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Take a trip 50 years into the past while we take a look at Hoover High School in the year 1972

The year is 1972. The Watergate scandal is beginning to unfold, the space shuttle program is introduced to the world, Japan hosts the Winter Olympics, and the very last ground troops are removed from Vietnam. However, if we were to take a magnifying glass upon the Northwestern side of Des Moines, we could bear witness to a whole other story occurring at the very same time. On 4800 Aurora Ave, Des Moines, Iowa sits a school. More specifically, Hoover High School.

1972 was quite the dramatic year for Hoover High. Staff faced a year of delinquency, not commonly seen in the student body. This sparked a severe drop in school spirit and participation. From burning a desk in the library to smoking on school property, students and staff were having a standoff. The explanation offered by the '72 yearbook staff was one of adolescent distress in response to current world events. "Throughout the country, attitudes of youth and adults alike toward life have changed. Increased crime rates, poverty, military involvement, and economic crisis hovered in the minds of all as they attempted to carry

out their daily routines...Students are always hardest hit by the increased barrage of new social and moral values, new interest groups, climbing crime rates, and depressing future economic conditions. At Hoover, these feelings certainly prevail," the Hoover Yearbook in 1972 said. The new law passed allowed eighteen-year-olds to finally cast their vote and with 1972 being an election year, this new responsibility added more weight on the youth's shoulders.

Hindsight being 2020, many current students of Hoover High School can attest to the looming stress of world events that show a tumultuous future. "Now as you get older through high school, you suddenly have all these other responsibilities and after Covid hit, we really had to restrict ourselves. We couldn't get the help we needed without putting ourselves or others at risk," junior Jaquelyn Rosas said. The struggle among the students didn't go unnoticed by administration. "I would say that some students may struggle with behavioral issues coming out of the Covid era. I think a large number of freshmen have been out of the learning environment for quite some time. In my humble opinion, the lack of peer interaction is the biggest impact students have had thus far," Associate Principal Willie Montgomery said. Similarly, to a post-

Covid world, the senior class of '72 began to see an influx in January graduates.

Student behavior aside, the Hoover that the 1972 students knew would look incredibly different to a current-day student. One jarring difference would be the lack of a freshman class in 1972. It would be a while before the fresh-faced fourteen-year-olds would flood the halls. Sports at Hoover boasted a much larger list of options. You won't see a hockey team, the famed Hooverettes, or a synchronized swim team anymore and those are just a few of the missing activities. *The Hoover Challenger*, then ran by Ruth McHone, ground out an astounding 17 editions. As '72 served as a tumultuous year for most, there was no shortage of stories to tell. It was also the year where colored photos made their first brief appearances throughout the yearbook along with green and gold end pages. Breaking gender norms was also on the docket for the '72 students, when staff were surprised to see girls swarming into shop classes and boys giving homemaking classes a try.

It's easy to look back at this year and only see the negatives, but it would be remiss to not acknowledge all the good that happened as well. A few students started a motion to take better care of the environment, overall collecting 1,491 pounds of trash. Both the senior banquet and prom had a record turnout. The girl's swim team was on a winning streak, claiming their 4th consecutive state title. This would be the first year girls track was offered at Hoover, yet girls' basketball would take a while longer. A group of students banded together to bring back a favorite campus location by volunteering to run the concession stand. A quote from the '72 yearbook reads: "School life is viewed through the eyes of an aware adult, wondering what his future will bring him. Life is viewed through the adolescents' eyes wondering what pleasure they can find in the next 15 minutes. High School is a rough experience felt by an adolescent tasting his first adult privileges. Times are good, and plenty of times are bad. But, in 10 or 15 years, high school will be looked back on by the present Hoover students as an unforgettable experience they wouldn't change. For life is made up of experience."

Even though the problems may be different, the teenagers of Hoover High School can't help but see something of themselves in the class of '72. No matter what decade, your adolescent years are one of unprecedented development. Similarly to our now 60-year-old counterparts, the years we spent in high school were littered with negativity. But perseverance must prevail. As a group, we all undoubtedly struggled through social isolation in online school or missed opportunities in canceled sports seasons. But just as we struggled, we also achieved as a group. Students gained a newfound appreciation for what Hoover represents to them. In the face of strife, Hoover has been the setting for all kinds of students from all walks of life to face those challenges and become better people because of it.

Principal



Donald Wetter

Sherry Poole

HOCO Queen



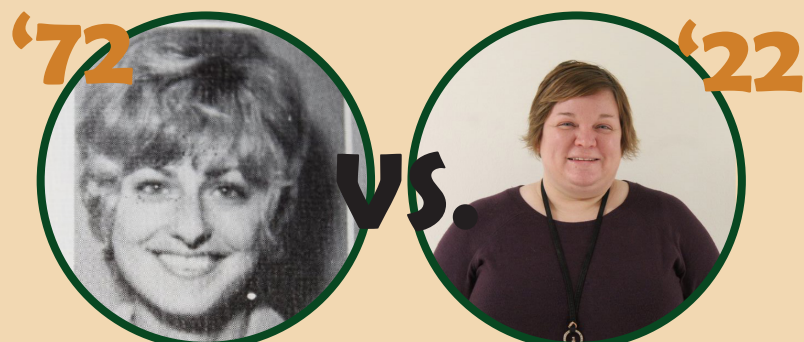
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