



Ring-tum Phi

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Tech provost wins presidency

By Todd Smith

No one was surprised when he entered the C-school classroom for the press conference. The word was already in the press that this trim, freckled man in a blue blazer had been offered the presidency of Washington and Lee.

Speaking clearly and cautiously, John D. Wilson, 51, accepted, and outlined why he was "totally committed to liberal arts education."

"We are born in a sliver of time and place and culture. We come out of backgrounds that are circumscribed by genetics and by environment. We live our 70 to 80 years on the planet in that narrow cocoon of culture and experience. And all that we know of ourselves and our world if we lived only that life would be very, very parochial, indeed," Wilson said.

"And what I see the liberal arts and science doing is permitting us to enlarge that life, to enter different times, different cultures, live different lives. Hamlet's fictional life is every bit as relevant as Elizabeth I's historical life," he said.

The official announcement came at the press conference Wednesday, Aug. 1, from James M. Ballengee, rector of the board of trustees. Wilson was elected that morning by a special meeting of the board in Northern Auditorium.

However, the news leaked at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, where Wilson is Provost and Executive Vice President. On Saturday, Aug. 28, Charles Hite wrote in the Roanoke Times & World News that Wilson had gotten the nod.

Hite called W&L to confirm his story before running it. "We told him we would neither confirm nor deny the story," a W&L official said. But had Hite gotten wrong information, "we would have said, 'you better go back and check your information.'"

By the time the trustees saw the article, they had been warned that it would be coming out. Many already knew that Wilson would probably be the choice.

"It was generally understood that Wilson was the top candidate from the start," said Frank Parsons, assistant to the president. Yet, the selection process was a diligent and legitimate one, Parsons said.

"I've heard nothing to suggest that this was a preconceived choice or that the review process was just an exercise. No, it was too close," Parsons said.

Over 200 candidates were considered in the review process,

which started when President Robert E.R. Huntley announced in February that he would step down after a massive ten-year development program that raised \$70 million for W&L. Huntley has held the post since 1968 and has said that he wishes to leave office at the end of the calendar year.

Wilson plans to begin his duties on Feb. 1, 1983.

Wilson is a figure not unknown in this area. The Roanoke Times & World News ran an editorial Wednesday noting Wilson's skill in handling reporters' questions at the press conference a week before:

"That's not surprising, since Wilson is an experienced administrator with a thorough knowledge of higher education in Virginia and in the nation.

"For the past seven years, he has been the No. 2 man at Tech behind President William Lavery. Wilson has been the chief officer responsible for the university's academic life."

Wilson has turned down the presidency of Michigan State University, his alma mater, and a chancellorship position at the University of Virginia. Before accepting the position at VPI, Wilson had been president of Wells College (for women) in Aurora, N.Y., for seven years.

A native of Lapeer, Mich., Wilson received a B.A. degree in history with high honor from Michigan State, where he was elected to both Phi Kappa Phi, an honorary scholarship society, and Phi Alpha Theta (a history honor) society. He was also president of his student body.

At Michigan State, Wilson was a standout athlete, playing defensive halfback on the 1952 Michigan State team that won the national championship.

Following his graduation, Wilson attended Oxford University in England as a Rhodes Scholar. There he received his M.A.

His administrative experience began in 1959 when he served as assistant to the vice president of academic affairs and then assistant to the president of State University of New York. In 1963 he returned to Michigan State as director of the honors college.

Wilson received his Ph.D. in Elizabethan Literature in 1967 at Michigan State, where between 1965 and 1968, Wilson taught English.

Wilson and his wife Anne Veronica have four children: Stephen, 22; Anthony, 20; Patrick, 18; and Sara, 14.



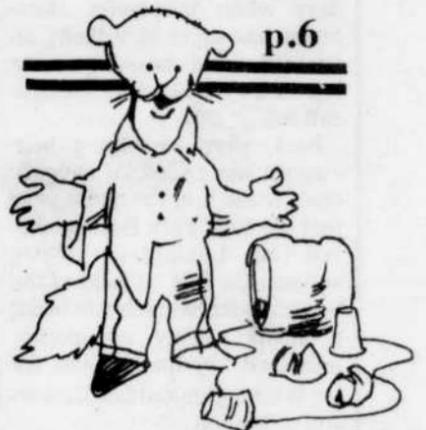
WASHINGTON & LEE

John D. Wilson, right, answers a reporter's question on coeducation at a press conference Wednesday, Sept. 1. James Ballengee, right, announced at the conference that the W&L board of trustees

elected Wilson to succeed President Robert E.R. Huntley. (photo by Pat Hinely, W&L)

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James Henderson: In Memoriam

In all flourishing institutions, there are people who keep the mechanisms functioning smoothly and in balance. They are usually off-stage, unknown to most participants. But without them the machinery jerks along and even stalls.

Such a person was James Henderson, who worked in the Co-op building. Most of his waking hours for the past 26 years were spent within the maze of its complex architecture. He and only he, knew where everything was; he delivered supplies and equipment on time to the proper locations; and, expert mechanic that he was, he fixed everything from cars to clocks that quit.

