

The Alumni Gazette
The College of

William and Mary



Summer 1979



On the Cover

"Trepanning a Recruit" (oil on canvas, 21½" by 18½") by George Morland (English, 1763-1804), is the first in a series of four entitled "The Recruit of the Deserter." In addition to the enlistment of the recruit shown here, the series depicts the deserter detected, the deserter handcuffed and conveyed to a court martial, and finally the deserter restored to his family.

Morland painted idealized scenes of rustic village life. During his lifetime his paintings were widely copied and engraved, thereby contributing to the public taste for such pictures. At least 420 of Morland's works are known to have been engraved by at least 74 English engravers. The appearance of four biographies of the artist in book form shortly after his death attests to his contemporary popularity.

Morland is represented in the collections of many major museums, including the Metropolitan, the Louvre, the Corcoran, the Tate, the Wallace Collection, and the National Galleries of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

In 1791 George Keating, an English engraver, made a mezzotint of "Trepanning a Recruit" and the three others in the series.

The painting was donated to the College Art Collection in 1976 by Mr. and Mrs. D. Christopher Taylor. It is displayed in the President's House.

Photograph by Thomas L. Williams.

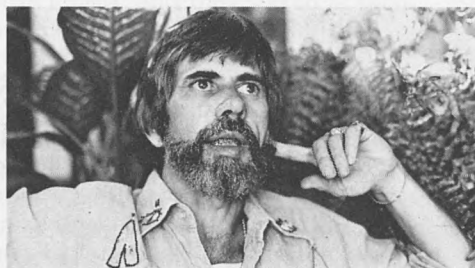
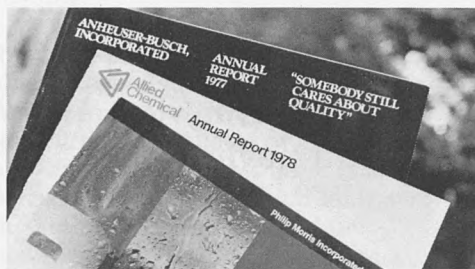
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July/August, 1979

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Charles Dickens in America

The English author had great expectations of young America, but instead found a "loathsome creature" he would never forget.

By Michael Nelson '71

"Why can not you go down to Bristol," Lady Holland protested to Charles Dickens when he told her of his plans to visit America, "and see some of the third and fourth-class people, and they'll do just as well?"

"Aren't there disagreeable enough people to describe in Blackburn and Leeds?" Albany Fonblanque seconded.

The United States was not much favored among the English aristocracy of 1842, but the 30-year-old Dickens had--forgive the expression--great expectations of the new nation. He thoroughly approved of America's revolution against "that swine-headed anointed of the Lord--his Majesty King George the Third," and wrote that he had been there in his

"day-dreams many times" and "yearned to know" its people better. Above all, Dickens hoped that somehow America's idealistic origins, vast and rich territories, and very newness had combined to produce a society free of the English-style political villainy and social corruption he had described in novels like *Oliver Twist*. With these hopes in mind, he proposed to Chapman and Hall, his receptive publishers, a post-voyage book that would set the Fonblanques and Lady Hollands of the world straight about the United States.

America also had high hopes for Dickens, by far its favorite author. People had liked his *Pickwick Papers* and *Barnaby Rudge* well enough, but they fell head over heels in love with Little Nell, the heroine of *The Old Curiosity Shop*; on the day the last installment of the serial novel was due by ship from England, New Yorkers gathered at quayside, shouting to sailors on board the still-docking vessel to tell them whether Nell had died, then weeping at the answer. The reception Dickens and his wife Catherine received upon arrival in Boston on January 22 was tumultuous. "There was never a King or Emperor upon the earth so cheered and followed by crowds," he wrote home to a friend; a French newspaper puzzled over the enthusiasm of Boston's welcome, then decided that it was a "curious problem of social physiology" which defied solution.

Yet only a year later, after his return home, Dickens would describe America in *Martin Chuzzlewit* as

"that Republic...so maimed and lame, so full of sores and ulcers. . . that her best friends turn from the loathsome creature with disgust." He peopled the novel with characters whose names alone adequately convey their repulsive nature: Congressman Eligjah Pogram, General Cyrus Choke, Hannibal Chollop, La Fayette Kettle, Mrs. Hominy, and Zephaniah Scadder, among them. Dickens attacked many of its places, too: Cairo, Illinois, for example, he called "a slimy monster hideous to behold"; the Mississippi River "an enormous ditch [of] running liquid mud"; the prairie "oppressive in its barren monotony"; and Washington, D.C. "the headquarters of tobacco-tinctured saliva."

Clearly familiarity had bred contempt for America, but how? What had happened during Dickens's trip to turn him against the new Eden he had imagined?

Whatever went wrong, it did not happen in New England. Dickens was stunned by the prosperity he saw there. "A flaming sword in the air would not attract as much attention as a beggar in the streets," he wrote in a letter home. Though Boston society was a bit nonplussed by Dickens's manners--his habit of combing his curly hair at the table and his fondness for green and crimson velvet evening wear--he found its "tone" to be "one of perfect politeness, courtesy, and good breeding" and the company of callers such as James Russell Lowell, Richard Henry Dana, Charles Sumner, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow to be

Michael Nelson, who received his bachelor's degree in government from William and Mary in 1971, is an assistant professor of political science at Vanderbilt University. He is a contributing editor of *The Washington Monthly* and has written numerous articles for the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *The Nation*, *Newsweek* and *The Washington Post Magazine*. He is also co-editor of *The Culture of Bureaucracy*, published in 1978. Nelson's interest in Dickens originated at William and Mary in a class taught by James Marlowe, a professor in the College's English department. He said the College's "flexibility" allowed him to take Marlowe's senior seminar in 1970.

delightful. The social crusader who had passionately attacked the asylums, prisons, workhouses, orphanages, and schools of England found their New World equivalents to be "ruled by the strong Heart, not by the strong (though immeasurably weaker) Hand." After visiting the new industrial city of Lowell, Massachusetts, he wrote that any comparison between the living and working conditions there and those in industrial England would be between "the living light and deepest shadow."

However auspicious the beginning, though, things started going downhill almost immediately after. For years, American newspapers had been reprinting installments of Dickens's novels without permission or compensation, a practice which infuriated the author. Dickens attacked the newspapers in a speech; the papers struck back; and they stayed at each others' throats for the rest of his six-month trip. With Rupert Murdoch-like zeal, the American press reported every discovered or rumored item of Dickens and his wife's affairs, however personal or private. Unable to fight back at the time (though he tried), Dickens later showed his disdain by naming the fictional newspapers in *Martin Chuzzlewit* the *Sewer*, *Stabber*, *Family Spy*, *Private Listener*, *Peeper*, *Plunderer*, *Keyhole Reporter*, and *Rowdy Journal*.

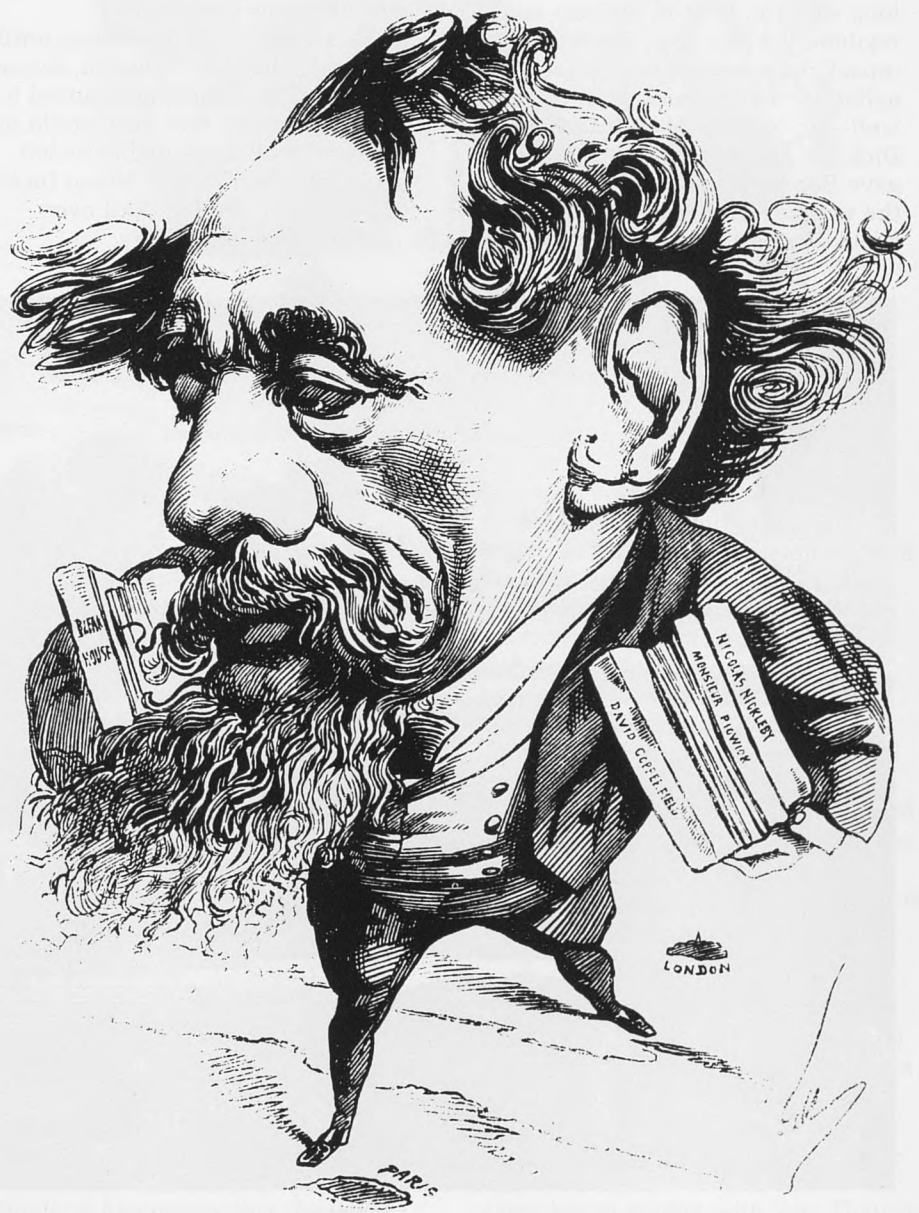
New York, despite a happy meeting with Washington Irving, brought disappointments, too. There, for the first time in America, he saw squalor--slum neighborhoods, pigs wallowing in the streets, and public institutions much like those in England. The Tombs, a prison for suspects awaiting trial, was especially revolting to Dickens: "a place, quite unsurpassed in all the vice, neglect, and devilry of the worst old town in Europe." Seeing the inmates' clothing lying on the floors of their cells, he asked a guard why they had no hooks to hang them on. "When they had hooks they would hang themselves," the guard replied blandly. Philadelphia's Eastern Penitentiary was equally horrifying, for though relatively clean and comfortable, it kept all its prisoners in solitary confinement for the entire length of their sentences. "On the haggard face of every man. . .," Dickens saw "a kind of horror, as though they had all been secretly terrified."

After a while, Dickens tired of his celebrity status. He complained in a

letter to his friend John Forster that he couldn't go out without being mobbed, or stay in without getting besieged by callers. "I go to church for quiet, and there is a violent rush to the neighborhood of the pew I sit in, and the clergyman preaches at me. . . [I] can't drink a glass of water without having a hundred people looking down my throat when I open my mouth to swallow. . . By every post, letters on letters arrive, all about nothing, and all demanding an immediate answer. . . I have no peace, and am in perpetual worry." Nineteenth-century "groupies" followed him, snipping off fur from his coat and begging locks of his hair.

