her name was Catherine Wolf.*

**Diane Juste**

Time exposure photo taken from  
Mission Hill during Boston's 1965  
blackout –Boston Globe



## Where were you when the lights went out?

It began in the evening of November 9<sup>th</sup> 1965, when members of the Class of '69 were living in the freshmen dorms. Eight northeastern states, as well as Canadian Ontario and Quebec, experienced a mass power outage that left 30 million people – including members of the Tufts campus community – in the dark. Massachusetts went out at 5:21 pm though some towns such as Braintree avoided the calamity as they had their own electric utility system. Most of the power was restored by 7am. The blackout lasted nearly 13 hours. Nearly all the TV stations were out, but some people were able to get news on transistor radios.

At Tufts, students were getting ready for semester exams and many of them were holed up in the library studying, while others were lined up at the dining hall. Transistor radios were popular at the time and those that carried them could pick up WBZ radio spreading the word that this was not a local issue.

Parents, perhaps, reacted with more worry given the turbulent times the world was in. The Cuban Missile Crisis, JFK assassination, were not-too-distant memories and the Cold War was in full bloom. But for students it was an exciting adventure, and many made the most of it.

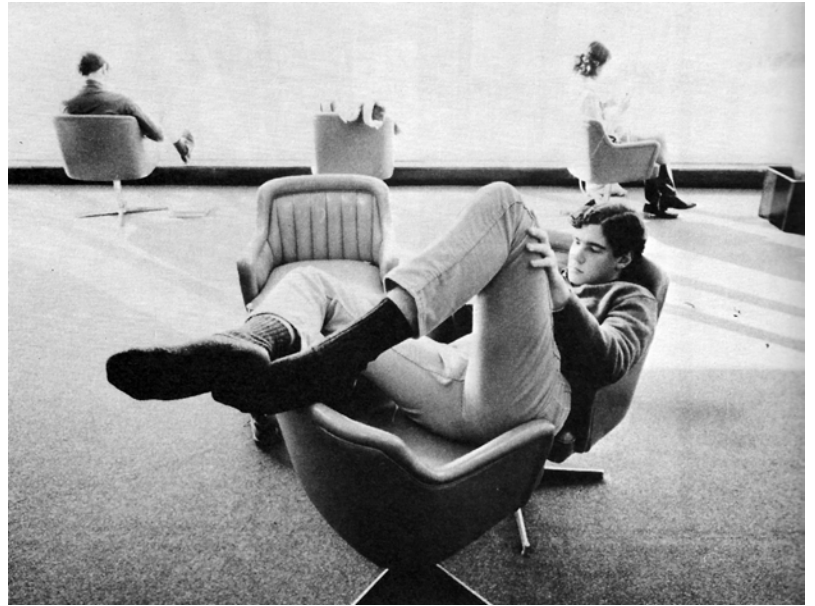
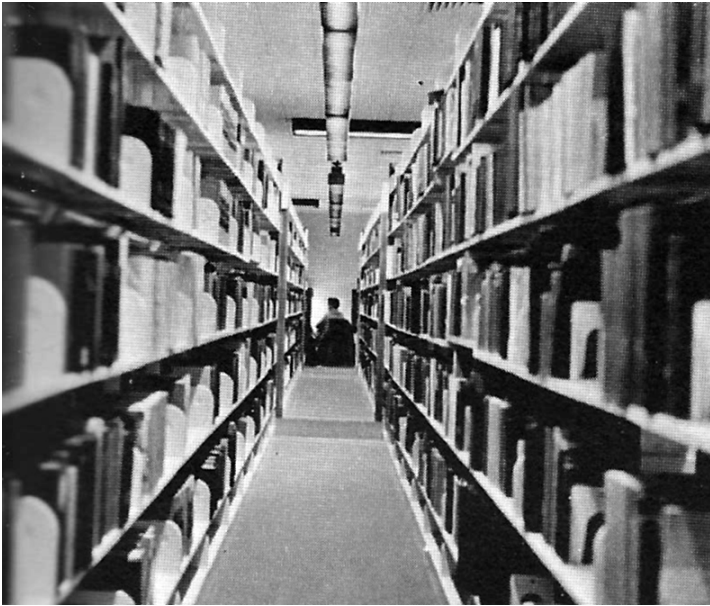
*No matter which men's dorm you lived in, if you wanted to have your meals on campus you had to go to Carmichael Hall. I remember standing in was a line of students up the stairwell and down to where we would go to get our trays and have the food passed out to us. The lights went out and we stood there in the dark for a while. Some guy had a transistor radio and he said they were saying this blackout may be more than just our town. Much later, as I was walking back up the hill to my dorm, we could see the darkened city of Medford down below.*

