

After an exhaustive period of research lasting minutes and minutes at a time, involving data culled from casual glances at Wikipedia, guesses, and uninformed conjecture, we present to you the results of our first decennial Oberlin Reunion Matrix. The matrix looks at the events, attitudes, preoccupations, and traits of three of the classes recently celebrating their reunions, along with the current graduating class, to give a sense of how Oberlin and Obies have changed, how they’ve stayed the same, and how accurately we can sort of make things up about them. We’ll be back with the grid in 2022. Well, 2022-ish. COMPILED BY JEFF HAGAN '86.

the

REUNION MATRIX

CATEGORY	CLASS OF 1962	CLASS OF 1977	CLASS OF 1987	CLASS OF 2012
Campus tradition that didn't last	Mock convention	No course distribution requirements	Mayfair	Drag Ball (possibly)
Cultural phenomenon practically ignored by campus	Pot	The Bicentennial	Hair metal	The Superbowl
Location of the Women's Collective	The minds of early feminists	Thurston House	Mallory House	Baldwin Cottage
Important Numbers	Arch 7	3.2 Beer	The Oberlin 59	Fourth Meal
Cool kids' influences	The Beats	The Beats, Velvet Underground	The Beats, Velvet Underground, Punk	The Beats, Velvet Underground, Punk, "Pop Culture"
Cutting-edge off-campus cultural experience	Salzburg	Asia through Shansi	GLCA New York Arts program	Cleveland, Detroit
Lingering aroma	Old Spice; Prince Albert	Patchouli	Roll-your-own	B.O. at the 'Sco
General rallying cry	Oberlin for peace and justice	Oberlin for peace and justice	Oberlin for peace and justice	Oberlin for peace and justice
Fashion shopping	The Bostwick Store, Miss Cobb's Shop	Seeley's Army and Navy	BJ's flea market	The Free Store; Dumpster
Under duress housing option	Mississippi correctional facility	Library	Anti-apartheid shantytown in front of Cox	Union Street Village Housing
Regrettable policy in retrospect	Maid service for male students	Building a new gym with only men's locker rooms	Investments in South Africa	Too soon to say
News source	Huntley/Brinkley	Cronkite	NPR	Stewart, Colbert
Lamentable loss	Grey Gables	Anything to protest	Pre-renovations Tank	Net worth
TV	UHF/VHF	Color	Cable, VHS	Netflix, HBO Go (with parents' password)
"Three feet on the floor"	Rules for having someone of the opposite sex in your room	Option for having someone of the opposite sex in your room	What's this "opposite sex" nonsense?	OCircus practice
Edgy political flirtation	Castro, Che	Castro, Fonda	Castro, Ortega	Castro, Ron Paul
You are one if you deny it	Beatnik	Hippie	PIB (Person in Black)	Hipster
Music revolutions	Folk Song Club	33 1/3	CDs	33 1/3
Forward-looking musical tastes	The Beatles	Punk, New Wave	The Beatles	You haven't heard of them (but they sound like punk, new wave, and the Beatles)
Worst case scenarios	Nuclear war	Legionnaire's Disease	Deadly STDs	Living with parents
Dirty words	In loco parentis	The draft	Calling females over 13 "girl"	Heteronormative, gluten
Coed	Classrooms	Dorm buildings	Dorm bathrooms	Dorm rooms
Only vaguely in the back of graduating seniors' minds	Those American advisors in Vietnam	The geopolitical importance of oil	Getting a job	Envy toward Lena Dunham
Troublesome binary	East/West	North/South	Zeroes/Ones	Gender
Meaning of "Hook up"	WOBC switching to FM	That drop-out dude who hangs around South	Someone to drive you to Johnny's	"I'm really sorry, but what was your name again?"
Temperature-themed global threat	Cold War	Hot pants	Nuclear freeze	Global warming
Crisis	Cuban Missile	Identity	Sexuality	Career