

MAY 14, 1976

# W&L news

The Newsletter of Washington and Lee University

With supporters of Gov. George Wallace throwing him their support after the first roll call, former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter won the Democratic presidential nomination on the second ballot last Saturday at Washington and Lee's 16th Mock Convention, historically the most accurate predictor of out-of-power-party presidential politics among all the nation's college conventions.



*The 1976 winner delivering the keynote address at W&L's 1972 Mock Convention*

Carter had tallied 1,370½ delegate votes on the first ballot – 134 short of the 1,504½ required for the nomination, but far ahead of the rest of the field. No other candidate received even one-quarter as many votes as Carter.

Wallace's supporters moved to help capture the nomination for their fellow Southerner as soon as the first ballot proved that Wallace was out of the running, when he came in fourth with only 273 delegate votes. His own Alabama delegation signaled the shift when it cast 31 of its 35 votes for Carter at the beginning of the second roll call. On the first ballot, 25 of the Alabama votes had gone to Wallace, and Carter had received only six.

Other states which had showed substantial support for Wallace followed suit – principally Florida, Louisiana, Massachusetts and Mississippi – before the New York delegation put Carter over the top by giving him all 274 of its votes. On the first ballot, Carter had received only 73 delegate votes from New York.

With the nomination in hand as a result of the New York vote, the convention roared its approval of a motion to declare Carter the party candidate by acclamation.

The nominee himself, who was on the campaign trail in Grand Island, Neb., spoke to the W&L Mock Convention by telephone after his nomination. Carter told the student delegates: "I'm going to try to live up to your expectations of me – and maybe exceed them by winning on the first ballot" at the real convention this summer in New York City.