James was independent of thought, witty and, on occasion, humorously cantankerous. He was a kind man. He died where he had thoroughly lived. We in the Co-op building don't know what we will do without him.

Betty E. Munger, manager
W&L Bookstore

Opinion

A new Phi

In 1897, W&L had a new president — named Wilson — and a new weekly journal, the Ring-tum Phi. Eighty-five years later, we have another new president — named Wilson — and a new Phi.

The small changes are already evident; the real impact of our new approach will grow throughout the fall term. This is the earliest Phi in recent memory, the humble product of News Editor John Cleghorn, Business Manager Steve Perry, Managing Editor Evans Attwell and myself. Though meager, I hope it shows our commitment to a professional graphic approach as well as our enthusiasm.

In September's issues, look for:

FEATURES — Under Features Editor Scott Tilley, the new Phi will have more interviews than ever. Our faculty, alumni and student body offer limitless potential for interesting personality profiles. It's important for you to suggest subjects (thanks, but we're already working on President Huntley). Tilley can be reached at 463-6000.

NEWS — Of course the most important aspect of the Phi is its coverage of campus events. News Editor Cleghorn has the most difficult job of all — writing as well as managing the reporting staff. Cleghorn can be reached at 463-7568. Assisting him is Rick Swagler, who will cover the Executive Committee.

COLUMNS — All members of the W&L community are invited to write columns. Humor pieces are most eagerly sought. Political opinions should somehow relate to our school, our age group, this region, etc. Those who remember Betty Munger's column on Fancy Dress last year will be pleased to see that she is again writing for us.

This year we have abandoned the anonymous editorial that ran on the left side of every editorial page. Such anonymous editorials encourage reckless writing and imply that there is some agreement among Phi editors on a topic (which there never is). In its place will be signed editorials, like this one, by Cleghorn, myself and our experienced reporters.

However, this format provides ample room for students and professors with something to say about Washington and Lee.

THE PHI LITERARY SUPPLEMENT — This esoteric title applies to a monthly page of book reviews and commentary on the arts at Washington and Lee.

What we are trying to do is get you involved in the newspaper and thereby more involved in the school. The new Phi exists only to strengthen the sense of unity that pervades W&L in the good years and has, perhaps, evaded us in recent years.

We realized last year that people were turning to our editorial page hoping to see someone embarrassed or some committee harpooned. Under Editor-in-Chief Bill Whalen, the Phi took a less antagonistic stance toward the Executive Committee than the year before. We hope that E.C. subcommittees will take advantage of the Phi as a forum and a way of reaching potential members.

The Phi is not giving up the aggressive approach to news that seniors remember from the days of editors Randy Smith and John Billmyre. We will continue to follow every story until all the facts are on the table, as we did last year with the Interfraternity Council study of a possibly delayed Rush.

Our first priority, finally, is accessibility. If you feel you can contribute to the Phi, and want to, let us know. There will be an organizational meeting for writers and photographers in Fairfax Lounge in the Student Center Tuesday, Sept. 14, at 7 p.m.

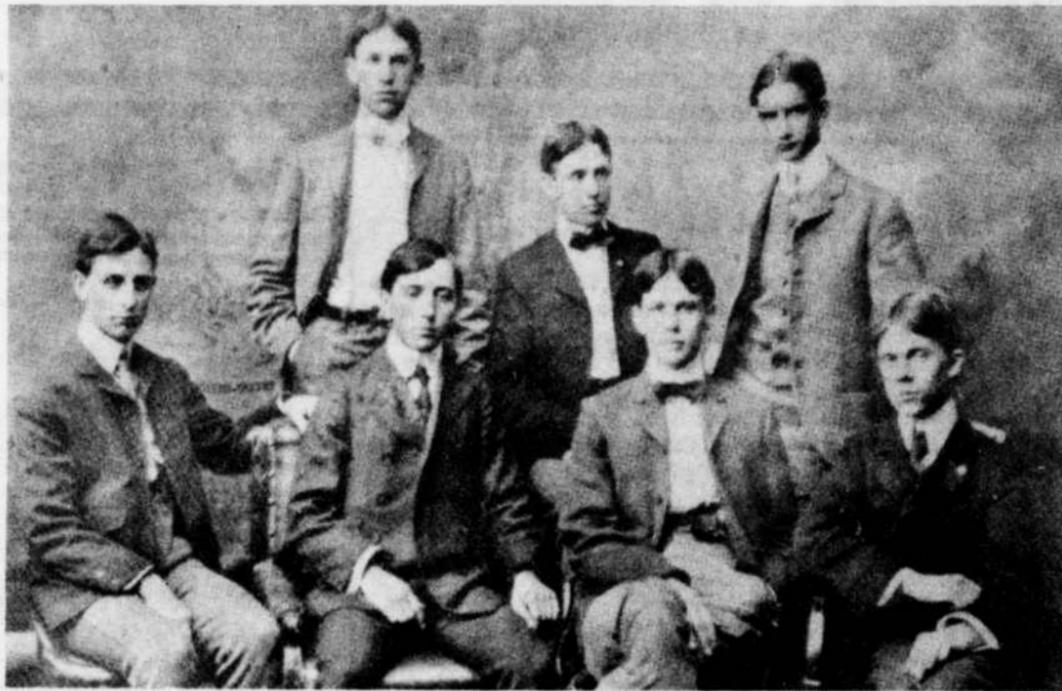
If you'd like to talk to me about the Phi, I can be reached in our office (463-9111, ext. 373 or in room 129 of Davis Dormitory (463-9306). You are already involved. Make it count for something.