Thus, after New York, Dickens decided to avoid public receptions. Still, when a Philadelphia politician by the name of Colonel Lancer called to ask if he could bring by a couple of his friends, the author reluctantly assented.

The next morning, Dickens looked out his hotel window with astonishment on a crowd of 600. Colonel Lancer had taken Dickens's answer as an excuse to send word to the press that the Englishman would be holding open house to "shake hands with his friends," courtesy of the colonel. Indignant, Dickens declared he would have no part of it, relenting only when his terrified landlord



In a cartoon by Gill, a weary Dickens carries several of his works.

warned him that a riot would ensue.

A local paper described the ill-starred event to his readers:

"Imagine the illustrious Boz, standing in one corner of the room. [Members of the crowd] pass in one door, Indian file, and after stopping to do the shaking, and express their opinion on the state of the weather, pass out in the same order through the other door.

"Everybody is excited, and some are so agitated as to be scarcely able to inform the introducing member what their names are. This was the case of an individual who bore the name of Brooks. On coming into the room, the introducing individual asked the individual his name.

"'Brooks,' replied he, in a tremulous whisper. 'Dukes, did you say?' rejoined the first. 'No, Brooks,' repeated the second in still greater agitation. 'Oh, Snooks, is it, very well--Mr. Snooks, Mr. Dickens, Mr. Dickens, Mr. Snooks.' Mr. Brooks gave Boz his hand and looked out of the window. Boz smiled fatiguedly, shook the proffered hand feebly and

"Well, what has he been doing?" said she. "He ain't been doing nothin'," answered the man; "he writes books." "Oh," said the woman indignantly, "is that all?"

let it fall, when Mr. Brooks put it in his pocket and walked off as if he had been doing something he would not like to be caught at."

This went on for two hours until Dickens, pleading ill-health, excused himself. The colonel announced to his constituents that they would have to leave, as Boz wanted to be left alone in "their" room. When Dickens checked out, the landlord overcharged him for his stay.

Dickens headed south through Baltimore where, while waiting at the station for his train to Washington to leave, a crowd of men and boys gathered outside his railroad car, "thrust in their heads and shoulders; hooked themselves conveniently, by their elbows; and fell to comparing notes on the subject of my personal appearance, with as much indifference as if I were a stuffed figure."

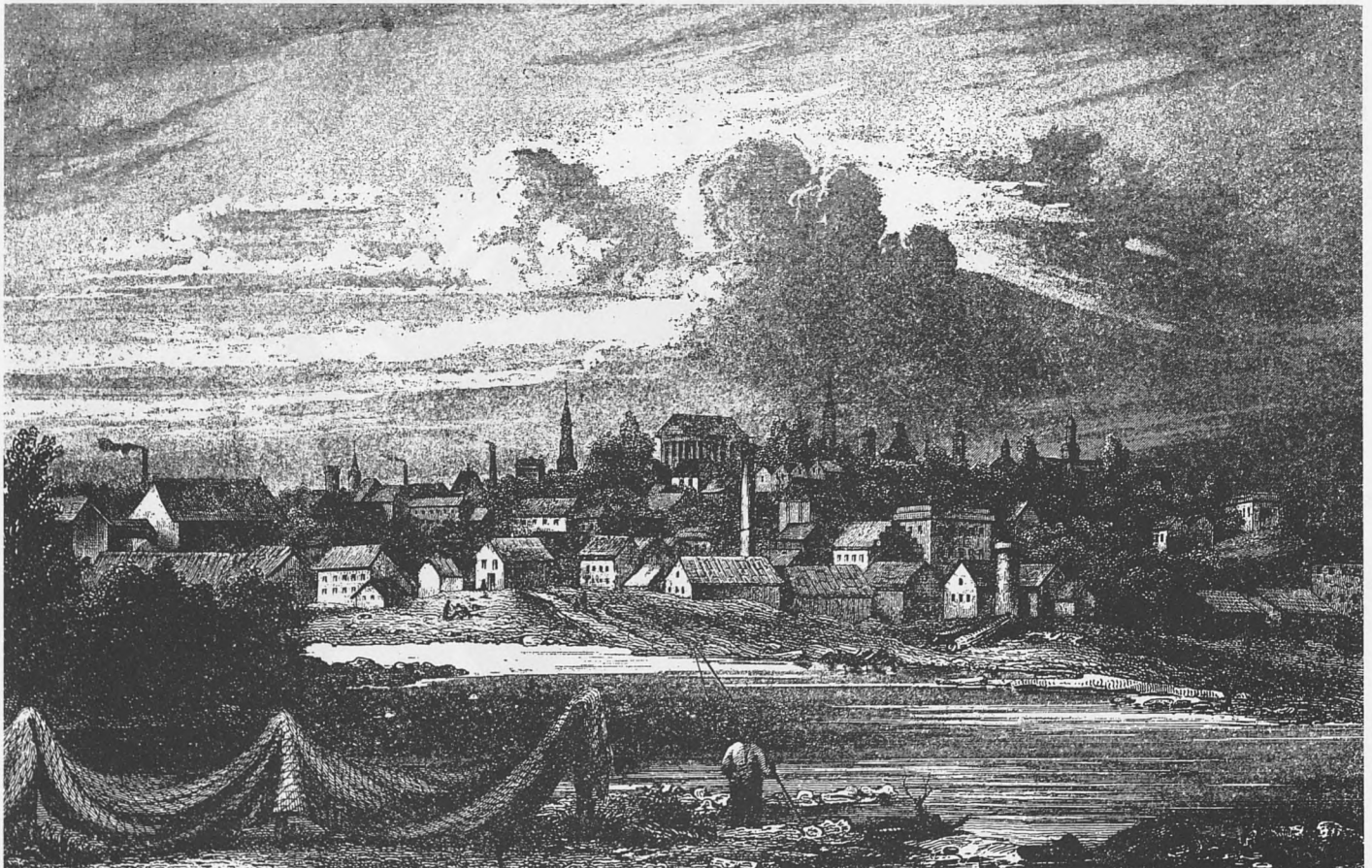
In true Baltimore style, a market woman ambled by and demanded to know what the fuss was all about. "Why," said a man, "it's Dickens. They've got him here!"

"Well, what has he been doing?" said she.

"He ain't been doing nothin'," answered the man; "he writes books."

"Oh," said the woman indignantly, "is that all? What should they make such a row about that for, I should like to know?"

Perhaps more than anything, though, it was Washington that disillusioned Dickens with America. Dickens and his wife arrived on a



A steel engraving dated 1852 shows Richmond much like Dickens would have seen it from the James River.

stifling-hot March 9 and took rooms at Fuller's (later the Willard) Hotel, then a sprawling two-story building with tiny rooms and a bell in the rear to summon servants who, according to Dickens, never came. Early the next morning he rose and, as he almost always did, walked around the city for several hours.

Physically, Washington had little to commend it in those days. "It is sometimes called the City of Magnificent Distances," he would write in his travelog, *American Notes* (the erstwhile pro-American book he had planned), "but it might with greater propriety be termed the City of Magnificent Intentions; for it is only on taking a bird's-eye view of it from the top of the Capitol, that one can at all comprehend the vast designs of its projector, an aspiring Frenchman. Spacious avenues that begin in nothing, and lead nowhere; streets, mile-long, that want only houses, roads, and inhabitants; public buildings that need but a public to be complete; and ornaments of great thoroughfares, which lack only great thoroughfares to ornament are its leading features."

But Dickens's real objection to Washington was to its inhabitants, not its streets and buildings. When his traveling secretary, Thomas Putnam, pointed out a senator and said, "That, sir, is one of the most remarkable men in the country," Dickens replied sarcastically: "Good God, Mr. P., they are all so! I have scarcely met a man since my arrival who wasn't one of the most remarkable men in the country!" A few impressed him--John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay, and John C. Calhoun, among them--but even Daniel Webster seemed a pompous, posing windbag.

Dickens went over to the White House to meet President John Tyler (a process so simple in those days that when Dickens rang the bell and no one answered, he strolled right in). Though Dickens publicly described the President as "remarkably unaffected, gentlemanly, and agreeable," their meeting was almost comical in its awkwardness. Tyler began by expressing his surprise that Dickens was so young. Dickens thought of returning the compliment, but as Tyler was 52 and looked much older, he did not. Tyler welcomed him to America; Dickens thanked him; they shook hands. The two men then sat and looked at each other in silence for some time until,



Dickens caricatured as various characters from his novels.

at last, Dickens excused himself and left.


Dickens was even less pleased with the crowd of politicians lounging about the White House lobby. "The greater portion of this assemblage were rather asserting their supremacy than doing anything else," he observed, "as they had no particular business there, that everybody knew of. A few were closely eyeing the moveables, as if to make quite sure that the President (who was far from popular) had not made away with any of the furniture, or sold the fixtures for his private benefit." All, apparently, were spitting tobacco juice everywhere but into the spittoon, an American practice that made Dickens ill.

Dickens also observed the House of Representatives; after several unhappy days of this he came to see "in them the wheels that move the meanest perversion of virtuous Political Machinery that the worst tools ever wrought. Despicable trickery at elections; under-handed tamperings with public officers; cowardly attacks upon opponents, . . . shameful truckling to mercenary

knaves, . . . aidings and abettings of every bad inclination in the popular mind, and artful suppression of all of its good influences: such things as these, and in a word, Dishonest Faction in its most depraved and unblushing form, stared out from every corner of the crowded hall." Amount Dickens's other timeless diagnoses of Congress: "The feature in oratory which appears to be the most practised, and the most relished, is the constant repetition of the same idea or shadow of an idea in fresh words; and the inquiry out of doors is not, 'What did he say?' but, 'How long did he speak?'"

Nothing repelled Dickens more, though, than the sight of slavery in the capital of this nation "conceived in liberty." "Lord love you, sir," says an English visitor to America in *Martin Chuzzlewit*, "they're so fond of liberty in this part of the globe, that they buy her and sell her and carry her to market with 'em. They've such a passion for Liberty, that they can't help taking liberties with her."

Thoroughly disenchanted, Dickens ended his visit to Washington on March 16. He wrote in despair to his



Private Theatricals.

COMMITTEE,

Mrs. TORRENS.
W. C. ERMATINGER, Esq. | Mrs. PERRY.
Captain TORRENS.

THE EARL OF MULGRAVE.

STAGE MANAGER--MR. CHARLES DICKENS.

QUEBY'S THEATRE, MONTREAL.

ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 25TH, 1842,
WILL BE PERFORMED,

A ROLAND FOR AN OLIVER.

MRS. SELBORNE.	<i>Mrs. Torrens</i>
MARIA DARLINGTON.	<i>Miss Griffin</i>
MRS. FIXTURE.	<i>Miss Ermatinger</i>
MR. SELBORNE.	<i>Lord Mulgrave</i>
ALFRED HIGHFLYER.	<i>Mr. Charles Dickens</i>
SIR MARK CHASE.	<i>Mr. Charles Dickens</i>
FIXTURE.	<i>Mr. Charles Dickens</i>
GAMEKEEPER.	<i>Captain Willoughby</i>
	<i>Captain Brantley</i>

AFTER WHICH, AN INTERLUDE IN ONE SCENE, (FROM THE FRENCH) CALLED

Past Two O'clock in the Morning.

THE STRANGER.	<i>Captain Brantley</i>
MR. SNOBBINGTON.	<i>Mr. Charles Dickens</i>

TO CONCLUDE WITH THE FARCE, IN ONE ACT, ENTITLED

DEAF AS A POST.