## **Mock Convention Special**

WASHINGTON AND LEE  
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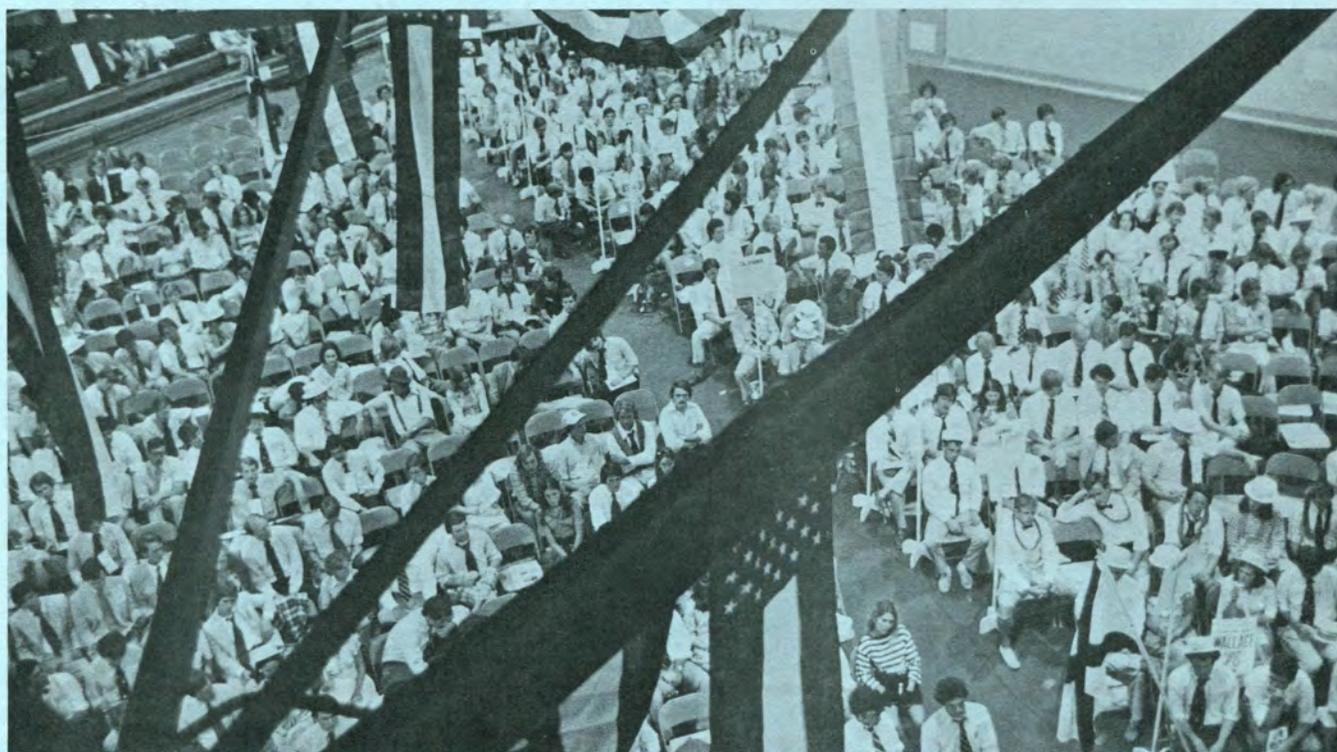
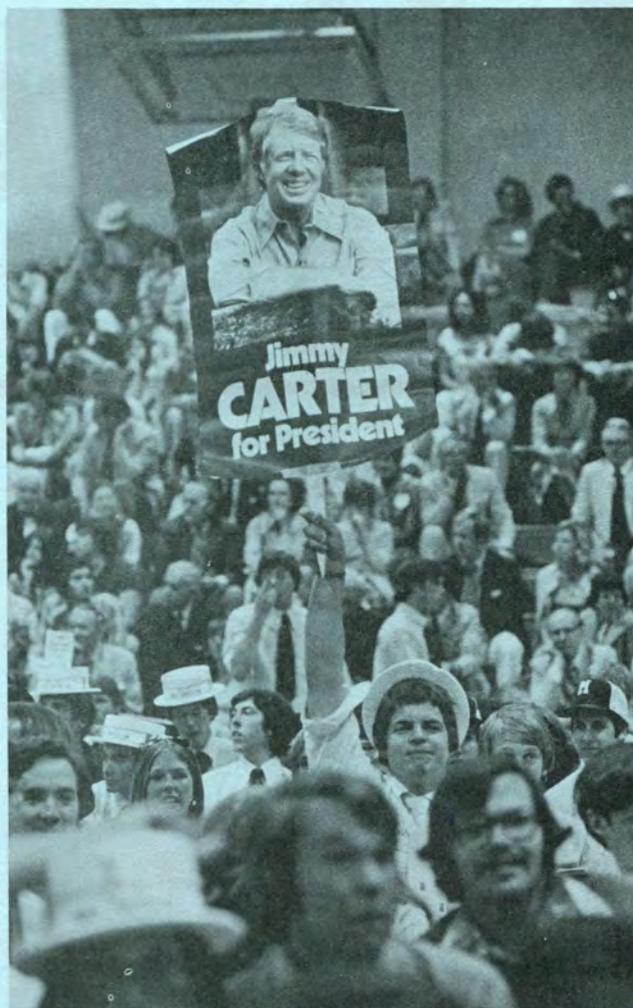
"This expression of your confidence in me," Carter told the cheering W&L throng, "is a very gratifying experience indeed."

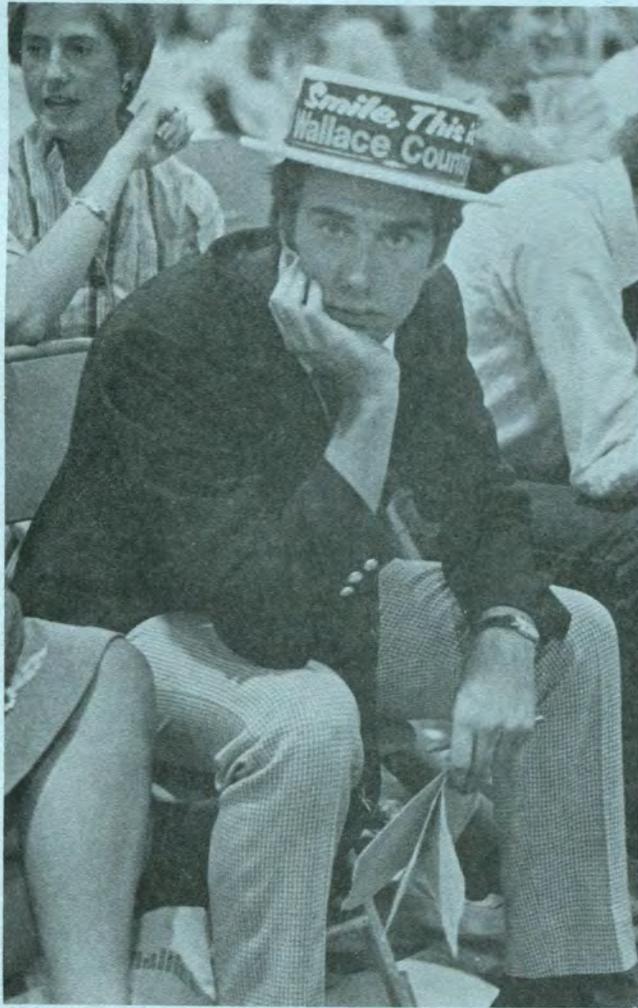
Carter was the keynote speaker four years ago at the W&L Mock Convention that named Sen. Edward M. Kennedy — which turned out to be only the second wrong prediction the students have made in eight Democratic Mock Conventions. Sen. George McGovern won the nomination at the real Democratic convention two months later.