Ring-tum Phi

The Ring-tum Phi is published every Thursday during the undergraduate school year at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia. Funding for the Ring-tum Phi comes primarily from advertising and from a portion of the student activities fee. The Publications Board elects the Editor-in-Chief and Business Manager, but the Ring-tum Phi is otherwise independent.

Letters to the Editor and submissions must be in the Ring-tum Phi office, room 206 of the Student Center, by 5 p.m. Monday of the week they are to be run. This newspaper observes current court definitions of libel and obscenity.

Editor-in-Chief Todd Smith
 Business Manager Steve Perry
 Managing Editor Evans Attwell
 News Editor John Cleghorn
 Sports Editor G. Bruce Potter
 Features Editor B. Scott Tilley
 Reporters Rick Swagler, Bill Roberts,
 Charles Alcorn



Editors of the Ring-tum Phi for 1900-1901

What the hell's a Ring-tum Phi?

(Reprinted from the Ring-tum Phi of Dec. 5, 1967.)

Come back with us now to the days when telephones (Lexington had all of 68 of them, an advertisement boasted) were known as "up-to-date electric call bells." 1897.

Back when stealing a bell-clapper was called "a naughty one's frolic," in the same year that the New York Post conferred on Lexington (we're serious) the title "Athens of the South" — there came into being a small weekly newspaper, published "by the students for the Washington and Lee University community."

They named it after the most popular of that University's football cheers: "Ring-tum Phi."

"Coincident with the administration of President Wilson begins the career of a new publication at Washington and Lee, the Ring-tum Phi," noted the Collegian, a magazine. "The Ring-tum Phi is a weekly journal and presents a pleasing appearance. It meets a distinct need in the University and relieves the Collegian of what formerly has tended to clog and retard."

Literary Magazine

"The Collegian is primarily a literary magazine, and when the editors heretofore were forced to cram in a limitless number of locals, they always bewailed the dismal incongruity. Henceforth, we rejoice to say, the Collegian is freed from matters of this kind, and will not be compelled to try to serve two ends at once...."

"Gentlemen of the Ring-tum Phi, you have our best wishes. Gentlemen of the Ring-tum Phi, we give you our sincerest thanks. Students of W. and L., we congratulate you on the ad-

vent of the long needed weekly!"

The year was 1897. The Southern Collegian was still a high-quality magazine, and was published by the Graham Literary Society. The Ring-tum Phi was supposed to be a somewhat lighter, perhaps even ribald, complement to the Collegian.

Eighteen and ninety-seven. The year the football coach had to send away for a special nose-guard "to protect the colossal proboscis which accompanies Mr. Fitzhugh's countenance." ("Mr. Fitzhugh was a student; everybody then was a Mister, Doctor, Professor or Reverend.")

Scandalous Verse

Eighteen and ninety-seven. The year of the Great "Hell" Scandal. It seems the very first editor-in-chief, George Houston, in the fourth issue of the neophyte newspaper, published a column of "Football Songs," one of which concluded with this verse:

Each other's back, boys,
 Has got a knack, boys,
 For making gains, sir,
 Round the end.

And it's a sin, sir,
 For Oberlin, sir (Oberlin being a W&L player),
 To buck the VMI boys' line so awful hard.

Then join the yell, boys,
 And yell like hell, boys,
 Sure enough.

To W&L U., boys,
 And football, too, boys,
 Let's give a rousing, rumbling,
 roaring football yell.
 Ring-tum Phi, stickeri bum,
 &c, &c.

Well, hell broke loose. The next issue, an incensed letter-to-the-editor writer (nothing

new under the sun) said:

"There appeared in the columns of the Ring-tum Phi, last week, a song which, to the thoughtful person, had very little to recommend it....The only thing that I can see that would have recommended it to the editorial eye is the little smack of naughtiness which makes the first rhyme in the last verse.

"The Editor seems to be filled with pride to even know the author; he puts the verse in the first column of his newspaper, and writes an editorial commending it as 'especially good.' He says the words tire the voice very little.

"Now everyone who knows anything of the subject, knows that the sound of that 'h' has a very rasping effect on the vocal chords. How much better it would have been had the line read: 'And yell right well, boys.' It would have sounded better, been easier on the voice, and would have saved the writer and the Editor from showing off their weakness.

"It can be admitted that, to some eyes, there is something worthy of admiration in a dark, purple crime, but to bow before a sinlet like this is weakness personified.

"In the future let me suggest that the Editor follow the path of virtue. He will not only find it pleasant, but may keep from showing his lack of taste. (Signed) — R."

"R" intimidated Mr. Houston. Who wouldn't be intimidated if he were editing a brand-new paper, that nobody, not even students, had ever heard of, named the Ring-tum Phi, and somebody comes along and accused him of printing "a sinlet" on his front page?