MRS. PLUMPLEY.	<i>Mrs. Torrens</i>
AMY TEMPLETON.	<i>Mr. Charles Dickens</i>
SOPHY WALTON.	<i>Mr. Torrens</i>
SALLY MAGGS.	<i>Miss Griffin</i>
CAPTAIN TEMPLETON.	<i>Captain Brantley</i>
MR. WALTON.	<i>Captain Willoughby</i>
TRISTRAM SAPPY.	<i>Mr. Charles Dickens</i>
CRUPPER.	<i>Mr. Charles Dickens</i>
GALLOP.	<i>Mr. Charles Dickens</i>

MONTREAL, May 24, 1842. GAZETTE OFFICE

A playbill created for a production staged in Montreal in 1842. The actors' names were written in by Dickens and they include his wife in the part of Amy Templeton in "Deaf as a Post."

friend, William Macready, the English actor who was minding his children: "It is no use, I am disappointed. This is not the republic of my imagination. . . I believe the heaviest blow ever dealt at Liberty's head, will be dealt by this nation in the ultimate failure of its example to the Earth."

"See what is passing now," he continued. "Look at the exhausted

Treasury; the paralyzed Government; the uncouth representatives of a free people; the desperate contests between the North and the South; the iron curb and brazen muzzle fastened on every man who speaks his mind, even in that Republican Hall [the Capitol], to which Republican men are sent by a Republican people to speak Republican truths--the stabblings and shootings, and coarse and

brutal threatenings exchanged between Senators under the very Senate's roof--the intrusion of the most pitiful, mean, malicious, creeping crawling party spirit, into all transactions of life, . . . the silly, drivelling, slanderous, wicked, monstrous, Party Press."

"Republican men sent by a Republican people," were at the heart of Dickens's disappointment--the source of crude, selfish, hypocritical behavior in Washington and, ultimately, of all the public evils he had seen since leaving New England. But Dickens had yet to meet very many of those "republican people"; his company thus far had been drawn almost entirely from the educated classes, whom Dickens found to be "frank, brave, cordial, hospitable, and affectionate."

He met them soon enough as he journeyed west, however, and quickly confirmed (at least to his own satisfaction) his theory that America's glaring faults sprung from its "mass." (The early spring heat and "the pain of living in the constant contemplation of slavery" caused Dickens to put off most of his plans to travel south, though he did insist on visiting Virginia.

"His flesh crawled with moral revulsion during the entire three days that he spent in Virginia," writes Edgar Johnson, the supreme Dickens biographer. Dickens took a steamboat down the Potomac to near Fredericksburg, then traveled to Richmond by train. His bitter comment on the barren countryside, denuded by excessive tobacco-growing: "Dreary and uninteresting as its aspect was, I was glad to the heart to find anything on which one of the curses of this horrible institution [slavery] has fallen." Richmond itself moved him to less acid simile: "[J]ostling its handsome residences, like slavery itself going hand in hand with many lofty virtues, are deplorable tenelements, fences unrepaired, walls crumbling into ruinous heaps." The penalty for teaching a slave to read, he learned, was greater than that for maiming one.

Traveling west through Harrisburg, Pittsburgh (by canal boat, sleeping on a 16-inch wide shelf), and Cincinnati, then down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to St. Louis and back, Dickens found himself cooped up for days at a time with boatloads of ordinary people; the West, after all, was far less stratified and refined than the Northeast, and he could not very well avoid them.

Several things about the "mass" impressed Dickens unfavorably. Their "Universal Distrust" of all things foreign or even different was one, and from that he derived his explanation for what he had witnessed in Washington: candidates for Congress who pandered to rampant public suspicions got elected and went to the capital, while worthy men stayed out of politics for fear of being dragged through the mud. "You no sooner set up an idol firmly," he told Americans in *Note*, "than you pull it down and dash it into fragments: and this, because directly you reward a benefactor, or a public servant, you distrust him, merely because he is rewarded."

Nor did Dickens much appreciate the materialism of America's common people. "All their cares, hopes, joys, affections, virtues, and associations seemed to be melted down into dollars. . . ." he wrote in *Chuzzlewit*. "Men were weighed by their dollars, measures gauged by their dollars; life was auctioneered, appraised, put up, and knocked down for its dollars."

In Dickens's view, materialism was the wellspring of other American vices. Of anti-intellectualism, for example: "We are a busy people, sir," huffs one of his characters, "and have no time for reading mere notions." Of "the love of 'smart' dealing: which gilds over many a swindle and gross breach of trust." (Dickens himself had been fleeced in a western land deal a few years earlier.) Of dullness and sameness: "Such leaden people; such systematic plodding weary un-supportable heaviness; such a mass of animated indigestion in respect of all that was genial, jovial, frank, social, or hearty; never, sure, was brought together elsewhere since the world began."

There were other things about Americans that Dickens disliked, especially their inflated self-importance. "We are the intellect and virtue of the airth," says the fictional Hannibal Chollop, "the cream of human natur', and the flower of moral force."

As for American manners, he thought them worse, if anything, than its morals. The people he observed bolted their food ravenously and in stony silence, rarely washed, and sprayed tobacco juice around indiscriminately. They conversed only about money and politics. "I really think my face has acquired a fixed expression of sadness from the constant and unmitigated boring I endure." Dickens found traveling in



The earliest known photograph of Dickens from a daguerreotype by Umbek made during the author's trip to America in 1843.

close quarters with the westerners almost unbearable, and sometimes jogged outside the over-heated coaches as they moved along.

Dickens eventually made his way back east, and set sail for England on June 6. Still smarting from press attacks, he penned *American Notes* and *Martin Chuzzlewit* in short order. Undoubtedly, he judged us too harshly, but Dickens was a man who saw the world and its inhabitants as black or white, good or evil. When the United States failed to fulfill his inflated expectations of it, he bitterly

took to the opposite extreme.

One can find, in Dickens's observations if not all his opinions, the roots of much that is America today. In some things, of course, he was remarkably unprescient--the Washington he saw, for example, was little more than an overgrown small town, leading him to predict that: "Such as it is, it is likely to remain. . . Few people would live in Washington, I take it, who were not obliged to reside there; and the tides of emigration and speculation, those rapid and regardless currents, are

little likely to flow at any time toward such dull and sluggish waters."

Dickens would no doubt be surprised, too, if he tried to amble into the White House unannounced. And were he to get an appointment with *this* southern president, he would find him briefed and surrounded by aides and reporters, all basking in the flood lights of the television cameras.

But America is still, in many of its essentials, what it was 137 years ago: a young country, unbound by centuries of tradition and social order, that has dared to attempt a society that values both liberty and equality, both patriotism and ethnic pride, both openness and order. Because America had reached for so much, its enthusiastic friendliness sometimes crossed the line into pushiness, as it still does; its receptiveness to new things and ideas sometimes retreated into suspicion of what is foreign; its pride became pomposity, and its envy of what is good in Mother England was suppressed by its need to proclaim constantly its superiority.

Dickens saw all this during his first tour in 1842, but it was not until he returned to America a quarter-century later that he understood it. Americans had surprised him. Even after he attacked them in print, they continued to buy and read his books with as much fervor as ever. When Dickens began giving public readings from his works in Great Britain in 1864, offers flooded in from the United States inviting him to do the same there. Impressed, astonished, and above all, eager to make money (so much for *American* materialism), he consented, starting his tour in Boston in 1867. His performances were sold out instantly to people who either had camped overnight at the ticket booths or paid scalpers 10 times and more the original price; the capacity crowds cheered him wildly.

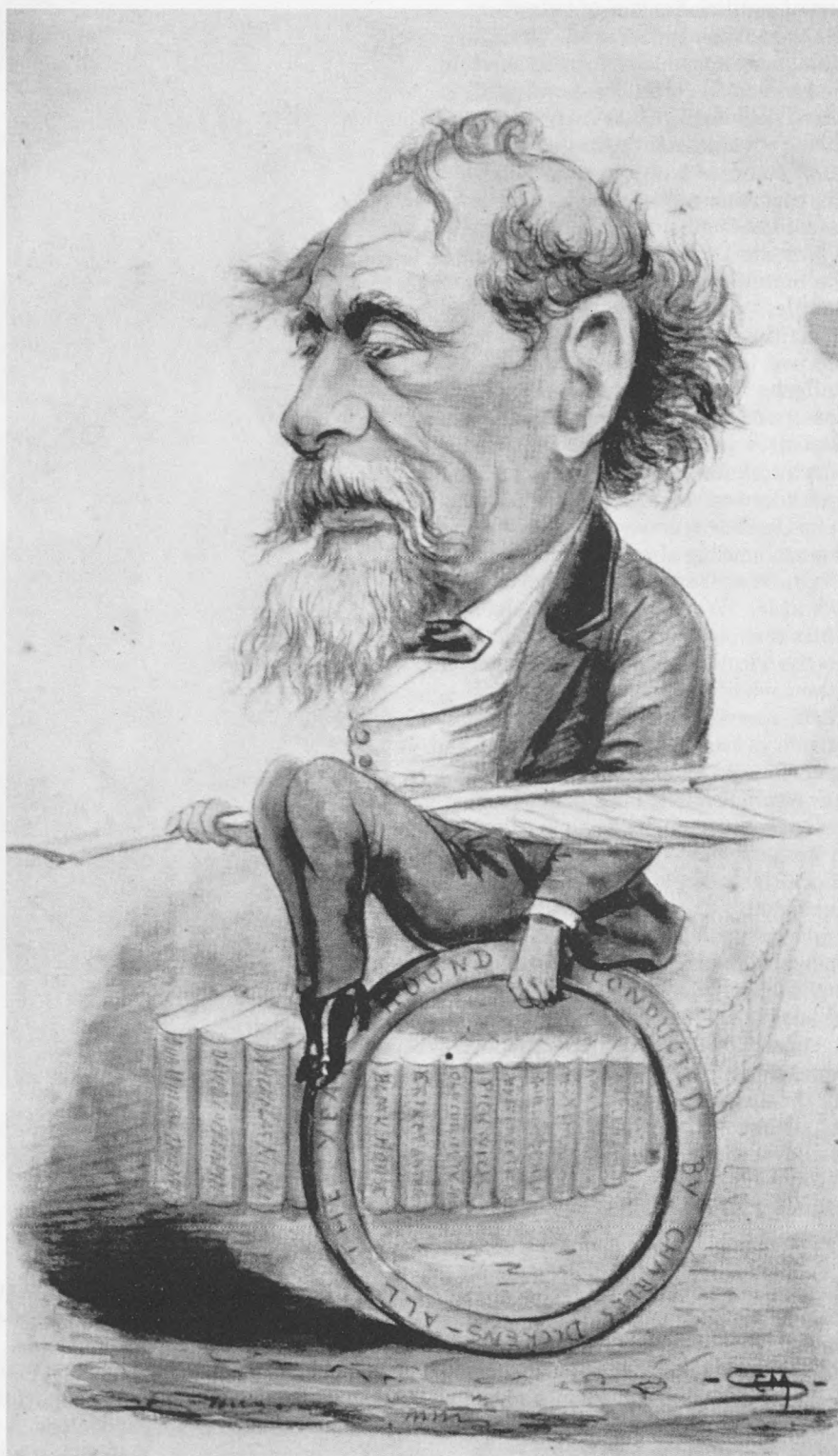
Dickens even returned to Washington (after sending an agent down to check out Horace Greeley's warning that it was "now full of the greatest rowdies and worst kind of people in the States"). Washington was now, to his amazement, flourishing; however errant Dickens's forecast, his readings were received enthusiastically by audiences that included President Andrew Johnson.

The tour (which almost killed Dickens, so poor was his health and so great the strain of performance) concluded six months later with a

farewell dinner at New York's Delmonico's. Dickens declared himself "astonished by the amazing changes I have seen on every side"--the rise of new cities, the improvements in manners and morals, even the advancement of the press.

