

Dan Toomey
Narrator

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Interviewer

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MK: We are here with Dan Toomey. From the class of 1967 and he is going to give us a couple of his recollections of life at Georgetown.

DT: Well. I was trying to think about what I should talk about. I saw that my classmate talked about one of the professors, but going to really talk about a kind of a combination of things that really wedded me to Georgetown, which was the fact that I was a dormitory prefect.

And in those days, the undergraduate was really largely male, a couple of schools had women, Foreign Service, nursing, and that was essentially it. And one of the perquisites that a number of us got who came to Georgetown to law school was the opportunity to work in the undergraduate dorms. Given the kind of arcane name prefects I'm sure they're called RAs now or some such thing.

The great advantage of that. First of all, was that it took care of a room and board, and there weren't many of us who had a lot of money in those days to defray, if you can believe this our tuition annual tuition of \$1,050 seems like a lot of money then the second great benefit of being a dormitory prefect was that of the, I don't know 80 or so, who took this task. Probably 85% were law students, and the other great benefit of that was we weren't all first years, they were second years and third years. So, you had near in hand, a group of people who have become lifelong friends who were able to guide you through the mysteries of law school.

My first-year roommate was a fella named Lou Talley. We're still best friends. And he was much smarter than me in law school, thank God. And, but we have had. In addition to class reunions, we've had four prefects' reunions.

Because there was a bond. Among those people that has really lasted to this day. I see probably between eight to 10, former law prefects on a monthly basis. And it was really rather fraternal, and with some few exceptions. They were all enormously down to earth, solid, guys.

In the main they've done very well in the practice of law. And we probably had our last reunion two years ago, and an extraordinary number of them came back. They would come back to a prefect's reunion, not necessarily a class reunion because the bonds were so close.

Of course, as we know, the campus of Georgetown that the undergraduate is in Georgetown, and the law school at the time was at 6th & E. It was, it seemed grandiloquent to call it a Law Center at the time, because I suspect others have mentioned, certainly in my era. It was a decrepit old very depressing building. Among the prefects we refer to it as the law hole. What we did not know was that the law school had really on the drawing board. What is now McDonough. The building, the classroom

building here on the, on this extraordinary campus that we're on now. It would be built I think within three years of the completion of our law school career. And as a result, no one was going to put one dime into any refurbishment of the Old Law Center. People differ. But I am told that we did not have air conditioning. And you would never ever want to wear a white shirt to class. Part of the reason was, we had these long benches. A planks for desks essentially held up by pipes. And in the early part of the year. In September, which is a very warm month in Washington. These planks, which had been lacquered, would melt. And so, if you had a white shirt. And you left. You had the stigmata of the planks.

It's interesting you know I've grown very fond of Georgetown. I served for 20 years as an adjunct professor here. I've been involved in fundraising and done lots of CLE here. I really didn't like law school. I've been involved in fundraising and have done lots of healing here. I really did like loss. What was very clear to me is what a terrific education that I got. And, in retrospect, I realized that, though there were some terrible professors here I will not mention them. There were some absolutely outstanding professors who instilled in us. An extraordinary broad background and basis in the law, that has served me well low these 50 years. So I have great affection for Georgetown.

Fundraising shouldn't be that hard, or giving back, given the fact that our law school. Our entire law school career cost us in tuition under \$4,000. I mean that is unbelievable. Pretty good return on investment. Okay?

MK: Thank you very much. I appreciate your time.

DT: Thank you.