**Bob McMillan**

*There was nothing to do. Everything's dark, and we're miles from everything. At the time the library was fairly new. The top of the library had a number of large rectangular patches of grass on it and you could lie down on it and talk, and during the day you could sun. But that's where I went with a few friends when the lights went out. We were on a little bit of a hill so we had some kind of overview of the darkness, trying to see if we could see any lights anywhere. It was like a big party up there. People had candles, and people were playing their guitars and singing and it was a huge party and it was a lot of fun.*

**Michelle Harway**





*You were dealing with a student body that came from several different states and a few from different countries, that also is part of the enriching experience, not to just be exposed to incredible stories about history or literature but to also realize that people from different parts of the country have incredibly interesting stories to tell. Some of the best times were having a meal at Carmichael in the dining hall or walking back and forth from the library and chatting with people, or just sitting in a dorm room with a friend. Those are great experiences that bring a lot out in terms of realizing the breadth of emotion and experience people have in their daily lives.*

**Tommy Hedges**



*John Sununu*

*I was one of Professor John Sununu's first student at Tufts and his sense of humor deserves more publicity, anyone who can make a course entitled Slow Viscous Flow interesting has got to have more than mere academic excellence. He was a hot ticket, he was a fun guy to learn from.*

**Bob McMillan**

The Experimental College (Excollege) offered small participation-based courses that “engage Tufts undergraduates in ideas shaping the world today” Courses ranged from pop culture to politics, ethics to healthcare and brought in professionals from all over Boston. Lecturers included attorneys, architects, philanthropists, political consultants, artists, filmmakers and many more. Nearly 1500 students participate every year in over 100 courses.

*Tufts was conservative, but there were many young professors, especially in the Experimental College. I took classes there that were amazing, and then a friend and I taught a class there. It was based on unusual topics that a professor would pull together, and students could propose a topic and see if it would be accepted by the Ex. College, and see if students would sign up. The class I taught was called Environ-*

*mental Awareness Through Sensory Perception. It was a lot of art and artsy things but it was also psychological, how you perceive colors, sounds and smells around you. It was all touchy-feely stuff, and we had probably 10 students who got an elective credit for it. I participated in a “happening” in our Experimental College. There was some kind of civil rights issue that we wanted to take part in, something about the janitors and the ladies who cleaned the offices, and we were trying to get them more money. So we went to the Dean's office for a sit-in, there were about 20 of us, both women and men.*

**Sherrill Livingston**

# Good Ol' Jumbo



Some students sought solace for their academic stress in Jumbo, the iconic elephant donated to the school by P. T. Barnum in 1885, stood in the lobby of the science building for **x** years, before it was destroyed in a fire in **19XX**. Students would place coins in his trunk at exam time hoping the famous pachyderm would grace them with special recall powers during exams.

*Jumbo was big, I put coins in his trunk before exams because I needed all the help I could get. I paid that elephant a lot of money and he did not really come through for me in a big Jumbo way!*

**Rebekah Witter**

*I had Rock 12 in Barnum, that's geology 1 and 2, Jumbo was in the lobby and I put coins in his trunk, I guess it worked because I graduated.*

**Beth Hubbard**

*Jumbo was in the lobby near the Biology Department, tall guy that he was. There were some shenanigans over the years. He was decorated with several interesting things over the years and I must say I was saddened to hear that the building burned down. I used to put coins in his trunk for luck.*

**Tommy Hades**

*I remember going into Ballou Hall and at that time the original Jumbo was there. It was quite large and magnificent. I never put coins in his trunk, but I would pet his trunk when I walked past it.*

**Michelle Harway**

*In a way Jumbo is more prominent today at the school because they use it in statues and on their emblems in lots of places. The stuffed animal was in Barnum Hall until it burned down some years ago. But if you had a date, you had to show the date something, so you went to Barnum Hall and showed her Jumbo.*

**Walter Welsh**

