

## CHRISTIAN BROTHERS BOARDER LIFE BY BILL HOOVER '65

I boarded and roomed at Christian Brothers High School at 21st and Broadway from 1961 to 1964. There were approximately 80 students in the boarding program at CBS when it closed in 1964. Most of the boarders came from distances of 1-4 hours from Sacramento. As a result, most boarders went home Friday after school and returned Sunday evening. (Over the years, we did have a few boarders from longer distances like Nevada, Utah, Oregon, Central America, Thailand, Mexico, the Philippines, Canada and China.)

Christian Brothers Boarding School could best be described as a structured military installation. Boarders pretty much followed a "fixed" schedule Monday thru Thursday. The schedule went like this:

- 0600 - Wake up and room cleaning
- 0700 - Breakfast - cafeteria style
- 0800 - Ready for school

Room inspection took place during breakfast. A walk through was done by 1 or both of the boarding house Brothers during breakfast. During this time period of 0600-0700, hallways and latrines were cleaned by freshmen and sophomores who were assigned that day. Room inspections were not announced and could be once a week or three days a week. If your room failed inspection the whole room was confined to the campus for the weekend, including those that wanted to go home for the weekend. There were 2 floors to the border dormitory. Freshmen and sophomores were on the first floor and juniors and seniors were on the second floor. Freshmen boarders were 4 to a room, sophomores 3 to a room, and juniors and seniors 2 to a room. Brother Richard and Brother Philip were the resident "Honchos". Both had individual rooms on the 2nd floor of the boarding facility.

- 0800 - Yellow school bus leaves CBS to Bishop Armstrong on MLK Blvd. At the time I attended, CBS was for freshmen and sophomores, while Bishop Armstrong was for juniors and seniors.
- 0830 - School classes began with the "day dogs" as we called them.
- 1200 - 12:45 Lunch at dormitory cafeteria.

1245 - Classes resume.  
3pm - Classes end for the day.  
3-3:30 School bus returns from Bishop Armstrong to CB.  
3:30-5:30 -Free time for boarders.

Guys were allowed to leave campus. Most went to Tower Records on 16th and Broadway to listen to new records, have ice cream, hamburgers, milk shakes, etc. Some of the residents stayed on campus and played basketball or handball on the outdoor courts, some walked or ran on the football field, some just sat outside and talked amongst themselves. Those who left campus had to "sign out" and "sign in" upon returning to campus. Same procedure was applied when you went home for the weekend.

5:30-6:30 -Dinner cafeteria style.  
7pm-9pm -Study Hall in the cafeteria.

Usually a senior boarder would be "in-charge" and check to make sure guys were not napping, reading non-school work materials, or doodling. If a student needed more than the 2 hours for Study Hall they could ask for it and stay to continue their homework.

9pm - Free time.  
10pm- Lights out. Everyone to bed except those who wanted to study.

This was the basic schedule Monday thru Friday. Friday at 3pm the weekend officially began. Some boarders would leave for their hometowns; others would leave campus to go somewhere else, and others would stay on-campus.

On Fridays dinner was served at the usual time. There was no mandatory Study Hall on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Friday evenings were "free". Saturdays were free also, but there was usually a movie shown that evening from 7-9pm if you wanted to see it. No restrictions on wake-up or bedtime. Some boarders made friends with a day student and might be invited to their home for the weekend.

Sunday was a free day with Mass being offered at the dormitory on Sunday morning. Sunday night check-in for those who went off campus

for the weekend was at 8pm. Lights out at 10pm and a new week begins with Monday.

Some boarders lasted only 1 year, but others, like me, did 3 years. Since the boarder program closed at the end of my junior year in 1964, I rented an apartment with another student to be able to graduate from CBS in 1965.