

Back to the future

By Carol Horowitz Miller '69

Opening the cover of the *Niké* 1969 yearbook is like opening the door to one of the most passionate times in U.S. history, captured and frozen, as if in amber. When the *Wheaton Quarterly* contacted me about my current campaign for U.S. Congress as an Independent from New Mexico and how my Wheaton education led me to politics, I went first to that yearbook.

The first photo in the *Niké* is of me, literally through a looking glass, my face reflected in a mirror as I stand in the paint shop. The quote on the facing page is from Marshall McLuhan: "There is absolutely no inevitability as long as there is a willingness to contemplate what is happening."

Several pages later another quote, a cry for peace, from *Helen* by Euripides, written 2,500 years ago, "Mindless, all of you, who in the strength of spears and the tearing edge win your valors by war, thus stupidly trying to halt the grief of the world. For if bloody debate shall settle the issue, never again shall hate be gone out of the cities of men."

The youthful desire for peace permeated the *Niké* as it did our lives then. The war in Vietnam and the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy wove through my junior and senior years at Wheaton. Even though no longer youthful, except young at heart, the desire for peace still guides my life today.

I value the way we were exposed to so many ideas at Wheaton and always assured by our professors, advisors and




the administration that we had the power to change the world. I was influenced by all of my professors but especially remember Ms. Vogt guiding us to an understanding of modern poetry and its emotional presentation of life, love and the world.

Unsure of what to do with my liberal arts education, I became a community organizer and peace activist. The early '70s were chaotic years, both personally and politically. It is probably

not an accident that the war in Vietnam ended the same year I met my soul mate and husband, Larry Miller, and started a career in public health. My education continued and I have since earned a master's in public health from the University of California, Berkeley, and a certificate in bioethics from Georgetown University. I have had an amazing career, especially in the 33 years we have been in New Mexico. I have

been an advocate and organizer for health services and community development in the most remote regions of the country.

In September 2007, people started asking me to run for office. I had run before unsuccessfully and did not think that I would try again. In October 2007, I traveled to Southeast Asia for a month, spending several weeks with the Vietnam Women's Union as part of an international human rights delegation and time with a Thai public health colleague in Bangkok. I returned to the United States with more people asking me to run. I had become convinced that this was a critical year for both U.S. and global politics and agreed to take the challenge to bring an independent voice for peace and human rights to the U.S. House of Representatives (www.carolmillercongress.com).

The burst of hope, optimism and longing for peace that I have today takes me back to complete the circle that began when Wheaton College sent me out into the world in 1969. 

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