On the first ballot, Carter drew his most substantial support from the South, where his chief competition came from Wallace, and from the Midwest, where Sen. Henry Jackson, Rep. Morris Udall, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, and Wallace all received smatterings of delegate votes.

In all, Carter captured majorities in 24 of the convention's 52 delegations on the first ballot — but only two of those were from large, industrial, Northern states — New Jersey and Ohio.

Of the 10 largest delegations, which accounted for more than half the convention voting strength, Carter carried only three on the first ballot, though he showed considerable strength in most of them as they split their votes among Carter, Jackson, Udall, and favorite sons Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. of California and Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson III of Illinois.



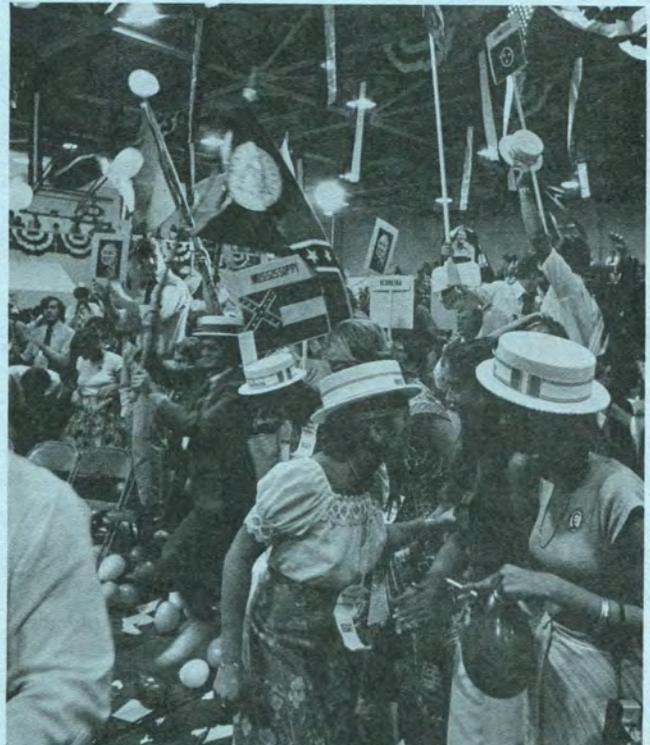
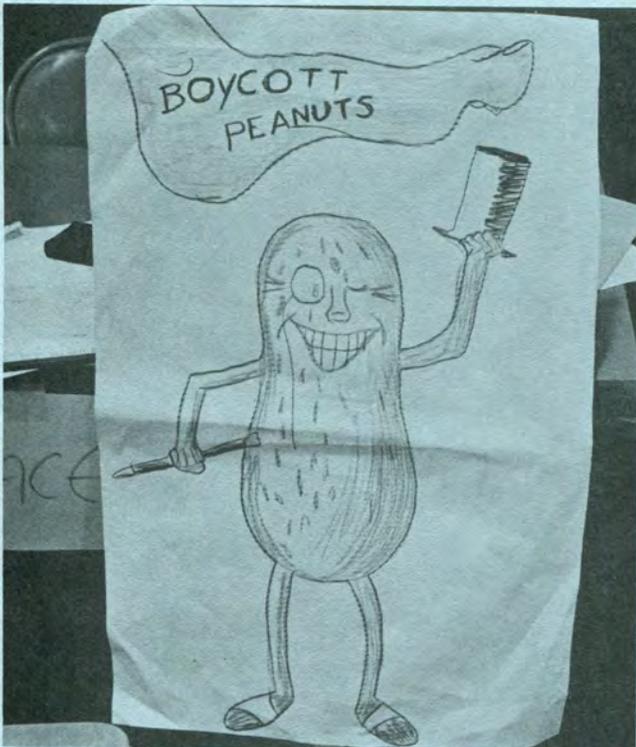


