

I maybe the only student that lived in Carmichael Hall for five years. As an undergrad I was active in dorm government and helped organize events held in the spacious lounge. Concerts came first. A childhood friend, Greg Welch, aspiring musician and drummer in the band Spring Rain played quite a few times there from 1969 to 1972. The bass player in the band, Fran Sheehan, went on to play bass for the highly successful group Boston. The keyboard player, a young prodigy named Steve Baker, continues to do session work and play keyboards and synthesizer for Beatlejuice, a very popular Beatles cover band that was fronted by Brad Delp, lead singer for Boston, until his tragic suicide in 2007. One of Spring Rain's guitarists, Brad Whitford, later joined Aerosmith – good move on his part. Through my friend Greg's connections, I also got the Freeborn Blues band, a local band out of Somerville, to play twice. Their lead guitar player, Bob Margolin, was another incredible talent. Years later I'm sitting in a theater watching Martin Scorsese's THE LAST WALTZ. Up comes Muddy Waters (one of the many artists paying tribute to THE BAND in the concert filmed Thanksgiving Day, November 6, 1976 at Winterland San Francisco along with Joni Mitchell, Eric Clapton, Dr John, Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Emmylou Harris, Paul Butterfield, Ringo Starr, Neil Diamond, Van Morrison and the Staplers Singers) and who's playing second lead and rhythm guitar – Bob Margolin! Since Muddy Waters has passed on Bob tours with a Muddy Waters tribute band. Amazing – I like to think they all got their start in Carmichael Hall.

Our second claim to fame was the ALL NIGHT MOVIES. Bob Steeves, fellow Chem E, and I would rent and pick up and return the 16mm films on our motorcycles to the rental agencies in Boston, borrow projectors from various departments (Thanks Geology) on campus and pack a few hundred revelers and movie buffs into the lounge at midnight to see the likes of Disney's ALICE IN WONDERLAND, any Marx Brothers or WC Field movies, old Westerns, campy science fiction and drama and action films. As seniors Bob and I taught an Experimental College course in Motorcycle Mechanics. Our own department wouldn't sponsor us, but Mechanical Engineering did (Thanks Prof Greif) and Geology once again stepped up to the plate and provided us with a space. We are sorry for the oil stains on the floor.

I was responsible for advertising these events, and the Chem E department knowingly or otherwise, provided the paper and mimeograph machine for multiple ad copies. The ad campaigns must have been successful because there were more and more well attended events to promote. Some of the flyers might have been a bit off color and attracted the attention of the Dean of Students – Jim Steindler. This began a sort of relationship between him and me that continued into grad school - working on my Masters in Civil Engineering. Visiting Dean Steindler one day I mentioned I was going to be starting at Tufts Dental School in the fall of 1974 and eventually be a Triple Jumbo. He then came up with an idea and made me an offer I couldn't refuse. He created the position of Social-Cultural coordinator for Carmichael Hall and in return for my services as such I got to live in the south Head Resident apartment – free. The idea was to provide students with experiences not found in the classroom or Experimental College. I got various faculty members to give informal lectures and slide shows in the lounge, not always in their chosen field but certainly on topics of interest to them. I also arranged for musicians to perform and artists to do hands on presentations. From Carmichael I could

even commute to Boston by motorcycle, except for the extreme cold and snow of January and February, trying every morning to evade the State Trooper standing at the end of the HOV lane directing scofflaws like me down the ramp into Charleston instead of merging back into the RT 93 traffic into Boston. Years later, motorcycles under Federal Law were allowed into the HOV lane. On the last night of Spring break, 1975, my motorcycle was stolen off the patio in front of Carmichael, and miraculously found by chance by Bob Steeves under a tarp in a questionable part of Lynn MA later that year. That's another story in itself.

Freshman year, 1969, West Hall has a fire and some of the students are relocated to Carmichael. One of them, a later fellow Chem E, now deceased, discovered in the basement of the north wing a trap door in the bathroom that led into the steam pipe tunnels beneath Carmichael Hall. He and his West Hall refugees spent some time there experimenting with various chemical substances and drawing on the walls. Modern cave paintings? The evidence is probably still there.

May 1969 Crane Chapel has a fire.

February 1970. Braker Hall has a serious fire that closes it down.

March 1971 Mugar Hall is firebombed. West Hall burns again

February 1972 North Hall – Psych Department burns

On the night of April 14, 1975, I awoke to the noise of sirens, looked out the bedroom window and saw flames in the distance at the end of the Quad – Barnum was in flames! I grabbed my Minolta SRT101, usually loaded with Kodachrome or Ektachrome slide film and snapped the attached pictures.

What is it with Tufts and fire? What is it with me and fire? My mother and father (A29) bought a "vacation home" in the middle of nowhere in North Waterboro, ME, in the early 1940's. It burned October 20, 1947 (my birth month and day) in a massive fire that started in Bar Harbor and burned for weeks across the state to the NH border. I came along three years later. There was an electrical fire in my Lowell MA office in 2002 that shut it down for almost a year. Fortunately I was able to continue working from my Danville NH office. Was there some supernatural remote connection of me to fire going on here? Sure, I love a campfire, fireplace or woodstove when safety and precautions are observed. It's the wanton destruction of the untamed fire that bothers me. I claim no connection other than extreme coincidence.

Enough already. We didn't need Barnum to burn also.

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E72, G74, D77