

Along Route '66



The Newsletter of the Class of 1966

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The winds of change are sweeping over the Hanover Plain again this fall. Most newsworthy of this month's news is the announcement by President John Sloan Dickey, at the September 23rd Convocation ceremonies, of his impending retirement. President Dickey, who will soon be completing his twenty-fifth year as the "biggest" of the "Big Greeners," plans to retire sometime in the 1969-70 academic year -- during the Bicentennial Year. A committee of Trustees has been named to look for a successor, with an advisory committee of faculty -- and maybe even a few students -- to present faculty-student opinion.

Another major administrative change in the Parkhurst Hall panoply is scheduled for June, 1969, when Dean Thaddeus Seymour plans to retire as Dean of the College after 10 years as Dean. Dean Seymour intends to remain on the faculty as Professor of English. In his announcement, Dean Seymour noted that the Deanship requires "periodic infusions of new enthusiasm, energy and resilience..." Dean Seymour, one of the most popular of Dartmouth deans during our brief tenure in Hanover (with his familiar raccoon coat and '34 Packard), has come under fire recently from some of the more radical student groups on campus.

Thus, as Dartmouth swings into its third century of existence next year, new leadership will be guiding the "College on the Hill." Symbolic, perhaps, of the "new" Dartmouth -- or a harbinger of things to come -- was the storm set off by the valedictory address last June by James W. Newton '68. Newton's comments, printed in full in the July issue of the Alumni Mag, included an exhortation to the graduating seniors to refuse to fight in Vietnam. Calling the war a "colossal stupidity, a vast international atrocity, and an expensive lesson in the futility of modern aggressive imperialism," Newton urged Dartmouth men not to "sacrifice your minds and your bodies in the service of this ignoble cause." The address set off a barrage of alumni attacks on the College and its present student body; the College defended Newton by invoking "free speech" arguments. Unfortunately, no one in the Administration went beyond the "well, we have to listen to this in the interests of freedom of expression" rationale and considered the distinct possibility that Newton may have been right, or even partly right. With approximately one-third to one-half of the Class of '68 about to be drafted for a war which a majority of the Class (of '68, at least) feels to be a "mistake," or immoral, or unnecessary, it is certainly appropriate that Newton said what he said. Perhaps, in the administrative changes about to be made in the coming year, Dartmouth will get a man who will at least listen to the arguments and thoughts of her student body. It is unlikely, but we can always hope.

Realizing that all this is controversial and open to debate, I again welcome comments from all of you. Certainly we, as recent alumni, should make our voice heard on the selection of new leadership for the College, and I am including space on the

"return mail" card for you to indicate any suggestions you may have on a new President of Dartmouth. I would also appreciate your more detailed thoughts on the type of President you would like to see, on the qualifications he should have, and on any changes you would like to see made in our College.

NEWS NOTES '66: ROMANTIC DIVISION

As usual, the summer is the time of wedding bells and engagement rings for the Class of '66. I hope all of you that have "taken the big step" in the past few months will return the enclosed card, but meanwhile reports of the following "ties that bind" are available:

WALTER STERN and Miss Elizabeth L. Lewis of Darien, Conn., planned their wedding for this past summer. Elizabeth is a graduate of Northwestern University, while Walt is in his third year at the University of Chicago Med School (home address: 172 Clayton Road, Scarsdale, N. Y. 10583).

DOUG SCARFF was married on August 10 to Ann Catherine Flynn of Saginaw, Mich., a graduate of the University of Michigan where Doug is a third-year law student. Doug's home address is c/o Donald D. Scarff, General Electric Co., 570 Lexington Ave., New York, N. Y. 10022.

A June wedding at the White Church in Hanover joined STEVE SAMAHA and Miss Sarah Winship, a Colby Jr. graduate, in matrimonial bonds. Steve is presently a third-year student at Boston University School of Law (home address: 15 Woodlawn Circle, Exeter, N. H. 03833).

With a large group of '66ers in attendance, WIN STUEBNER married Jane Christiansen (Northwestern Univ.) in Manhasset, L.I., on September 21. Win is at Northwestern Med (home address: 158 Melrose Ave., Kenilworth, Ill. 60043). Best man for the Stuebner nuptials was JAMIE MCGREGOR (Apt. 12, 405 Prince Arthur, Montreal, Que., Canada), while BILL HECKMAN, GRAEME BELL, JOHN OBERDORFER, TINK LONERGAN, and a host of Chi Phi's from all classes celebrated the event.