After the first ballot, Humphrey's supporters joined Wallace's in throwing their support to the toothy peanut farmer, but Jackson and Udall never released their delegates, and most of them stuck it out as long as the second roll call lasted.

The first concrete evidence that it would not be the "brokered" convention some had expected came on a credentials challenge Friday evening just as the Mock Convention opened. Carter forces sought to unseat the Jackson delegation from the Territories — by itself, an issue of small consequence, because the Territories control only 34 delegate votes, just a shade over one per cent of the total.

The results of binding primaries, caucuses, and state conventions control delegate votes on the nomination itself, but not on such procedural matters as this — and the Carter challenge succeeded. It was the signal that he did indeed have the support once first-ballot restrictions on delegates' votes were removed.

The students tapped Minnesota Sen. Walter F. Mondale to be Carter's running mate. News reports lately have indicated that Mondale and Illinois Sen. Stevenson are among Carter's top choices for the number-two slot, in an effort to woo the support of labor and the traditionally liberal Northern states.

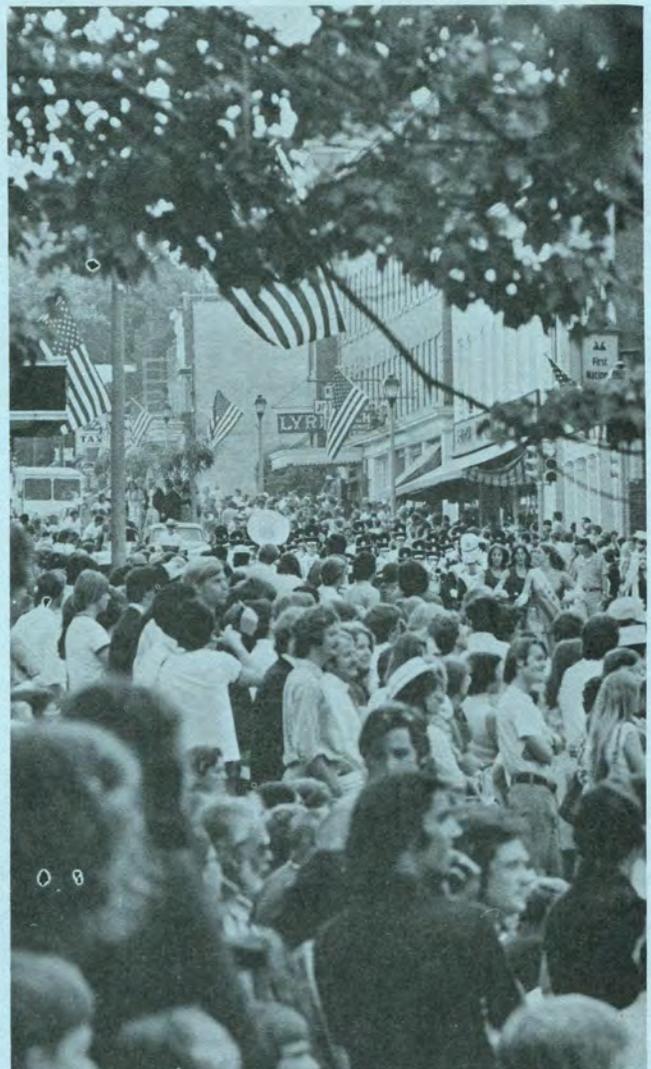




The Mock Convention this year was, by all estimates, bigger and better than any ever before. The parade was grander and the floats were more spectacular; there were more flags and balloons and bunting; more reporters and photographers; more vice presidential nominations than ever before (and wilder ones by far) — and, above all else, more of the research and realism that make W&L's the most accurate and most fun college mock convention anywhere.