Seven convicted as police trials end

by John Cleghorn

Following the indictments of thirteen acting and former members of the Lexington police force last spring for alleged involvement in a police theft ring, trials have continued throughout the summer resulting in six former officers serving jail sentences, one officer on probation, two officers being tried and acquitted, two other cases ending in hung juries and two cases being dropped by prosecuting Commonwealth attorney Beverly C. "John" Read.

"The remaining charges against five former and suspended officers were dropped in the Rockbridge circuit court last Wednesday and no other charges are expected to be pressed.

Read explained, saying, "The results in those trials make it clear that convictions cannot be obtained in the remaining five cases."

Read's final statement to the circuit court contained the following rationale for ending the trials: "It would be fundamentally unfair and expensive and unfortunate for our community to continue the prosecutions for the sole purpose of placing criminal evidence in a public forum.

"It would be better and more efficient to remit these matters to Chief Kirby and the City of Lexington, and to Sheriff Reynolds and the County of Rockbridge for administrative disposition. Such administrative action does not require 'proof beyond a reasonable doubt' as in a criminal prosecution; furthermore, acts of criminal wrongdoing may be considered even though those crimes were barred for criminal prosecution.

"I shall make available all material evidence in my possession to assist them in this task and hope they will see fit to read all the statements from the investigation, to interview key witnesses and to use available techniques, such as polygraphs, to insure that only those officers

fully qualified are reinstated as law enforcement officers."

Of the five cases involving acting officers, two ended in acquittals, two in hung juries and one in a conviction.

Suspended officer William Knick, tried for twelve charges of involvement with the alleged theft ring including statutory burglary, receiving stolen goods, conspiracy, grand larceny and petit larceny, was found not guilty last week. Knick has since shown intent to resign from the force, chiefly for medical reasons.

Officer J.K. Colbert, indicted for petit larceny for allegedly stealing a car battery, was also found not guilty this month and will be investigated for reinstatement to the force.

Suspended officers Tony Clark and Richard Wright, both indicted on charges of statutory burglary, conspiracy, and petit larceny will also be considered for reinstatement to the police force after their trials ended in hung juries.

The fifth acting police officer to be indicted, Donald Stubblefield, was convicted on charges of petit larceny and was sentenced to a twelve month jail term.

Although Lexington Police Chief James Kirby is on vacation this week, acting police chief Lieutenant B.M. Beard was reached for questioning. Beard said that the investigation of suspended officer Colbert is already underway. Beard was unsure how long the investigations would continue.

State police investigators have offered to supply a lie detector machine, or polygraph, to be used in the investigations but Beard did not know if Chief Kirby is planning to make it a part of his investigations.

In the case involving Carl

Emore of the Rockbridge County Sheriff's Department, who was indicted for allegedly receiving stolen goods, the charges were dropped, as were the charges against Lexington Police officer Timmy Coleman.

In each of the cases against former Lexington police officers a conviction resulted and a jail term ensued. Jack Purvis, John Moore, Danny Moore, Wayne Rhodenizer, and Marvin Hamilton, a state trooper, all received sentences ranging from eight months to two five-year prison terms for crimes of conspiracy.

Members of the Buena Vista Police Force and the Rockbridge County Sheriff's Department have been working in their off time to assist the short-handed Lexington force while the suspended officers have undergone trials and investigations.

The size of the Lexington Police force is usually around 14 members according to Lieutenant Beard. At the time of the initial indictments, the force numbered 13 officers, five of which were indicted.

Former Lexington officer Barry Flint, whose cooperation with the state police investigators began the long investigations into the theft ring last spring, received immunity from some of the charges against him and is presently on probation.

When asked if he was satisfied with the end of the criminal prosecutions Lexington Mayor Charles Phillips replied, "There's no question that we're pleased with the end of the investigations. It has been a long and difficult six months for everybody."

Mayor Phillips noted however that the ordeal will not be over until the police reinstatement is finished and the police force is at full strength.



Reeves Center opens

Four days of private lectures will accompany Saturday's opening of the newly renovated and renamed Reeves Center for Research and Exhibition of Porcelain and Paintings.

The opening ceremony will begin at 1:45 p.m. on the front steps of what was Tucker Hall Annex until last year. The building, which dates back to the 1840s, sits on the north end of the Colonnade.

The lectures are part of a four-day meeting of the Decorative Arts Trust which, beginning today, is expected to draw 200 students, collectors, curators and dealers of decorative art.

The theme of the meeting is

"The China Trade: Currents and Cross Currents of Taste," and several of the sessions will involve discussions of Washington and Lee's Reeves Collection of Chinese export porcelain.

The Reeves Center houses the study collection of 18th, 19th and 20th century ceramics given to Washington and Lee in 1967 by Mr. and Mrs. Euchlin D. Reeves of Rhode Island. Reeves was a 1927 graduate of the W&L law school.

Paintings and watercolors by Mrs. Reeves, who signed most of her paintings with her maiden name, Louise Herreshoff, will hang in the center.