Future wedding plans were announced by PETER LAKE and Miss Candace Loomis of Oyster Bay, L.I. and Wellesley '68. Peter, who graduated from Boston University, and Candace plan a fall wedding. Peter's address is 253 Ocean Ave., Marblehead, Mass. 01945. Also, BOB SAUER and Miss Hettie Beth announced their engagement late last spring. Bob received his combined M.B.A.-B.E. at Dartmouth's Commencement last June, and he is now working for the Norton Company (1 New Bond St., Worcester, Mass. 01606). Hettie is from Bellport, L.I., and is a sociology major at Mt. Holyoke.

LARRY SIMMS, now serving as Lt. (jg) aboard the USS Essex (F.P.O. New York 09501), wrote that he planned to be married this past June to Miss Elisabeth Borgstrom (Wellesley '68), who will be a first-year med student at Boston Univ. this year while Larry finishes his Navy tour.

ON THE FIRING LINE

Regarding the war in Vietnam and the comments already expressed in this Newsletter, LARRY SIMMS took the time to write a thoughtful letter on the war and the death of our classmate Eric Muller, and I reprint excerpts from it:

"To separate the death of Eric Muller from the political realities which, indirectly, brought it about, is to say that the respect we should accord a man in death somehow precludes any consideration of the values which his life expressed. I introduce the word 'life' because I take strong exception to the notion that the death of any man could or should have any meaning in the conventional sense of the word. If the death of one individual, or the deaths of 20,000 individuals are necessary to crystallize the values for which they lived and worked, then death has perhaps found a meaning, but one of which few left behind could be proud. The values for which Eric lived are better known to those who were close to him, especially those who fought beside him. He participated in a war, along with countless other men, and in this participation we see, if nothing else, the quality of commitment...We are dealing, of course, with a two-sided coin; no matter how we feel about the commitment of those who fight, we are also faced with the commitment of those who, like at least one of our classmates (SKIP PEASE, in self-imposed exile in Canada--Ed.), have forfeited a birthright which can never be replaced.

"Once we place this quality of commitment in its proper context, the debate begins. The substantive merit of the war in Vietnam does become

the central issue, because it is this war which has ended the commitments of countless members of our generation in a pool of blood; it is this war which has driven some of our brothers into exile, some to prison. To bring our version of freedom to Vietnam, we have destroyed more than we have built, and we have paid a fearful price in the destruction. Many of us stand on the fringes of the war; Eric Muller's death reminds us that men are dying, but the question we must ask is the one that no one has answered satisfactorily: "Precisely what are we fighting for?" To talk of courage is not enough; to say at the end that we have lived courageous lives is meaningless if we have stood and watched our fellow men fall beside us, unable to save them for life....

"As you can see, I feel that the blood of one man, be he classmate or a Viet Cong, is too great a price to pay for what little we might be achieving in Vietnam. At the same time, I am one of those 'many' who participate passively in the war, one of those who can sit back and intellectualize ad infinitum. There is a certain feeling which many of us use to rationalize our passivity, a feeling that we as individuals can do nothing to influence the course set for us by another generation and another way of thinking. What selfish creatures we are. If the lives of Eric Muller and Skip Pease tell us anything, it is that only through such commitments will we ever come to peace; even though the goal of peace may never be reached, we should realize that their efforts led towards that goal. I suppose one does what he can."

BIG GREEN IN UNIFORM

RICK GODFREY, now Lt. (jg) Godfrey, writes to say that he is on his second cruise to Vietnam aboard the USS Boston (CAG-1) -- F.P.O. New York, N. Y. 09501. Rick also reveals that he is now engaged to Miss Carol Savage of Birmingham, Mich., and Michigan State University. Their wedding is planned for the spring of 1969. Also, JON COLBY dropped me a note to say he is presently the Communications Officer on the USS Bradley (F.P.O. San Francisco, Calif. 96601), a huge rescue destroyer deployed with the "Monster" carrier Enterprise. Jon anticipates that his tour of duty will run out in July and that he will be returning to Tuck School in the fall of 1969.

... AND ON FOREIGN SHORES

ANDY MacCORNACK "decided to come out of the bush" to mail a postcard from his Peace Corps post in West Africa -- one year in Biafra and one in Ghana. He writes: "I like it here in Ghana so I'm coming back for a second year. I'm doing my thing and having fun at the same time. My address is P.O. Box 14, Abetifi-Kwahu, Ghana, West Africa."

Also abroad this year is JIM CASON who received his M.A. in international affairs in June and will be doing some graduate study at the University of the Republic, Montevideo, Uruguay, on a Fulbright Fellowship. Jim worked this summer for the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture for International Nutrition Improvement. Jim promises a personal guided tour of Montevideo plus short-term lodging to '66ers "passing through" Montevideo this year. Contact him via the U.S. Embassy.