The parade set the tone for the fun part of Washington and Lee's 16th Mock Convention last week. The Illinois delegation labeled its float "Land of Lincoln and Mayor Daley." The float representing tiny Rhode Island consisted of an appropriately tiny *Jaws*-like lunging shark. Nevada's was casinos and Frank Sinatra. Wyoming towed — what else? — a yellow stone. Colorado built a giant Coors beer can, skiing down a mountain. Not to be outdone, another state's float proclaimed "Gerald Ford skis in Colorado, but Robert E. Lee skied in New Hampshire."

Everyone's favorite, though, including the judges', was the gaily decorated float from Kansas, "the land of Oz" — complete with Wizard, a wagonload of Munchkins (area children, who were out of school for the day), Tin Man, Straw Man, Cowardly Lion, and, of course, Dorothy herself, authentic right down to her ruby-red Topsiders.

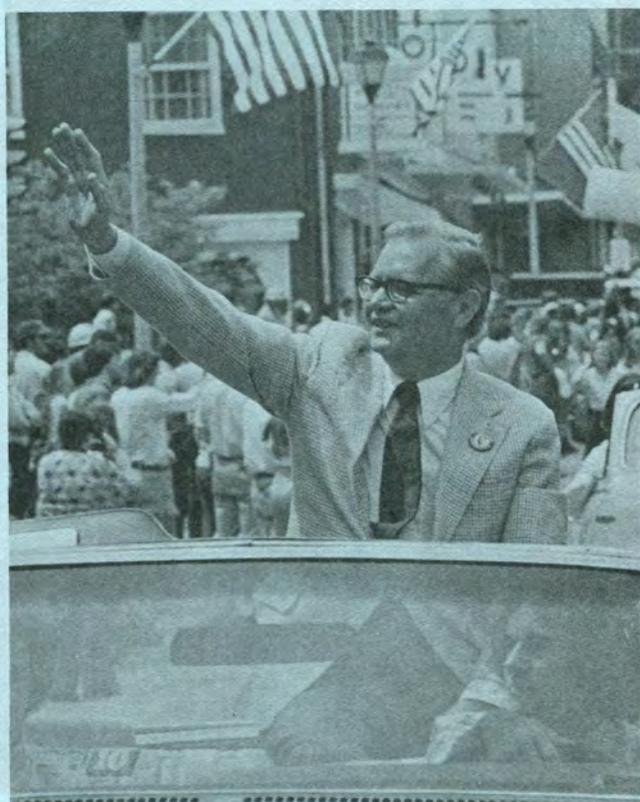


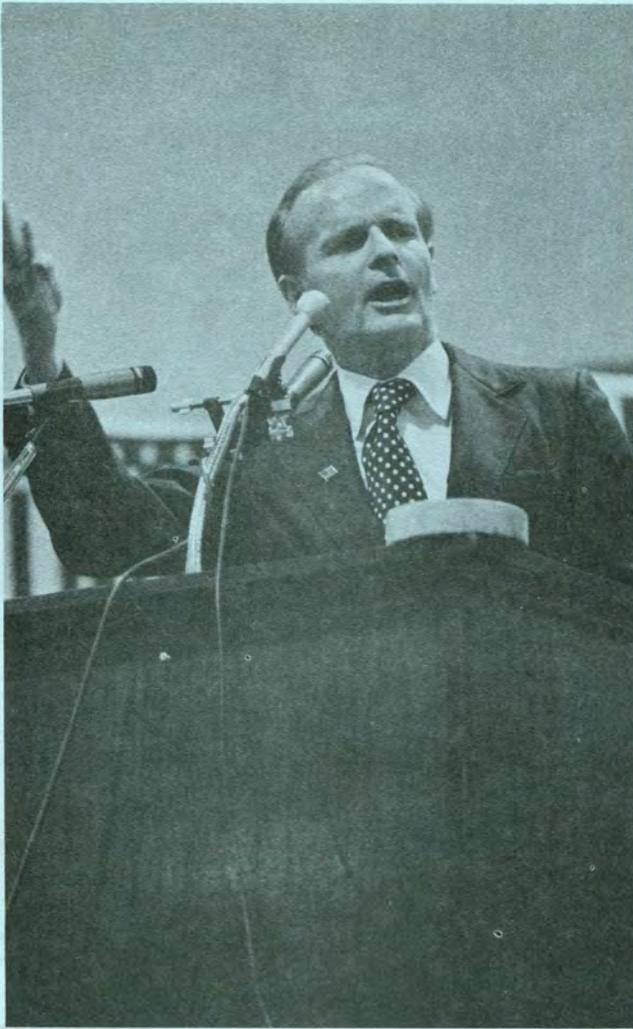
No parade would be complete without marching bands, of course, and the Mock Convention had six of them. The unit that won first place had come from Gloucester, N.J., just to march in the W&L extravaganza.