Calendar

Friday, Sept. 10.

All Day — Upperclassmen Matriculate: Payne Hall.

Saturday, Sept. 11

1:45 p.m. — Opening Ceremonies: Reeves Center.

Sunday, Sept. 12

12 - 5 p.m. — Skylark Open House and Family Picnic: for the Dniversity Community.

Monday, Sept. 13

Undergraduate classes begin.

Through Oct. 4 — "The American Scene," Early 20th Century Prints from the Museum of Modern Art. DuPont Gallery.

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Transcript of Wilson press conference

Reproduced here is the first half of a transcript of John D. Wilson's remarks at a news conference Wednesday, Sept. 1, at which he was named to succeed President Robert E.R. Huntley at Washington and Lee University.

Space and deadline restrictions demand that the rest of the Wilson's remarks be run at a later date.

"I needn't take long to tell those of you who are here how gratified I am, how very pleased the whole Wilson family is, to have this invitation extended to us. We accept with great pleasure, with a sense of adventure and hope for the future. It's a venerable, great institution, and we're really deeply appreciative of the chance to be associated with it."

"The transition from Blacksburg to Lexington is a 90-minute ransition by U.S. 81. It will take us some time, however, to make hat move, and I fully look forward to being in residence here myself, with my wife and my daughter coming back and forth for the spring until we can all be together as soon as Sarah finishes that first year in high school. So we look forward to it very much indeed."

Question: Dr. Wilson, with the apparently declining revenue coming out of the federal government student aid programs, do you see doing anything to boost student aid programs here at W&L itself?

Dr. Wilson: Yes, well I think it is a matter of serious concern. The escalating cost of private education which we've experienced over the past 20 years — we hope, for one, Charles (Hite, Roanoke Times & World News), that that will be able to taper off just a bit — but there is no more important side of an endowment portfolio of a private institution than its scholarship endowment."

"I'm not, I'll be frank to say, especially acquainted yet with the alignment in the Washington and Lee endowment, but I think student aid has got to be a priority. We have to make the distinctive educational opportunity that this institution represents available to young men of talent, and to try to do that without special concern for socio-economic conditions. And that does mean that student financial aid will be an important part of the future, as it has been of the past."

Question: Washington and Lee is in a very competitive position as far as faculty salaries. Do you see the university being able to continue that in the future? You're coming off a very successful fund-raising campaign. Are you going to be in pretty good shape for that, do you think?

Dr. Wilson: Charles, you're asking questions that are prophetic in character. I certainly hope so. There could be nothing more important than maintaining the quality of this faculty. It's an extraordinary faculty. I made as many discreet inquiries as I could on my end, without making it apparent to the Roanoke Times that I'd been extended the possibility of an invitation here, about the quality of the faculty, because this, obviously, is the starting point. Washington and Lee can be very, very proud of the teaching men and women — the scholar teachers — who have been assembled here. And to attract successors and to retain those currently on this staff will be the first priority of the university. And I'm sure that's going to take increasing effort, increasing endowment."

"I'm afraid that Dr. Huntley is going to be a very difficult man to follow. Everyone in this room appreciates that. Everyone in higher education appreciates that. The 67 million dollars was an extraordinary, successful accomplishment for this university, with the board (of trustees) and Bob, Farris (Hotchkiss, director of development) and all others, faculty, who made that possible. I fear it can't stop, that that challenge will be here. It's been before this institution for over 200 years and it will continue to be a responsibility. I will have to make such contributions as I can. But we'll never be

free of the obligation to provide the financial base for a first rate institution."

"There has developed of late a literature of euphoria about hard times. I think it's — I maybe put that badly — but as we look at demographic decline and the potential decline in enrollments in private institutions, and as the federal government has conspicuously withdrawn from some elements of support of higher education, and retrenchment and reallocation and so on become the watchwords of higher education, there has developed a kind of counter-theme of 'Oh, good, this is a wonderful opportunity to concentrate upon quality, that we don't have to worry about quantity anymore."

"I think there's a terrible bit of self-deception involved in that, because, unless we redefine quality in some superficial way, we cannot escape the fact that quality costs money."

"Quality means, in the Washington and Lee context, a first-rate faculty, it means first-rate students, who when necessary can be helped with financial aid, it means good equipment in our laboratories, it means a library acquisition budget that makes sense, it means a civilized faculty-student ratio, so that teaching and learning can go forward, it means maintaining a campus of extraordinary beauty and historical significance — and these things are not cheap. You cannot do this while resources are declining. We have a first obligation to protect that kind of quality. And that will continue to ask of us all extraordinary support for a very distinctive institution that warrants it."

Question: How do you envision your role at Washington and Lee and the direction in which Washington and Lee will move in the future, after the takeover?

Dr. Wilson: Well, my first obligation and my first pleasure will be to come to know the people of much better than I now do. I hope, over the course of the fall, to make visits on weekends when I can to become acquainted with the administrative officers, the staff of the university, and especially to begin the task of coming to know the faculty, and to know the work of individual members of the faculty and to get a sense of the rhythm of the place. I don't come to this university with some blueprint in my back pocket. It would be a presumptuous act to suppose that I know the future or that I can predict the future of this university."

