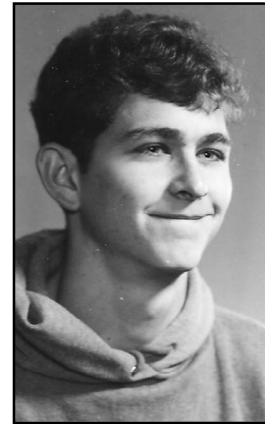


At Age 19

At age 19, I was a freshman at Auburn University; the picture to the right was taken at the University at about that time.

As briefly mentioned in the Web page, “Age to Age – 19”, this was a transition period. Being a late-bloomer, I may actually have been shaving every day – but only because it may have been required for NROTC.

From my interests in high school – and with probable influence from my brother (also an engineering student), I made a decision to “try” engineering...as it just seemed like the thing to do. I can’t say that my decision was the best – but only that it worked in some respect for the days as a student...and the days that followed.



This age was a tough – because college was tough! Any ideas or fantasies about college derived through my limited high-school exposure had been largely dashed by now; as a chemical engineer want-to-be, I was up to my oversized ears in work and challenges. Convinced that somewhere before college, I had missed a few steps was not an unusual thought or even attitude; still, I did work hard and really tried.

The transition was more than college in that, living hundreds of miles from home, independence and responsibility were becoming more necessary – or at least expected. Honestly, I did not party or spend a lot of time outside of school; it just seemed like that, since I was there, I should work at it. Even with work ethic, I soon made another decision to change from chemical to industrial engineering. By my sophomore year, the decision was final...and I was a lot better for it!

As far as social life; well, I reluctant tot tell you this, but I didn’t date anyone. Oh sure, there were lots of pretty girls – and some that were intriguing to be sure; but with limited funds and even less in the way of confidence, I relegated myself to group events – whether a few guys from the dorm or a larger, mixed group.

One semi-social group was a Christian organization called the Navigators; a great bunch of believers, these guys were serious about knowing (and living) the word. Inspired from their founder – who begins his days as a witness in the Navy – they were very much in the disciple mode of serving Christ. As one of others students shared with me, “each of us is a minister for Christ”, he said.

Between my class work and some social activities as described – with an occasional ball game or other campus event – I learned about life in college and about life in transition too.

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