The whole town went all out for the parade, as it always does. The city suspended street-construction work for the duration. The local Retail Merchants Association and the Mock Convention steering committee chipped in together to buy big American flags for every downtown light post. Thousands of townsfolk and visitors began lining up along the parade route long before it stepped off. (W&L Mock Convention parades are the *only* parades in the world with a reputation for being even approximately on time.) Even the weather cooperated; rain had been forecast as a near-certainty, but it never came.



There seemed to be almost as many real politicians at the Mock Convention as mock ones — from Mayor Charles F. Phillips Jr. to two United States Senators. Both the men who are battling for the Democratic nomination to run for governor of Virginia next year were here, former Lt. Gov. Henry Howell and Atty. Gen. Andrew P. Miller. Howell was the grand parade marshal, and Miller, currently the highest-ranking elected Democrat in Virginia, gave an official welcome to the student delegates on behalf of the Commonwealth.





Sen. William Proxmire of Wisconsin, the keynote speaker, delivered what one real-life reporter described as "mainly a partisan attack on Republicans in general and the Ford administration in particular." That didn't sit well with a good many W&L students who are card-carrying Republicans the other 51 weeks of the year, and they reacted with good-natured vigor in a way Proxmire seemed hardly to have been ready for. ("We warned him," one Mock Convention official said later.) When Proxmire brought up Calvin Coolidge's name with the intention of reminding his audience how shallow Republican policies have always been in Democratic eyes, there was more cheering than there was when Proxmire mentioned John F. Kennedy, thinking to evoke the quintessential image of political enlightenment. When Proxmire lamented that there are only 11 female members of Congress, some of the students gave the remark a standing ovation, and a look came over the keynoter's face that reporters charitably described as one of "puzzlement." The *Washington Star* man wrote the next day that it seems the "W&L student body considers the Democratic party a joke, if not a positive evil." But when his speech was over and "On Wisconsin" started playing, the standing ovation the Mock Convention gave him was enthusiastic and friendly.