"I think here we have the great resource of 200 years and more of tradition, of a sense of quality, of a sense of style, and the first obligation will be to protect that, to make sure that does not erode."

"But in terms of developing the intellectual resources of the university, what new fields will come about — you know, intellectual work is hard to predict. It's awfully hard to say today that if aquatic ecology, 10 or 15 years ago, was an exciting subject, what tomorrow's exciting subject will be. I have some notions about that, the faculty will have some notions about that, and part of the task of a university administration is to sense that, to try to sense the good people, the good minds, who have the ideas that will shape the future, and then to make sure, in quiet ways, the resources are there to cultivate them."

"It's kind of a simple kerosene theory of university administration, perhaps: if you see a bright spot, throw kerosene on it, step back. But in a way I think that's truly what we ought to be about."

"The university administration can serve best when it aids in the recruitment and retention of a first-rate faculty and student body,

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and then spending most of its time removing impediments to the work of those crucial constituencies of the university. I have some general notions about where I think some exciting work will be going forward, but I'd rather wait, frankly, until I get a sense of the faculty's sense of that before we predict which way we might go."

Question: Dr. Wilson, W and L has a distinguished liberal arts tradition. How do you see yourself fitting into that tradition?

Dr. Wilson: Well, I wouldn't be here at all if I weren't entirely committed to a liberal arts education. I took my undergraduate degree in history, with special interest in English and Russian history. I did graduate work abroad and then in this country in English literature. I think I know what the sciences are about, in a generalist way, and I do include the sciences when I talk about the liberal disciplines, and they do play a crucial role in the liberal education of young people."

"I think the sense of conviction I have about the value of liberal arts comes out of what I would express, perhaps, as a peculiar, maybe even the vicarious, the vicarious character of those fields."

"We are born, in a sliver of time and space and culture. We come out of backgrounds that are circumscribed by genetics and by environment. We live our 70 to 80 years on the planet in that cocoon of culture and experience. And all that we know, of ourselves and the world, if we lived only that life, would be very, very parochial indeed. And what I see the liberal arts and sciences as doing, at least in one sense, is permitting us to enlarge to enlarge that life, to enter different times, different cultures, live different lives. And Hamlet's fictional life is every bit as relevant as Elizabeth I's historical life. So we can be part of another experience and add to our understanding of human nature."

"And it seems to me that though there are no pat formulas for

human happiness, the first obligation we have to ourselves and to our students is to make them understand that self-knowledge is ultimately the key to any chance we might have for a glimpse of human happiness. And I cannot conceive of reaching adulthood with any full sense of that without very deep exposure to the liberal disciplines."

"There are many other things that are cultivated by the liberal experience. To be sure, we do hope to sharpen intellectual skills along those several pathways. But essentially what we're doing is expanding each student's knowledge of himself by having him live human experiences that other wise would be totally inaccessible to him or to her. And I think that's absolutely a vital task, perhaps the most crucial four years in the development of a mature and thoughtful human being."

There's a notion purveyed that it's all over in the first 18 months, I mean, that the human being is fixed and shaped in that time, but I believe that not to be true. I think at 22, I was a very different person from the callow youth who wanted to be a sports-writer — a very honorable, I thought, and I mean that seriously, choice at the time, but that was not, at 22, my vision of the world. At 18, it very clearly was. And some very important things happened in that interlude, thanks to the intervention of some civilized people who cared enough about me to help me to enlarge my sense of myself, and of human possibility."

"The Detroit Free-Press lost a most ardent Tiger fan in the process." (Laughter.)

Question: Dr. Wilson, do you foresee in any time during your tenure the admission of women as undergraduates?

Dr. Wilson: I wondered when we would get to that. (Laughter) Those of you who have taken a look at my biographical outline will know that I spent seven years, very nearly seven years as president of a college for women. And that was a very, very rewarding and interesting tenure. I enjoyed it very much indeed. I went to Wells College, though, I must say, in 1968 on the assumption that I was joining a first-rate undergraduate college of the liberal arts and sciences. I was not self-consciously associating myself with a single-sexed college for women. If you think that was myopic, you may be right."

"But the point is in 1968 we weren't terribly concerned with that sort of thing. We had had a national experience which in turn had built upon the experience in the West of hundreds of years of first-rate university and collegiate education, most of which, in quality places, had been gender specific. That's sort of an antiseptic way to put it. (Laughter) Had been single-sex. And the women's colleges that came along, thanks to Henry Wells, who had created the Wells-Fargo Company, and Matthew Vassar, who I understand was a great brewery mogul, or whatever, that these people were trying to create a parallel opportunity for women which had been denied them. And so some first-rate colleges for women developed in the Northeast, first, and then in other sections of the country."

"I think all of that made me, and I was very conscious of the history of higher education in this country, to be sure, self-conscious about that, so that I was a little baffled when, one after

another, the predominantly male colleges, exclusively male colleges in most cases, began to form task forces and blue-ribbon committees, and issuing in due course reports that contradicted the success stories that each of those institutions had in one way or another achieved."