"Nor," he concluded, "am I, believe me, so arrogant as to suppose

that in five and 20 years there have been no changes in me, and that I had nothing to learn and no extreme impressions to correct when I was here first." Lest these words be taken as idle, Dickens ordered that they be included in all future editions of *American Notes* and *Martin Chuzzlewit*.



A cartoon of Dickens inspired by his "All the Year Round."

What Does the Public Deserve to Know About Big Business?

Today more firms provide social disclosure to the public, but the information remains generalized, simplistic and glossy.

By Robert Bloom

In recent years many business firms have been reporting on their activities in the social domain. Among the social issues addressed in contemporary annual financial reports are pollution control, equal opportunity employment, and product safety. Nevertheless, few companies are preparing and furnishing accountability statements to the public.

Social reporting is predicated on the fact that corporations derive their charters from, and therefore owe their existence to, the state (society). Consequently, corporations are implicitly required to be socially conscious. If they engage in socially irresponsible pursuits, they should be impelled to refrain from such actions, if not compensate for the damages their actions have caused, or else face the loss of their charters, which authorize their existence. For its benefit, society allows corporations to exist. However, if they fail, on balance, to live up to their social and economic responsibilities, then they injure rather than help society.

The fundamental objectives of accounting include the provision of information to assist parties in making financial decisions. Account-

ing exists as a discipline because of uncertainty confronting financial decision makers. Accounting information is intended to assuage the problem of uncertainty although, paradoxically, accounting statistics are plagued with uncertainty; in addition, conveying too much information in financial statements may induce information overload on the part of readers, which probably augments rather than reduces uncertainty.

Besides facilitating decision making, accounting has a stewardship role pertaining to the custody and maintenance of resources. That is, management is accountable to investors and creditors for use of their funds. The effectiveness and efficiency with which the resources are utilized also comprise stewardship in a more comprehensive way. Effectiveness is concerned with the achievement of pre-specified, target objectives whereas efficiency reflects the degree of waste in utilizing inputs to produce the actual outputs.

Perhaps the most refined form of stewardship is social accountability. Accordingly, it might be said that social responsibility is closely connected with the objectives of providing information for stewardship and decision making. Stewardship information is not desired as an end *per se*, but rather to facilitate decision making such as whether to buy, hold, or sell shares of stock in a corporation or whether to lend or deny credit to the firm. The rationale behind the information-providing function of accounting is the efficient

allocation of resources throughout the economy, which is a socioeconomic goal.

Recent literature on the economics of social costs and benefits has pointed to the need for reporting such data in financial reports, in order to optimize welfare. Information pertaining to social costs and benefits has generally been ignored in accounting, though it should be disclosed for the purpose of providing useful data to various readers. Omission of this data may well leave a significant part of the firm's activities untold. Furthermore, it may be a matter of self interest for companies to furnish such disclosure insofar as the presentation serves to enhance their public image and thereby facilitate greater product acceptability.

Suppose a company pollutes a river by dumping waste material. This action exemplifies an "externality" if a third party--the public at large--is hurt and the culprit firm does not compensate the public for the damage done. Without incurring the corresponding private cost, the company is reaping a private benefit. Assuming the firm fails to reflect the social costs of that action in its financial reports, the readers of those reports would undoubtedly get a misimpression of the total performance of the firm. Currently, there is greater likelihood that social costs will become private costs to companies engaging in socially irresponsible actions.

Underlying the social importance of financial statements is the "theory

Robert Bloom joined the faculty at the School of Business Administration as an assistant professor in 1976. He received his bachelor's degree from Queens College of the City University of New York, his MBA degree from Columbia University, and his doctorate from New York University.

of the right-to-know"--information to one is information to all--accentuating the public's right to full disclosure in financial reports. Accordingly, social disclosure should serve to provide additional information about the firm's overall performance, not just the bright spots; derogatory information about the firm should not be omitted.

Consistent with the concept behind social disclosure is the proposed *events* theory of accounting which calls for provision of a smorgasbord of presumably relevant, disaggregated information in the financial reports, pertaining to past, current, and expected events of the firm. Although most of this data is characterized by considerable uncertainty, it should be disclosed because of its presumed relevance.

The case against social disclosure in corporate financial statements can be summarized in terms of several key questions: Is it too ambitious for accountants to attempt to assess the impact of the firm on society? How complex should the measures or indicators be? How may social costs, not to mention social benefits, be quantified? Would the data be particularly iffy and uncertain, based on many value judgments in the measurement process? Would there be many inconsistencies from firm to firm since there are no generally accepted accounting principles in social accounting? How can social data be attested to? An unfavorable response to each of the foregoing questions reflects the negative side of social disclosure in financial reports.

Examples of Social Disclosure

Several examples of social disclosure by major corporations are provided below from their 1977 annual reports. To begin with, in the area of environmental protection, Western Electric presents the following descriptive and numerical disclosure:

Conserving materials through recycling has been a way of life in the Company for over fifty years. During the year we added two new recycling procedures to our repertoire. One technique to recycle the excess plastic produced during normal cable manufacture is saving

The case against social disclosure in corporate financial statements can be summarized in terms of several key questions: Is it too ambitious for accountants to attempt to assess the impact of the firm on society? How complex should the measures or indicators be?

800,000 pounds of polyethylene annually, the equivalent of 230,000 gallons of oil.

On the subject of energy conservation, Dow Chemical has instituted an energy accounting system which it characterizes as follows in its annual report:

When it was first introduced, the system was unique in the industry, and still is considered the most comprehensive energy use monitoring system. A by-product of the manufacturing cost accounting system, the energy accounting system provides a computer printout production report, which each plant superintendent can use to monitor frequently the total BTU consumption and energy efficiency of the plant.

Anheuser-Busch furnishes another illustration of environmental conservation:

Anheuser-Busch continues to exert industry leadership in efforts to find solutions to the nation's problems of litter, solid waste management and resources recovery. The company joined other progressive-minded firms and labor unions in 1970 to found the National Center for Resource Recovery, Inc. and continues to support this non-profit organization in its efforts to research, develop and test systems designed to recover energy and other valuable resources from the consumer waste stream. Additionally, the company is active in supporting and furthering

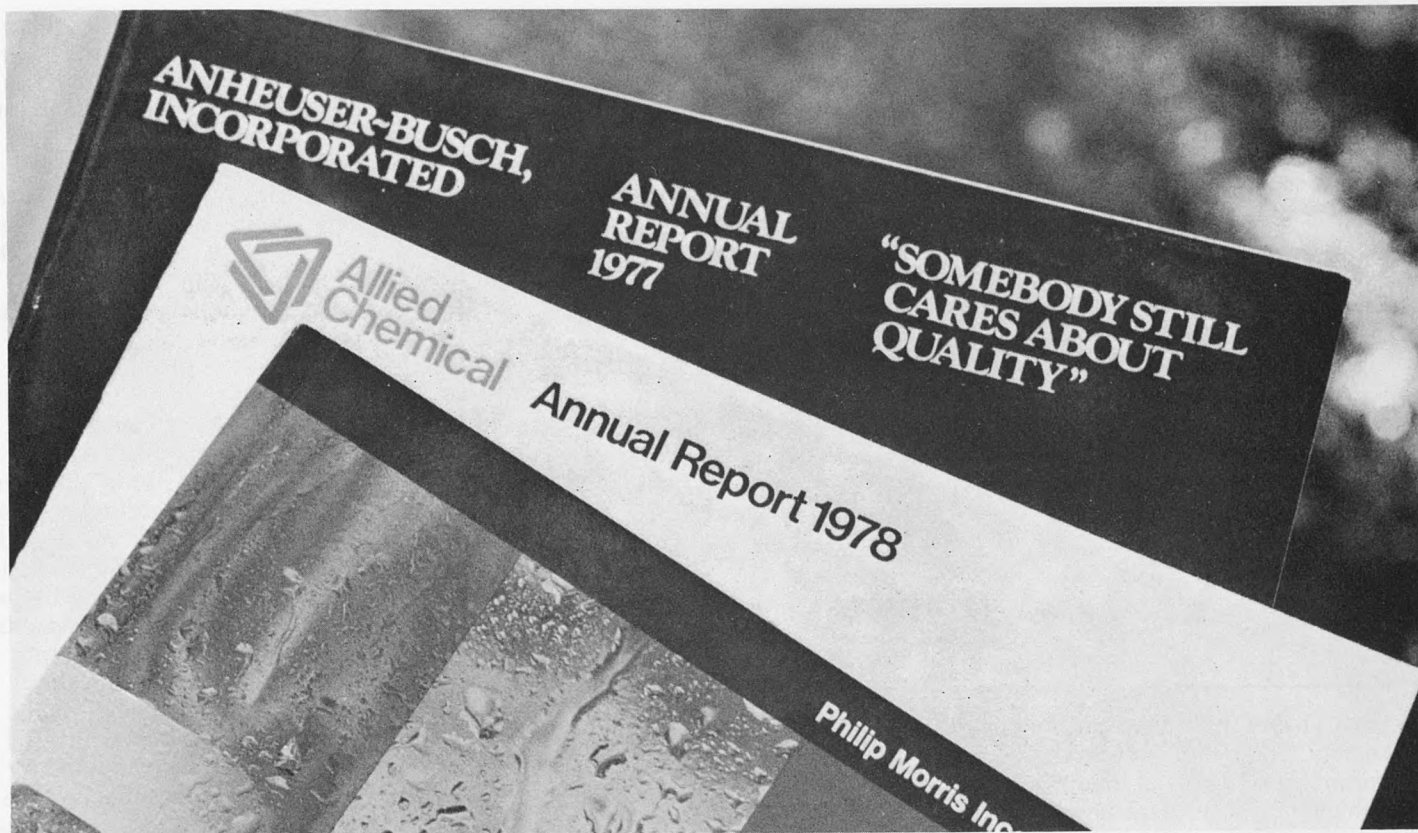
the United States Brewers Association's aggressive anti-litter programs, particularly the successful "Pitch In for Positive Litter Reduction" campaign, now operational in approximately 500 U.S. cities.

In the realm of community participation, Mutual of New York (MONY), an insurance company, offers the following descriptive disclosure of its activities:

During 1977, MONY continued its normal contributions in support of art, education and other projects of social significance. In addition, corporate responsibility was demonstrated in a variety of activities . . . The Chair of Creative Leadership at the American College, Bryn Mawr, Pa., continued to be supported by MONY president James S. Bingay shortly before his death in 1976; the Chair has been endowed as a memorial to Mr. Bingay for the purpose of identifying and developing qualities of leadership in insurance professionals. By the end of 1977, employees and Field Underwriters had pledged more than \$460,000 to the Chair with MONY pledged to contribute an additional \$410,000.

On the subject of employee safety, Allied Chemical contends:

The safety of Allied Chemical operations improved substantially in 1977. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) record-



Several corporations are moving in the right direction toward social disclosure. But how much and how fast?

able injury and illness rates declined by 43 percent, from 5.4 to 3.05 per 100 employees. Allied Chemical was 33 percent below the chemical industry as a whole in OSHA recordable injuries and illnesses and 28 percent below in lost workday cases.

International Telephone and Telegraph also provides a human-resource disclosure:

The ITT Alcoholism Program has been cited by a major magazine as one of the best in the U.S. It is part of ITT's Behavioral/Medical Program currently being implemented throughout North America. The program offers employees confidential counseling and assistance on alcoholism as well as a full range of emotionally based problems.

Discussing its objective of promoting women to higher levels of management, Phillip Morris observes:

Minorities now account for 15.6% of our sales force, up from 9.0% five years ago. Women today account for 9.1%

of our officials and managers; five years ago they accounted for 6.6%. Women today hold 22.3% of our professional jobs, compared with 13.3% five years ago.