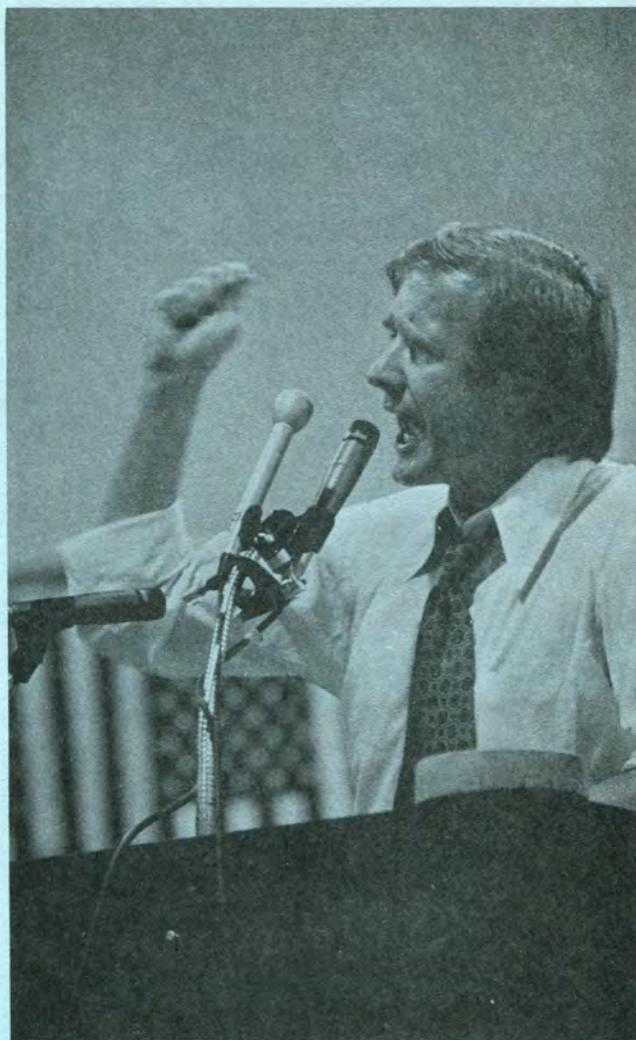


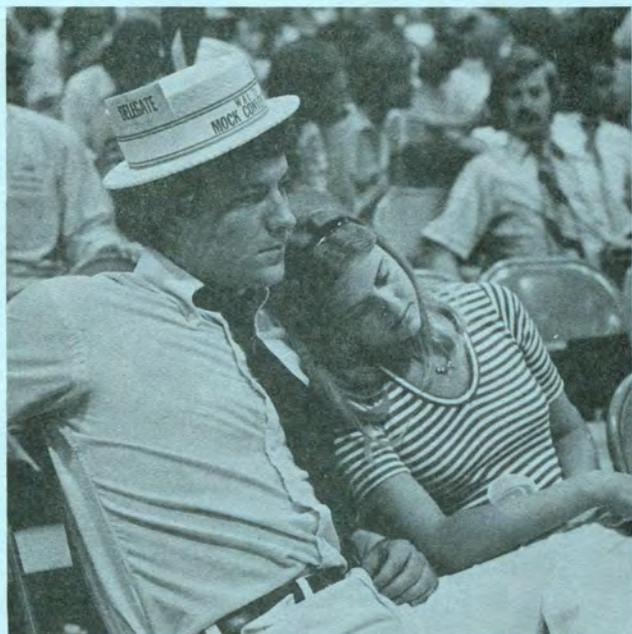
The award-winning Kansas float . . . "Land of Oz"

Rep. Donald W. Riegle Jr. of Michigan followed Proxmire, and — in contrast to the keynoter's unwavering partisanship — used the occasion to slam both political parties and big government in general for being the collective handmaidens of special interests. The audience leapt to its feet frequently, and the youthful, shirtsleeved Republican-turned-Democrat was the hit of the evening.

The South was heard from the following morning, as the serious business of nominating a presidential candidate was about to begin. Sen. Dale Bumpers of Arkansas delivered a "unity address" and — perhaps drawing a lesson from the experience of his Wisconsin colleague the previous evening — departed heavily from his prepared speech and avoided much criticism of the GOP, giving an upbeat pep talk instead.

The moment the actual nominations began, the thousand student delegates were all business — and all Democrats. They had been in frequent contact with their authentic counterparts in each state's real delegation and the principal strategists on each Democratic hopeful's staff, and in fact the students stayed in touch throughout the Mock Convention. (There was a bank of 15 telephones just off the convention floor for state chairmen to use during and between roll call votes.)





That's not to say there wasn't any levity at all. (The Mock Convention is too realistic for that.) When it came time to cast votes, Utah, for instance, became "the land of the Great Salt Lake, Robert Redford, and polygamy." New Jersey was "the permanent home of Jimmy Hoffa." Kansas boasted that it is "the birthplace of Vivian Vance, John Cameron Swayze, and not much else."

And that's the way it was throughout the vice-presidential nomination process too. Eventually, Sen. Walter F. Mondale was chosen by acclamation — but not before votes were cast for almost everyone and everything else, from Patty Hearst to half the professors at W&L, from Secretariat to W&L's favorite three-legged dog, Tripod. There was a vote for Gladys Knight and another for The Pips, one for Jack Daniels, another for the Godfather, others for Richard M. Nixon, Elvis Presley, Mr. Magoo, *Star Trek's* Captain Kirk, Muhammed Ali, and even a couple for Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman (one each).



## W&L news

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