"In effect they said, 'It isn't a natural experience that we provide, it isn't natural to educate people to be without exposure in the classroom to the other point of view, whichever way this went. So we had developing a kind of new pedagogy that assumed something narrow and twisted in the depravation of the other point of view. Now I think there was an awful lot of mythology associated with those reports. As I said, I think they contradicted institutional experience. And I believe that the coeducation issue, of course in the early 70s it was still so new people weren't sure how long it would remain to be an issue, whether it was a fad, whether it was something simply being talked about — I think that's no longer the case — clearly coeducation and the coeducationalization of male colleges and female colleges has gone apace so that it's almost a given. But I think, in that sense, it's passed out of the realm of something we have to worry immediately about or think immediately about."

"This university has been able to attract, it continues to be able to attract first-rate students, and retain them, and to educate them to become successful citizens of the larger world, and that seems to me to be a useful mission."

"And I don't know enough about the 'Washington and Lee experience,' if I may put quotation marks around that phrase, to know how much of it comes out of its gender, as it were, or how much of it might change if women were admitted in equal numbers to Washington and Lee. Obviously, I want to wait a time and get some better sense of what that experience is before I offer any further opinions on the subject."

"I would say this: that we would not be in the position of advocating a change at this stage. I will not argue with the board (of trustees) that we ought to contradict success. So we'll look and see how that goes. I do favor the education of women. I do find civilizing the society of men and women together. I do think the women's colleges played an important role, and continue to, and I especially think it important that those colleges were able, when it was useful to do so, to break down the stereotypical way of thinking about student and field. When I was at Michigan State years ago, I remember vividly the bright young woman in biochemistry who said, 'I can't stand it anymore. It's such a male province over there. They patronize me. They don't mean to but they patronize me every time I come.' It was a male province because biochemistry was something men frequently chose, and women frequently chose the arts and so on. And so you had a kind of curriculum separation that I thought was really quite destructive. Now again that's pretty well behind us in coeducational places. We have as many women enrolled at Virginia Tech, for example, in the college of engineering, or more, frankly, than we do in the college of education or the college of human resources. So that's all changed in the last 10 or 15 years, and it's very healthy that it should have.



John D. Wilson (photo by Pat Hinely, W&L)

Alvin-Dennis

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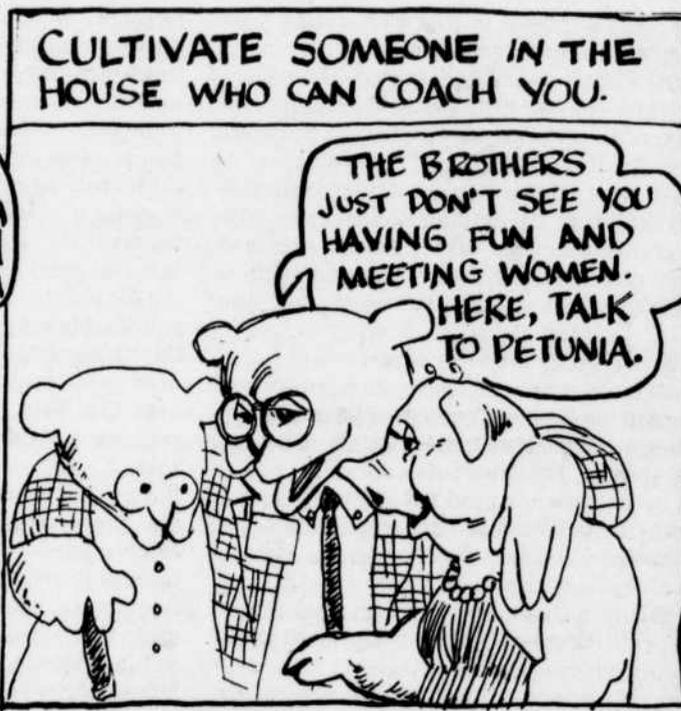
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An Angle of Vision by Betty Munger

Summer ponderings

In June, when school closed and the students left, a certain peace descended. We strolled across the campus, stopped to gossip and went about our business in a more measured fashion. Urgent crises disappeared; the Summer Workshops brought relaxed people to the campus and there was even a touch of languor.

We, in the Bookstore, attended to housekeeping chores. Inventories were checked; the University auditors were coped with; and the place was put back together again after the chaos of winter.

By July, however, a lull had set in. Book sales nearly zeroed out, and, in all honesty, things were downright dull. We began to wonder: Did Tom get that dream job in Yellowstone? Was Dick going to make enough money to go abroad next Spring term? How was Harry's rocky romance working out? Surprisingly, we began to miss the turbulence of 1300 students.

In August, the fall textbooks began to cascade down the back chute, tens of cartons at a time. The strenuous work set in: the unpacking, the pricing (Good Lord, how the prices have jumped. Be warned!) and the shelving. We were looking toward the fall and again wondering, had summer experiences offered students expanded horizons and wider perspectives? New Jokes? New Loves? stunning tans? Would they be returning with a bit more intellectual curiosity as well as that perpetual pressure for better grades? And what about the entering freshmen? That's easier: earnest, dazed at first, and quite laid back. Wonder and excitement will be carefully concealed.