In regard to financial counseling for employees before retirement, McDonnell Douglas started a pre-retirement planning seminar with a view towards stimulating "employees between ages 40 and 55 to begin a financial plan for supplementing their retirement income . . ."

Pertaining to product disclosures, Sperry & Hutchinson observes:

During the year, Bigelow launched its Consumer Confidence Program, an aggressive effort to address a number of consumer concerns related to carpet purchases. The most informative consumer service program in the carpet industry, it includes the application of Scotchgard carpet protector to all residential carpets, a labeling system that grades carpets according to their suitability for use in particular areas of the home, plus consumer information displays in carpet stores

and a series of publications that give advice on carpet selection, care and decorating.

Another product-oriented disclosure is made by the Chemical Bank of New York in reference to its credit programs which include "reduced-rate loans for improving home energy efficiency as well as an automobile loan based on fuel efficiency."

Finally, Atlantic Richfield Corporation issued a special social report not included within its annual report to specify its positive and negative corporate activities. The social report also contains an objectively critical analysis of the firm's social performance by the editor of the periodical *Business and Society Review*.

Proposed Social Reporting Models

David Linowes, formerly an accounting practitioner and currently a university professor, has proposed a "socioeconomic operating statement" for business firms to reflect their

Suppose a company pollutes a river by dumping waste material. This action exemplifies an "externality" if a third party--the public at large--is hurt and the culprit firm does not compensate the public for the damages done. Without incurring the corresponding private cost, the company is reaping a private benefit.

positive and negative contributions to society. The statement describes the voluntary activities of the firm to enhance social welfare as well as the actions which could have been, but were not, pursued to improve social conditions during a given period. This report would consist of two parts, improvements and detriments in each of three areas: employees and the public, the environment, and product safety. The improvements and detriments are specified, respectively, in terms of costs which were actually incurred or which might have been incurred. Stated differently, the statement is entirely input-oriented, ignoring the outputs which could be produced from the inputs provided. The improvements would include: the cost of setting up facilities for the general good of employees or the public without union or government requirement (e.g., daycare centers), and the expenditures incurred for safety devices on premises. As for the detriments, they could encompass: (1) the expenditure that would have been incurred if the acquisition of safety devices on particular machines had not been postponed, and (2) the cost that would have been incurred assuming the installation of a purification process to neutralize poisonous liquids had not been deferred.

The basic problem with Linowes' model is that it fails to explicitly consider the benefits or improvements as outputs of corporate social actions. Consequently, the model un-

doubtedly understates the benefits, which probably represent a multiplier effect of the costs or inputs stipulated. Furthermore, showing detriments in terms of costs that could be incurred to rectify or at least alleviate a problem serves to grossly underestimate the impact of the firm's failure to resolve this matter.

Another model proposed by Professor Lee Seidler has the problem of being too simplistic, calling for the following items in a social income statement for business firms:

Value added by production (assuming all production goods, or labor, mineral extraction, and capital consumption)

+Socially desirable outputs not sold (such as job training, employment of disadvantaged minorities)

-Socially undesirable effects not paid for (such as air and water pollution caused by the firm, health crises caused by using the firm's products such as thalidomide)

In this statement, the added value would reflect the particular firm's own contributions--what it sells less what it buys--assuming that the production of goods and services is desirable. The socially desirable outputs not sold represent external economies--that is, social benefits stemming from private costs of corporations, or outputs produced by the firm for which no internal benefits have been received. On the other hand, the socially undesirable effects

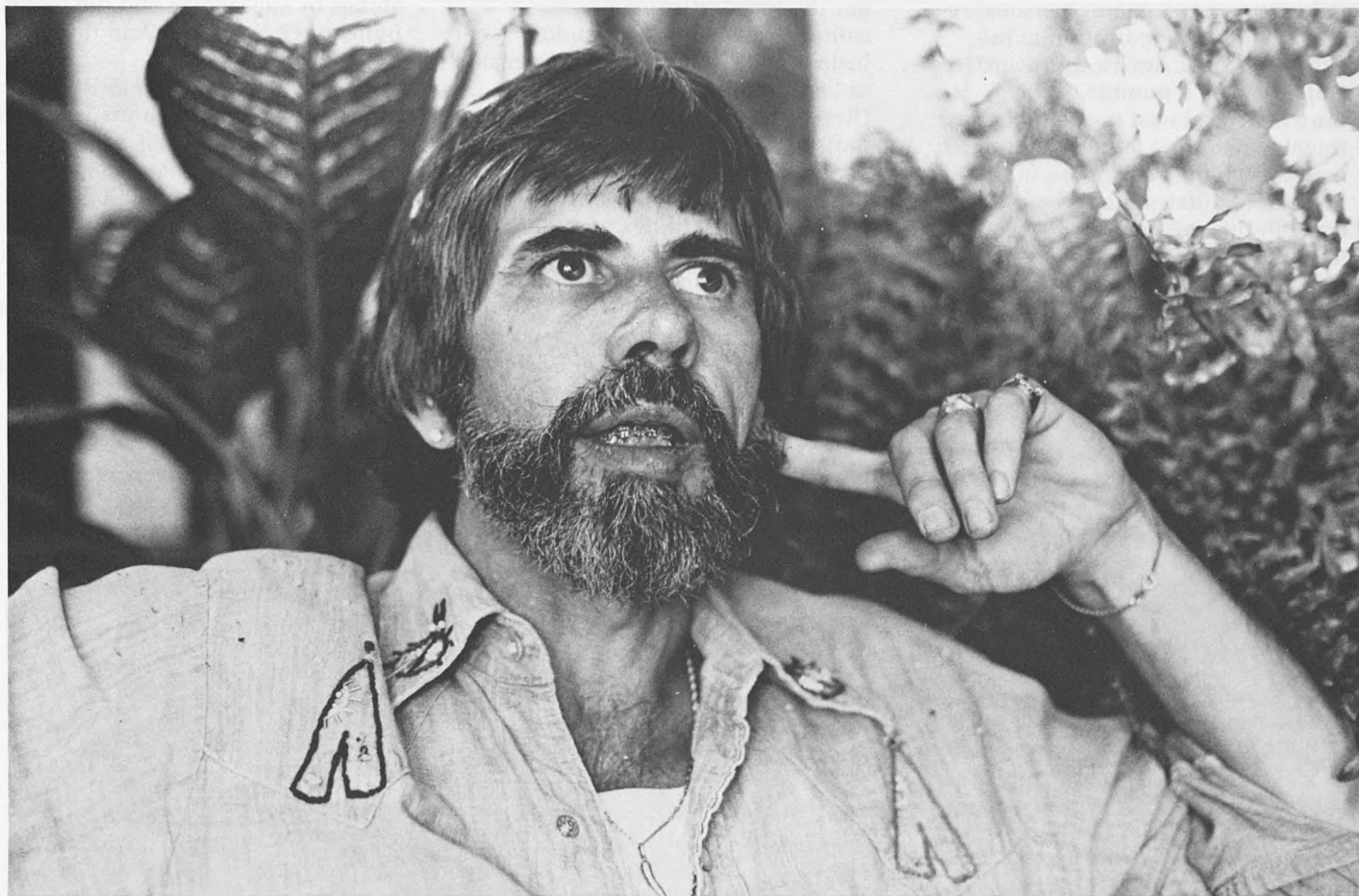
not paid for reflect the costs which the firm imposes on society but is not charged for--external diseconomies or private benefits stemming from costs borne by society.

In addition to the conventional financial statements, Abt Associates, a New England based firm, provides social accounting statements, which reflect the firm's impact on its employees, the local community, and the public at large. In its social balance sheet, the social assets include human-resource training, equipment, buildings, and other organization assets, reflecting the social cost to "reconstitute" the firm; and the social liabilities include commitments by the firm to "non-socially productive contracts" and "environmental pollution." Appearing in the social income statement are benefits and costs, which indicate current-period effects on employees, the community, and the general public in three separate categories with a net social income or cost computed for each category. The benefits include health insurance, tuition reimbursement, and child care expenditures borne by the firm while the costs encompass measures of overtime worked but not paid and involuntary terminations. The total net social income is the sum of the individual incomes for the three classifications.

Conclusion

In recent years, corporations have been providing improved social disclosure in their annual financial reports, in conformity with greater emphasis on public stewardship of all organizations. Many firms, however, furnish nothing more than verbal descriptions of their activities in the social arena, often touching on only one or a few areas of social concern. While some companies do supply quantitative as well as verbal information, very few provide comprehensive social accounting statements. Moreover, the corporate social disclosures are typically all too generalized, simplistic, and glossy.

Perhaps in due course social-accountability statements similar to those recommendations cited in this article will be developed and widely distributed. These statements should be prepared primarily by accountants because of their background in recording, accumulating, and classifying financial and operating data for the firm.



Artist Miles Parker relaxes in his unusual home in San Diego.

Capturing the Architectural Soul of America

Miles Parker traveled to all 50 states to create a unique perspective of America.

His home is an antique showplace, overflowing with art of all kinds. Yet he describes it as "tacky elegance," and openly admits that his rent is outrageously low.

The Victorian home of artist Robert Miles Parker '61 is indeed an elegant island surrounded by a stormy sea, as bulldozers move rapidly to wipe out a large part of old San Diego.

Parker's house is much like the man who lives there -- it is comfortable, casual, yet worthy of endless

investigation. There are hundreds of drawings, paintings, photographs and posters of almost every imaginable shape and color covering the walls. The rooms are small, but fortunately there are a lot of them, and the high ceilings accommodate even the largest frames.

Although he's pushing 40, Parker looks younger, and only the streaks of grey in his beard and hair give him away. He claims his unique lifestyle-- that of "living hard" and "daring to

do everything" -- has kept him youthful.

In late 1974, Parker packed up his van and began what was to be a year-long "artistic journey into American architecture." Three years and 50 states later, he came home with 400 pen and ink drawings which will soon be published in a coffee table-style book.

During his journey through America, Parker usually stayed in the homes of friends or "strangers" who

fell prey to his outgoing personality and his intense dedication to fulfilling his own American dream. His walls display a number of the drawings produced during his travels, including an old building across from the courthouse in the tiny town of Matthews, Va. Why concentrate on this unknown building in a town few Americans have ever heard of? "I found a special magic almost everywhere I went," says Parker. "People are in love with the buildings that reflect their own culture."

In Boise, Idaho, Parker's work generated so much interest in a local historic building that residents raised enough money to save it from demolition for a parking lot. His visit to Williamsburg, where he sketched the Wren Building, enabled Parker to visit old friends and relatives. It also provided an opportunity for the transplanted Californian to reflect on his "roots."

Parker was born in Norfolk, the son of a Navy man. At William and Mary, he delved into everything. He selected an overload of courses from several departments and admits he failed a number of courses before graduating, still confused about what he wanted to do. He was one of the founders of Circle K, and says he left the College knowing that "money isn't everything -- we all have an obligation to work with society and our fellow human beings."

After graduation, he followed his family to the West Coast and attended graduate school at San Diego State. Parker worked as a teacher and therapist, and then committed himself to being a fulltime artist.

Now he looks and talks like most Americans expect an artist to look and talk. He once told a reporter for one of the dozens of newspapers and magazines which interviewed Parker during his travels: "I feel that a real artist must always make every product, every piece, a soul piece . . . artists have to sell their souls. It's the only thing worth selling."

Parker also demonstrates a talent for selling himself. He has learned to talk to reporters in a style that is forthright and honest, and the stories reflect his success in planning his own publicity, including an appearance on NBC's Today Show. He attracts attention by casually sitting down in front of rundown old buildings to draw objects which reflect the "everyday America" people are proud of.