Finally, MILES HOFFMAN and wife Ruth joined the contingent of '66ers studying abroad this summer, as they both left for a year of research in England. Ruth received her M.A. in French from Chicago Univ. and has received a Fulbright to study Breton language and literature and medieval French at the University of Rennes, Brittany, France. Miles, with a recent Univ. of Chicago M.A. in political science in hand, will study philosophy of social science and English politics at the University of Essex. Miles' forwarding address for this year is 6138 Wayne Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19144.

AND MORE NEWS AND COMMENT

DAVE TUCKER begins his third year as a law student at Ohio State after a summer as legal assistant to the Attorney General of Ohio. Dave took time off from his legal duties to marry Pat Skowron in Woods Hole, Mass., on June 22. Dave is presently combining married life and law at 663 Eastmoor Blvd., Columbus, Ohio.

Graduation and marriage also occupied the summer of ED DAILEY. Ed finished his B.A. at Dartmouth (after two years in the Navy) in June and married Mary Grace Supple (College of New Rochelle '66) in July. Ed plans to attend Boston Univ. Law School this fall. Commenting on the Hanover scene, Ed writes:

"In the newsletter, you have noted the rise of student activism at Dartmouth. I have witnessed this phenomenon since my return to Hanover in January of 1967. For the most part, the student cause has centered about parietals with minor asides such as Dow Chemical, drugs, and armed services recruiting. Student activism has produced little more than a boring series of charges and counter-charges from student 'leaders.' Because of the proliferation of student governmental units and sub-units, there is an unfortunate lack of coordination in the student effort. Issues rapidly degenerate to personality clashes. Frankly, I am not convinced that the present generation of Dartmouth students are capable of self government. There is a real lack of concern for the community and too much self interest. And I find it regrettable that Dartmouth students are not more concerned with societal issues -- the vast majority cannot even articulately define these. I would add, however, that the high point of this year has been the Afro-Am's (Afro-American Society, a militant organization of black students at Dartmouth -- Ed.) Black Arts Festival."

Another correspondent filling us in on the '66 group at Dartmouth is Thayer School's DEAN SPATZ. Dean took the time to write a comprehensive letter on our Big Green grad students, and I appreciate hearing from him:

"First of all there are quite a few '66's still here working on their Master's degrees (this was as of last May -- Ed.). These include PETE TITCOMB, BILL RISSO, CHRIS MILLER, KARL ANDREWS, TOM BRADY, PETE LAMPROU, RICK KORNBLUM, STEVE SMITH, CORKY SPHERELY, BEN DAY and myself.

"Ben Day just got married in March and Tom Brady is getting married to Betsy Carson from Smith on June 21, in Toledo, Ohio.

"I am getting married to Carol Neiman, a '66 from the Univ of Vermont on June 29, in Oreland, Pa. Carol's a chemist with Polaroid in Cambridge now.

"Most of us '66's here will be leaving to either the service or to work this year. Chris Miller and I have continued our work on a home desalination unit and now have two or three possibilities of going into production on the unit. One way or another, I will probably go into the environmental control field (i.e. air & water pollution, sewage disposal, heating, etc.).

"As far as national news, we were all upset with the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King. Even though we live in Hanover, where the racial problems are non-prevalent, I have been in Detroit a few times in the last few weeks. I only hope someone can figure out a solution that is equitable to both law & order and civil rights so that the riots may subside.

"By the way, Chris and I will be helping to teach a course to industry up here at Thayer School on Reverse Osmosis Separation Processes. I have also heard there is a feature article about Dartmouth in a Magazine called 'Pace' but I haven't seen it yet."

Addresses of those Thayer School grads are: Titcomb-Hermit Hill, Lyme, N.H. 03768; Risso-Lyme, N. H. 03768; Andrews-Box 189, Norwich, Vt. 05055; Brady-Apt. 298-B, 3825 Breenbrier Blvd., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48105; Day-Strathmore Gardens, Apt. 88, Matawan, N.J. 07747; Kornblum-1212 Symmes Dr., E. Oak Forest, Charleston, S.C. 29407; Lamprou-3907 Madison Ave., San Diego, Calif. 92116; Smith-Apt. C-7, 24 Lest St., Marblehead, Mass. 01945; Spehrley-Loveland Rd., Norwich, Vt. 05055; and Dean Spatz's address is Aqua Technology Inc., 7711 Computer Ave., Minneapolis, Minn. 55424.

So much for what's new for this issue...I hope all of you fill out and return the enclosed postcard, letting me know what the latest is on your status--whether it be marital, educational, occupational, or military status. Also, I would appreciate any comments you have on current issues and any news you might have of other classmates. For now...have another good year.

-----s.l.s