A month or so ago, "The New Yorker" ran a cartoon which is now posted in the Bookstore. It shows a 1968 hippie saying, "Wow -- Like Groovy," and his 1982 coat-and-tied counterpart saying, "Gulp!"

No doubt, the world of 1982 has a lot to swallow hard about, but there is hope that this coming year will have a little less "Gulp" and a touch more "Wow!"



A long way from home

Cliff Wargellin and parents John and Altha of Birmingham, Mich., move into Graham-Lees Dormitory. (photo by Pat Hinely, W&L)

Banned books on display

The bookstore manager usually displays dictionaries and other reference books for the first weeks of class, but this year she is using her display table for a political message.

Betty Munger is showing off banned books.

The books range from "Alice in Wonderland" to "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" to "The Catcher in the Rye." And around the books Mrs. Munger has wrapped heavy chains and padlocks.

Mrs. Munger used a list of banned books provided by the National Association of College Stores, and the American Booksellers and American Library Associations. These three groups have a combined membership of more than 50,000, Mrs. Munger said.

The associations "believe that a free people, placing a high value on the freedoms of speech and thought, will not abrogate its freedom of choice in reading matter," according to a press release.

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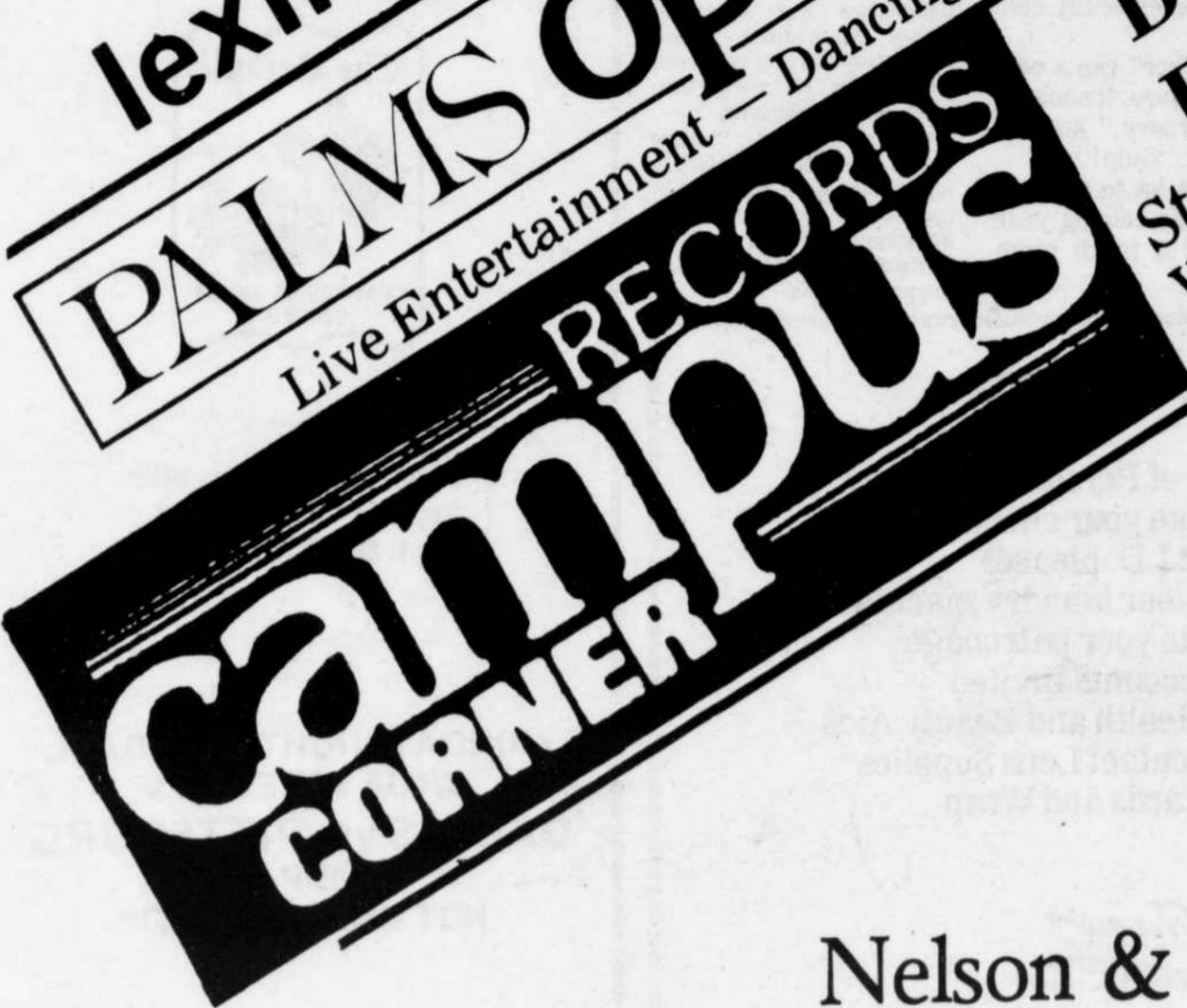
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