At home in San Diego, Parker is

not the quiet artist longing for solitude in a shut-away studio. Instead, he has been aptly described as "a thorn in the side" of San Diego's mayor, who is supporting projects which threaten to put parking lots and condos in spots where some of the city's most gracious old buildings now stand.

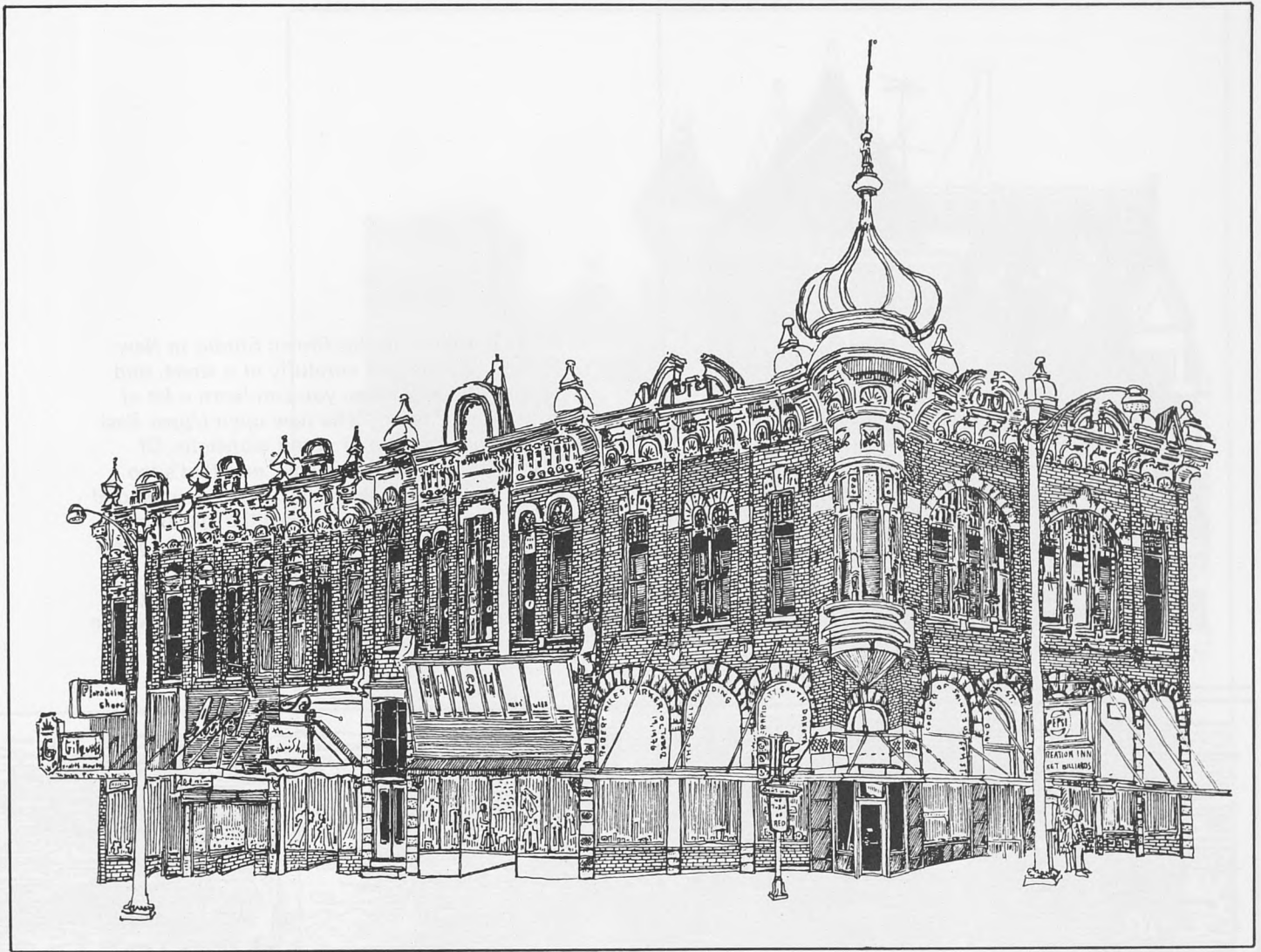
Parker is founder of SOHO, the Save Our Heritage Organization of San Diego, which lobbies to restore and to preserve Victorian homes in the city. To Parker, who is "frightened of an architecturally faceless future," the enemy is the golden

arches of McDonalds and the bright lights of Holiday Inn. And the fight has only just begun.

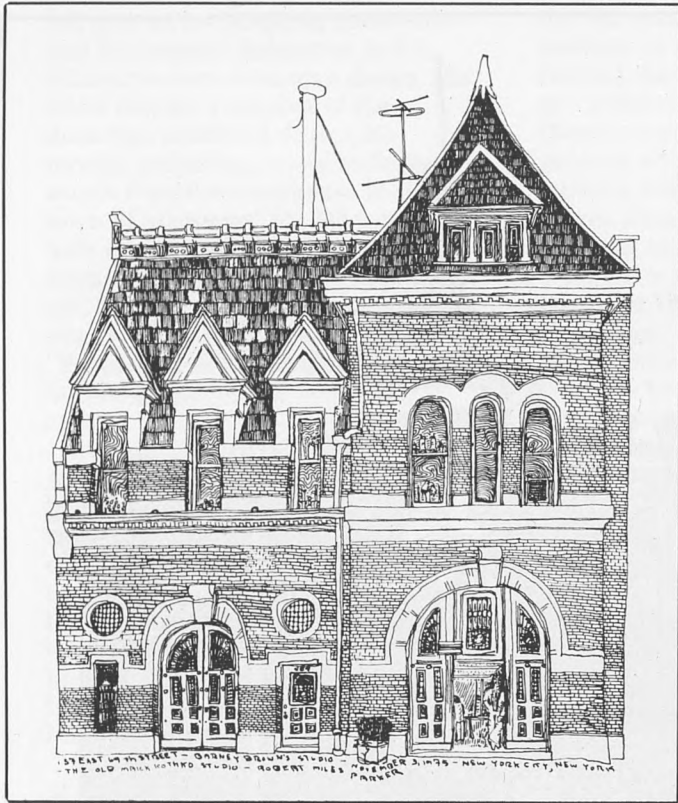
And so has the career of Robert Miles Parker. Although his work has been featured in several showings in New York galleries, Parker says it's the publication of his book that will push his name to the top of "Who's Who in American Art." After that, he hopes to publish a book entitled "Outrageous L.A." and a collection of drawings he created in Tequila, the small Mexican town where the potent liquor was invented.



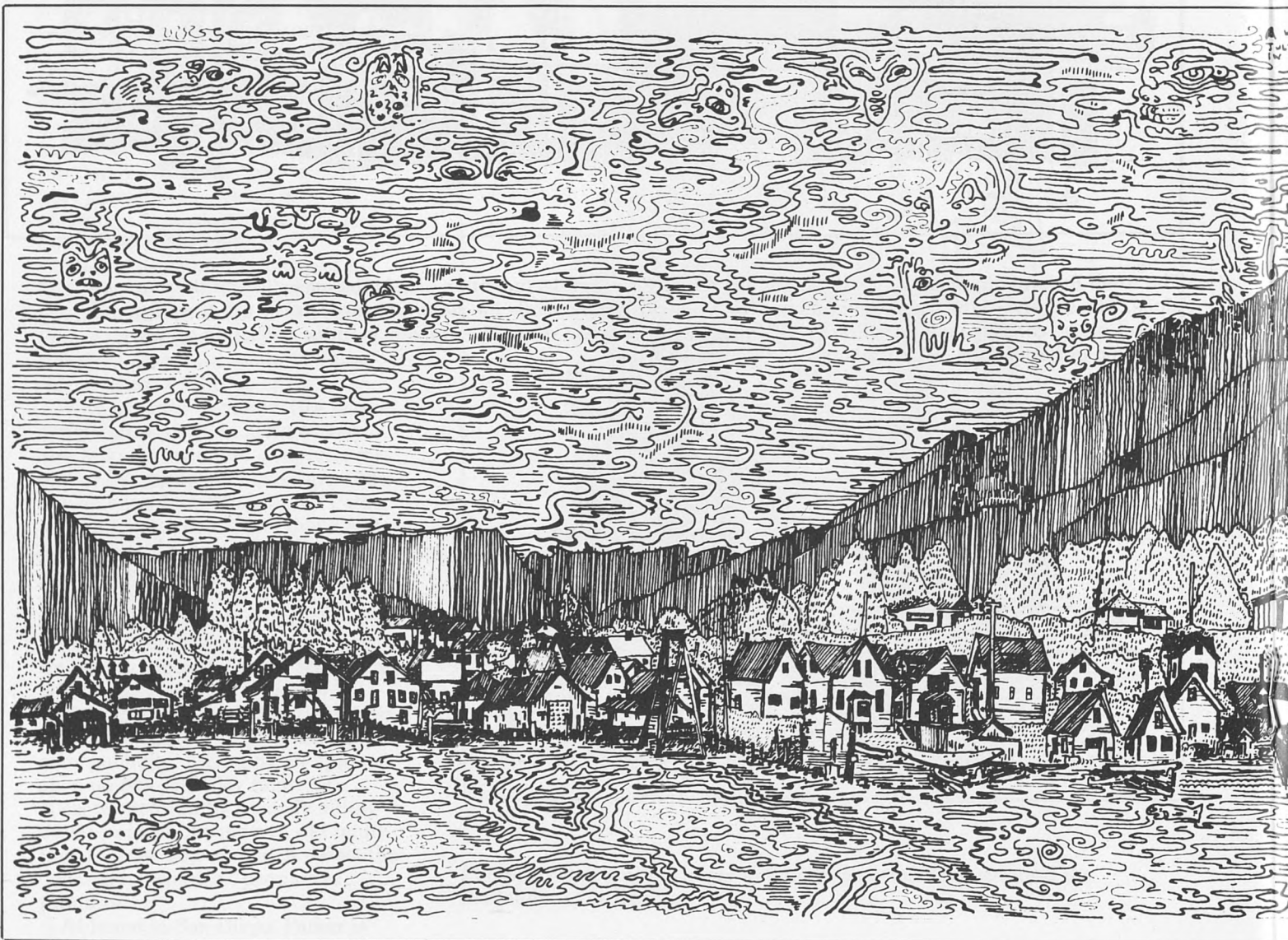
Parker's version of his home in San Diego, which has survived the onslaught of bulldozers.

