

Andrew Fletcher

Fall Oxford Scholars 2024

17 November 2024

Cardinal Newman 1975-1979

To put into perspective how long ago 1975 was, a burger cost just 49 cents. The changes since then have been astronomical, from changes in school to style to music and much more.

In this time period, Newman and Ursuline were still separated. Although the two schools were different schools, the two were still very connected. They even shared very small classes such as Latin or Faith in Marriage. They would eat lunch together, as well as attend each other's sporting events. The dress code was still strict for the women, as they, I Quote "Looked like a sailors uniform." It is a different concept having the two separate schools, as our community today is so connected as one.

The academics were also different. Today many of us are concerned about AP and honors classes, there were none back then. Instead everyone took the same level of class. However, if you were able to attain high enough grades, you would be awarded an honors block. When Interviewing alums from the 70s, their favorite classes were either religion or history, something that I would say still stands to this day. The structure of the school was also different. Many kids would go to Junior High, which was 7th through 9th. This takes a year off their high school experience.

In the 70s, Rock and Roll had taken over Cardinal Newman. Everyone was blasting Van Halen, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and Journey through their car stereos. Rock-and-roll also showed in the style. All the boys were rocking long hair, to the point where the boys' hair would look like the girls.

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Cardinal Newman has always been a successful athletic school. As some of you may know, I am an avid baseball player. 1979 is a special year because Cardinal Newman won their first NBL baseball Championship. They also were successful in winning the basketball championship in the same year. Back then Newman was always the target school to beat in sports, and that has not changed. Windsor High School did not exist back then, so Newman's main rival was Montgomery.

Many of you have seen the movie Zodiac killer, but you have to remember this was based on a true story. The Zodiac killer murdered dozens of people throughout northern California. He was never caught, so most children in the 70s grew up with a fear of being outside late. The idea that some mysterious man was out there who was killing with unknown motive creates fear for both adults and children. It created a distrust of strangers and dark places. Nobody wanted to hitchhike anymore.

Maybe he would have been caught if there was more technology to record him. Today basically everyone owns a phone. Our society is built and dependent on them. However, there were no phones back in the 70s. The main news was from newspapers or TVs at home. No news in their pockets. The classrooms are also not like we have today. Just good old black boards and typewriters. The luxury was the electric typewriter, helping so your fingers wouldn't hurt after an essay. We are a lucky generation to not know how much your fingers would hurt after typing with a typewriter. Though the typewriter doesn't seem exciting, they had some technology that was.

The hot new technology in the late 70s was the boombox. The novelty of being able to blast your own music had many excited. These music playing machines cost

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around 500 dollars. To put this into perspective the minimum wage was around \$2:00 an hour. Nowadays, you can buy a boombox for around \$50.