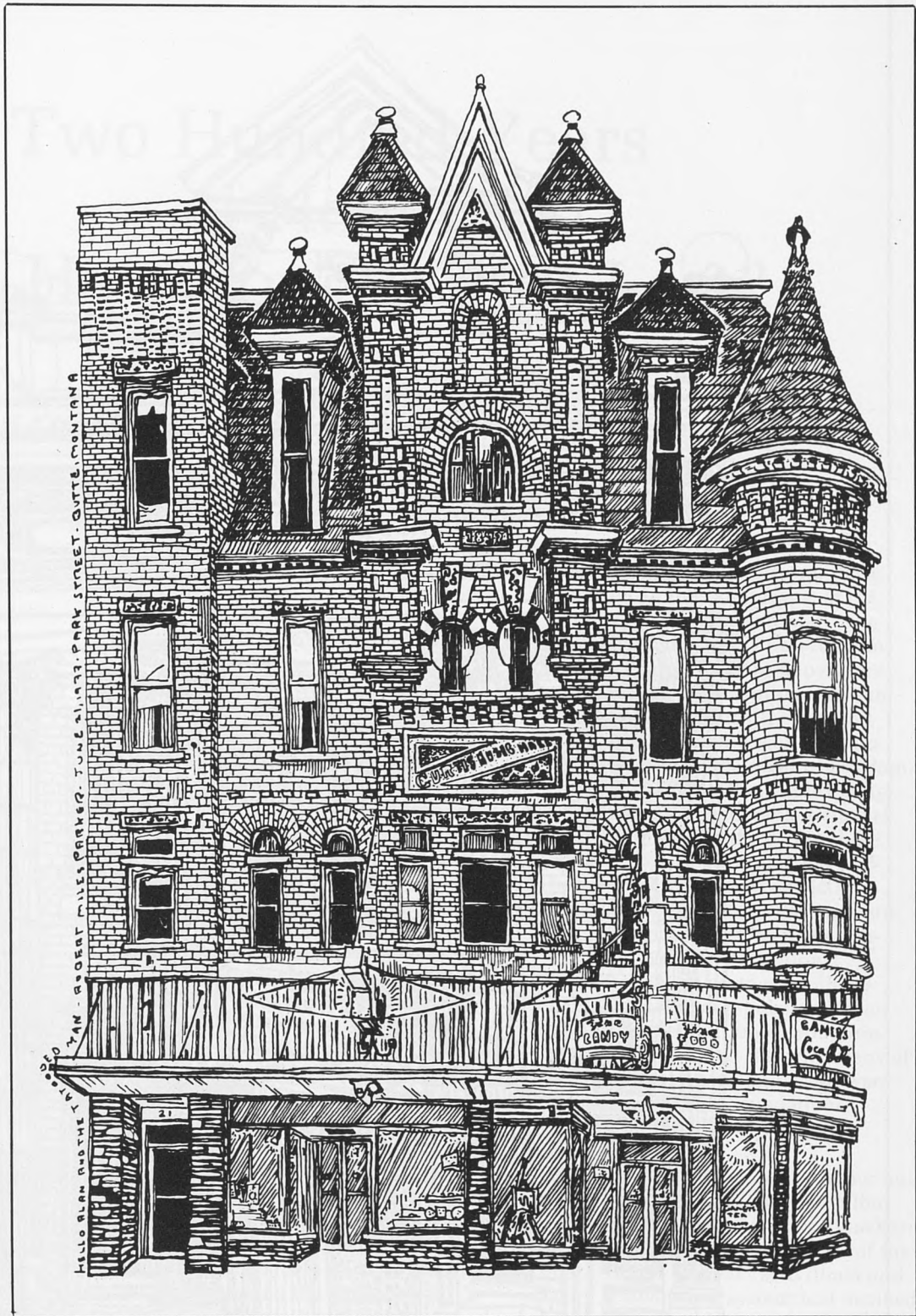


The Buell Building in Rapid City, South Dakota, shows how architecture often blends the majestic and the commonplace. The skyline of the building brings to mind faraway places, while the storefront suggests the all-American market place, complete with a billiard hall and a Florsheim shoe shop. The drawing is in the collection of Don Rypkema of Rapid City, South Dakota.



At left is Rothko's Studio/Brown Studio in New York City. "If you look carefully at a street, and try to read the buildings, you can learn a lot of history," says Parker. "The now open Upper East Side was once an area of grand mansions. Of course they're mostly gone now, and that's too bad. But, if you look at these carriage houses, and look closely enough, you can see the ghosts of times gone away." This work is part of the collection of Edward Brown of New York. Below is a view of Old Sitka in Sitka, Alaska, part of the collection of Rick Ybarra of San Diego, CA. Notice the faces of the god-like spirits in the sky.





Above is the Curtiss Music Hall in Butte, Montana. "What a town Butte is!" says the artist. "Imagine a man coming to the city and building a structure like this in 1892. Mr. Curtiss named his towering castle after himself--the Curtiss Music Hall. And why Music Hall? Very simple. . .Curtiss brought the first player piano to the Northwest, and used the first floor for the sale of those pianos and other musical instruments." The pen and ink drawing is a part of the collection of Michael Sullivan of San Diego, CA.



"It's strange to come home again," says Parker when referring to his hometown of Norfolk. "They say you can't do it. Maybe not. You drive on streets and look for familiar faces, high school friends (but that was long ago), people you worked with. But they all seem gone. Or, you just aren't interested. The most familiar thing is the names of streets. Only names. So much else has changed." Pictured here is the Byrd and Baldwin Building, part of the collection of Charles and Ruth Scharstein of Norfolk.

Two Hundred Years of Honor: But How Long Will It Last?

The honor system has survived
because students take the responsibility for their own actions.
Can they continue to do so?

By Clifton Conrad and Peter Garland '77

The telescreen received and transmitted simultaneously. Any sound that Winston made, above the level of a very low whisper, would be picked up by it; moreover, so long as he remained within the field of vision which the metal plaque commanded, he could be seen as well as heard. There was of course no way of knowing whether you were being watched at any given moment.

- George Orwell, 1984

Certainly no one relishes a kind of surveillance based on the lack of trust described in Orwell's novel, and few contend that this is carried on in college and universities without

*Clifton Conrad, associate professor of education, joined the School of Education in 1977. He received his bachelor's degree and master's degree from the University of Kansas and his doctorate from the University of Michigan. He is the author of *The Undergraduate Curriculum* (1979) and is currently preparing a monograph entitled "Liberal Education in Transition." Peter Garland received his undergraduate degree from the College in 1977 and is completing requirements for a master's degree in education. He is currently participating as a Commonwealth's Intern in Richmond and was formerly an area coordinator for the residence hall office at the College.*

honor systems. Yet honor systems, by trusting students to discipline themselves and encouraging personal responsibility, are the antithesis of the Orwellian horror of unrelenting surveillance. Now, 200 years after the founding of the nation's first honor system, there continues to be debate over the efficacy of the system, and it is an appropriate occasion to review the history of the honor system.

From their roots in the concept of "moral responsibility" of the post-Revolutionary period, there have been several distinct periods in the evolution of honor systems. These periods are distinct in terms of the extent of student freedom and the amount of responsibility assumed by students and student groups. When students have been allowed to govern their actions and have assumed that responsibility, honor systems have been largely successful. But when these two preconditions have not been met, then codes of honor have usually failed. The different degrees of freedom allowed students and the corresponding responsibility assumed by students provide a useful framework for tracing the evolution of honor systems.

The earliest period of honor systems dates to the post-Revolutionary history of Virginia. A "code of honor" of moral and ethical responsibility was an integral part of the Virginia gentleman tradition. Honor in one's own personal affairs and in one's relations with others was the guiding principle, setting the tone for the relationships among the planter-aristocracy of the time; honor was a determinant of their entire lifestyle. It was these planters and

their sons who were among those enrolled in the first classes at the College of William and Mary, the college which came to serve them almost exclusively for many years.

In the late 18th century, William and Mary was a small, close-knit community of gentlemen-scholars who enjoyed a great deal of freedom in their lifestyle. Their upbringing had fostered considerable personal responsibility. To think that these southern students would have adhered to an oppressive, strictly regulated system as in the northern schools would have been preposterous; in fact, the educational environment of northern colleges would have been repulsive to their stature as men of honor. Southern gentlemen believed that violations of college regulations, and there were hundreds of social regulations, should be punished by social ostracism.

The fact that this code of honor and conduct was largely unwritten (but nonetheless, well understood) makes it difficult to establish the date of the first "Honor System" at William and Mary. However, a system had evolved and was adopted by the students at the time of Thomas Jefferson's major academic reorganization of the College in 1779. Jefferson's commitment to student freedom and his encouragement of a sense of personal responsibility was a major theme in his reorganization attempts.

Early documents clearly demonstrate the commitment on the part of the College to produce honorable gentlemen. In 1736 the College statutes expressed the belief that "special care must be taken of their

[the students'] morals, that none of the scholars presume to tell a lie--or do anything else that is contrary to good manners."¹ And in 1784, the Faculty resolved that every student upon entering the College should pledge to observe all regulations and "particularly such as require that kind of conduct . . . conducive to the Honour and Prosperity of the University."²

The early development of the honor system at the University of Virginia, which was founded in 1819, was not so smooth. Dissatisfied with his attempts at academic reform at William and Mary, Jefferson sought to resume his plans for university development in Charlottesville. Commitment to student freedom and student self-governance were major goals of this institution from the outset. However, whereas the students at William and Mary found the college atmosphere conducive to their sense of honor, many of the younger students at the University of Virginia could not cope with the responsibility given to them; many took full and capricious advantage of the early honor system.

Jefferson designated that a Board of Censors be chosen from among the students of "the highest reputation for discretion" to regulate the honor of the students.³ This group failed in its assigned duties, however, because the students did not wish to risk the loss of popularity by enforcing the moral obligations of fellow students. It then fell to the faculty (to whom blame for the failure of the honor system is often attributed) to enforce the regulations necessary to run the University. Controlling the students often became the faculty's main preoccupation. According to one source:

Anyone who turns the thousands of pages of the minutes of the faculty meetings of the first thirty years of the University's history must be impressed with the trivial nature of many of the misdemeanors which were made the subject of long and tedious investigations.⁴

In reaction to the myriad of petty rules and regulations which developed during the faculty's control over discipline, a code of honor was developed by the students themselves to handle the "irresponsible" elements within the student body. In time, an unwritten code of conduct

Controlling the students often became the faculty's main preoccupation.

evolved in Charlottesville, much as it had in Williamsburg. With the common goal of self-governance in sight, students were able to attain Jefferson's ideal--an honorable community of scholars.

As colleges developed in complexity and purpose prior to the Civil War, many found it necessary to adopt written honor systems as recognition of their existence and operations. This marks the second phase of the honor system's development: the honor codes, though still largely unwritten, became the focus of more official attention and debate.

During the ante-bellum period, gentlemanly codes were integrated into American colleges along with several other significant innovations that came to be known as the "extra-curriculum." With the inclusion of such extracurricular activities and functions as literary societies, debate clubs, social groups, and libraries, the essential form of the American "college" evolved. In this context, statements pertaining to honor systems were commitments on the part of the college administration and faculty to continue the freedom necessary for the growth and operation of the honor system.

In 1842, with the unwritten code of honor firmly entrenched in the minds of students, the University of Virginia faculty affirmed the honor system which the students had developed:

Resolved, that in all future examinations for distinction and other honors of the University, each candidate shall attach to the written answers presented to him on such examination a certificate in the following words: "I, A. B., do hereby certify on honor that I have derived no assistance during the time of the examination from any source whatever, whether oral, written, or in print, in giving the above answers."⁵

Written verification of the honor system and its relation to the institution began even earlier at William and Mary. In the printed rules of 1817 and again in the 1830 "Statute for the Good Governance of The College of William and Mary," the College formalized the relationship of the honor system to the general operations of the institution.⁶

The first major discussion of the importance of an honor system to college life and organization was offered by Judge Nathaniel Beverly Tucker in 1834 in an address to his students:

If there be anything by which the University of William and Mary has been advantageously distinguished, it is the liberal and magnanimous character of its discipline. It has been the study of its professors to . . . infuse the spirit of the scholar and the spirit of the gentleman. He comes to us a gentleman. As such we receive and treat him, and resolutely refuse to know him in any other character. He is not harassed with petty regulations; he is not insulted and annoyed with impertinent surveillance. Spies and informers have no countenance among us. We receive no accusation but from the conscience of the accused.⁷

Later in this address, Tucker affirmed:

That it [the honor system] has not secured a regular discharge of all academic duties, or prevented the disorders which characterize the wildness of youth is known and lamented. But we believe that he who cannot be held to his duty, but by base and slavish motives, can never do honor to his instructors.⁸

It is important to note that much of what constituted the codes of honor at these two schools was left unwritten, though widely known and adhered to by the students. They were to be "gentlemen" in all phases of their lives:

. . . a student whose instincts are so coarse that he is capable of studied rudeness or insult to women, cheating

at cards, the indescribable meanness of petty theft, is made to understand that he is not fit to associate with young men of honor and will not be allowed to lower the moral tone of student life by remaining longer in the University.⁹

During the emergence of the peculiarly American form of the university in the latter half of the nineteenth century, honor systems experienced their period of greatest expansion. Student freedom in the university context was institutionalized through the adherence to the German emphasis on *Lernfreiheit*, or "right to learn." That freedom was furthered by the introduction and acceptance of the free elective form of curricular organization. By placing emphasis on student freedom and responsibility, the honor system complemented the emerging university.

While university administrators and faculty were willing to allow student choice, the essential student conformity to an ideal of honor was needed to establish a firm base for growth. Enrollments grew considerably throughout this period, appearing to militate against the

conformity found in southern schools where honor systems first evolved; but there was a new spirit in the colleges and universities, and that was the spirit of being able to attend college. School chauvinism (or school spirit) developed in the late 1800's, largely out of the athletic contests which captured the attention of students and citizens alike. So while the groups on the campuses were large, the degree of commitment to the college and to the student group remained high. In fact, honor on the playing field awakened in many a greater consciousness of honor in all relationships in the academic community.

The growth of honor systems and student self-governance was not without its critics. The lack of maturity of college students and the failure of some systems of student government (as in the case of the University of Virginia) were cited as evidence of the ineffectiveness of honor systems. (While honor systems were generally regarded as southern phenomena up to this period, no critics ever stated that only southern gentlemen were capable of becoming men of honor!)

One critic of the time put his arguments against the system this way:

I object to the honor system as nursing a false sensitiveness that resents a kind of supervision which everybody must sooner or later accept, and as taking from the degree part of its sanction. If a student vouches for his own examinations, why, it has been asked, should he not sign his own diploma, and stand on his honor before the world as he has stood on it before the Faculty.¹⁰

Besides pointing to successful examples, defenders of the system often countered with the argument that an honor system could develop a sense of personal responsibility and accountability not offered in a highly structured academic system. Further, an honor system could produce students who would not need a large amount of supervision.

Critics notwithstanding, the honor system did experience a relatively rapid growth in the latter part of the 19th and early 20th centuries, particularly outside the South. In the 1890's, 17 colleges adopted an honor code; in the fervor of the Progressive movement (1900-1915), which helped foster student freedom, 76 colleges joined the ranks of those with honor



Honor has best been served when students marshal themselves. The question remains whether they will continue to accept this responsibility.

systems. By 1915 at least 123 colleges and universities had some form of an honor system.

By the 1920's, most existing systems were student-controlled. For example, at William and Mary the faculty relinquished control and the honor system could be characterized as an all-encompassing code of conduct.

The Honor System may be defined in a word as individual responsibility. It brings home to the individual man or woman who would stay at the noble old college, and get the advantage she offers, his personal responsibility for her fair name and honour. It emphasizes two things: first, that the student must recognize that he is answerable in the very fullest degree for every one of his actions and dealings with the members of the faculty and with his fellows, in his or their rooms, in the dining halls, the athletic fields, the social centres, and in the classrooms; and second, that he must recognize his personal responsibility for the well-being of the colleges in every phase of life in which he touches her existence.¹¹

With the advent of the Great Depression and the tumultuous world political scene in the 1930's, the "Roaring Twenties" atmosphere of the college campus gave way to the sobriety of survival. The expansion of the honor system became only a minor campus issue.

During the post-World War II era, however, and particularly in the 1960s, honor systems again became the subject of heated debate on college campuses. During the period of campus disturbance, the interests and activities of many students left colleges and universities without that conformity and commitment to principles which are necessary preconditions for successful honor systems.

In recent years, particularly since the well-known cheating scandal at West Point in 1976, numerous honor systems have come under review, including Stanford, the University of California-Davis, Barnard, Notre Dame, Johns Hopkins, and William and Mary. Some systems have been abandoned owing to a perceived lack



An early Phi Beta Kappa key.

of effectiveness, as in the cases of Johns Hopkins, Notre Dame, and Barnard.

Many educators blame the recent decline of honor systems upon the ease of cheating today, especially with regard to plagiarism and the accessibility of "term paper mills." Other reasons for some of the failures of honor systems include the "increasing impersonality and pluralism of modern campus life," the importance of grades, the lack of commitment to the student-faculty relationship and true scholarship, and the ethics of post-Watergate society. A member of the student affairs staff at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill attributed the problem with honor systems to the changing reasons for college and university attendance:

Many people who seek higher education do not want to acquire learning in the classical sense; they are here merely for 'credentialing,' for gaining the right to pass into a particular job or post-graduate activity. When learning is not the prime motivator, cheating becomes more prevalent because the student has less of a stake in his educational goals.¹²

Stanford's president, Richard Lyman, offered another explanation: "There is a much more diverse range of people in college nowadays, so it is more difficult to get conformity to any standard."¹³ In sum, the ideal of being a "person of honor" is not shared by most students today.

What conclusions can we reach from this brief overview of the development of the Honor System?

The historical evidence suggests that the realization of a successful system depends heavily on the reasons why people attend college, what kind of respect for honor they bring with them upon matriculation, what the college or university does to foster that personal moral responsibility upon which an honor system is based, and what official recognition is given to its operation. But more specifically, can the honor system at William and Mary survive?

The history of the honor system suggests two major preconditions which must be met for a system to be successful. First, students must be committed to the ideal of a code of honor or conduct. Second, this commitment and conformity to an honor system can only occur when students are allowed to assume personal and collective responsibility for their actions. Despite periodic attacks on the honor system, these two conditions have been largely met throughout the long history of the College, laying the foundation for one of the nation's most successful honor systems.

The sentiment of Judge Nathaniel Beverly Tucker, expressed in 1934, speaks eloquently to the perennial dangers represented by Orwell's fictional "telescreen," while reminding us of our noble traditions:

Should the day come [when the honor system is abandoned], the glory of Virginia will have passed away forever; and William and Mary must then govern herself by those given maxims which make up the code of all power 'not standing on its own honor and the honor of those subjected to it. . . .'

Gentlemen, William and Mary is what Virginia made her. Virginia continues what she is in part because the spirit of her ancient chivalry continues to act on her through William and Mary. Each is at once cause and effect, and each is necessary to the other. William and Mary is the palladium of Virginia, to be guarded as the ark of her safety.¹⁴

On that dramatic note, we remain stridently optimistic that the honor system will continue to successfully endure at the college where it was first developed some 200 years ago.

The Reawakening Interest in Plants

The beer we drink, the food we eat,
the air we breathe--virtually everything depends on green plants.

By Martin Mathes

The next time you sample your favorite beer, think about the fascinating world of plants. As you watch the bubbles slowly rise through the amber elixir, visualize the sprouting of barley (malting), the frothy fermentation by yeast, the addition of rice and dried flowers (hops) and natural carbonation. The supply of beverages, food, shelter and the air we breathe is the result of the world of green plants. Bumper stickers with the message "Have You Thanked a Green Plant?" only partially reflect our total dependence on botany.

As you consume your beer, consider food additives, the use of chemicals, air pollution, water purity and nutritional value. The reawakening of interest in botany is the result of our concern with feeding our increasing population and with the quality of the environment. William and Mary has developed a botany program which reflects these concerns and employs our rich botanical heritage.

In general, biology departments are not noted for their strength of botanical education. The breadth of sub-disciplines represented usually relegates botany to a relatively minor role as a result of the emphasis on the biology of man and animals. William and Mary is fortunate to have been able to develop a quality biology

Martin Mathes, professor of biology, earned a bachelor's degree from Miami University and advanced degrees from the University of Maryland. He is the prime mover behind the strengthening of the College's botany program and a recognized defender of all green plants.

program with significant botanical content.

The William and Mary campus represents a unique "arboretum" as a result of the dedicated efforts of the late J.T. Baldwin '32, who served on the biology faculty for over three decades. This green heritage ranges from peach, pine and palm to camelia, cypress and *Cryptomeria*. It provides a firm foundation for the development of a modern botany program. Redwoods from seeds produced by living fossils or from cuttings brought by a sailing vessel to Norfolk around Cape Horn trace their origin to the late 1940s when Dr. Baldwin began his attempts to provide exotic plants for educational purposes. He once said, "Books are for pleasure and teaching -- and so is a collection of plants."

As in the manufacture of beer, a rich heritage is used to develop a quality product. At William and Mary, the botanical program is based on a longstanding plant heritage, a concern for the utility and beauty of the campus and a commitment to quality education.

The recognition of the importance of the environment in our survival, the green revolution, cloning, super trees and an increased awareness of plants are a few of the factors which have caused a greater emphasis on the green world in the academic curriculum. The College's program offers a breadth and depth of botanical teaching which matches and sometimes exceeds the experiences available in separate departments of botany. The success of the botany program has been the result of cooperative efforts to provide students with a realistic program which utilizes William and Mary's unique environment and

demands factual information blended with research experiences.

Recent changes in the curriculum provide for an optional general botany course coupled with an initial course in principles of biology. This arrangement provides a significant block of time for a firm botanical foundation, which includes mandatory laboratory experiences. An additional course, *Perspectives of Modern Biology*, allows the presentation of botany courses which are designed for the non-biology student, who is interested in botany as a component of the ecosystem and recognizes the role of botany in our food, shelter and atmosphere.

Building a botany program involves a number of components which complement and extend the classroom in a variety of directions.

A natural ravine area has expanded the classroom to include an additional three acres. The "Wildflower Refuge," established by a resolution of William and Mary's Board of Visitors, has developed into a living classroom involving a number of individuals and groups. Aid for the botanical "growth" of this educational area has been readily donated by Girl Scout troops, student groups, garden clubs, community groups and volunteer work crews. The central location of the Refuge allows large numbers of students to use the well-established paths and to observe efforts to label selected plant species and provide a natural educational experience. Benches provide a lure to linger and become a part of the verdant setting, which provides dry, sunny, upland areas in addition to shaded, moist, low-lying sites punctuated by a small, trickling stream.

For those who wish to know more



about plants on campus, a self-guided tour, listing approximately 70 plant species, has been prepared.

Additional interest and involvement have been generated by pursuing financial support from groups and foundations, with the total amount of private support exceeding \$29,000. This total includes a pledge gift from the Class of 1976 of approximately \$10,000, which has been designated for the construction of a system of pine bark paths. Other accumulated funds have been earmarked to expand the collection of native Virginia plants and to build an amphitheater. The amphitheater was recently completed and now provides a visibly pleasing focal point for campus plantings. Nestled in a bowl-shaped transitional bank, it complements the informality of the Crim Dell area. The amphitheater will provide additional classroom space in the fall and spring, a site for informal meetings for groups, and a natural setting for presentations ranging from poetry readings to lectures on peonies.

An "Adopt a Plot" program has also been proposed to supplement the limited amount of time and labor which is available to service the Refuge. Garden clubs are encouraged to join this "plant parenthood" group and assume authorized planting and/or maintenance responsibilities for a 100-foot by 100-foot plot.

Located on top of Millington Hall, William and Mary's unique architectural greenhouse area is a visual classroom for plant lovers of all ages. Originally, the entry to the greenhouse was a dark, grey area of uniform dreariness. But successful attempts to obtain financial support have led to the evolution of a bright, grass-green carpeted display area. Cooperative efforts have resulted in the presence of king and black snakes; Degu, rat and hermit crabs; assorted fishes; and selected plants. A bulletin board provides for the transmission of biological current events, while a Mentor-of-the-Month board contains information about featured biology faculty. The area also contains an electric-eye system to provide recorded messages such as the sounds of the swamp, a custom Myna bird cabinet, illuminated African violet planters, a large display case (currently maintained by the Williamsburg Bird Club) and a large framed window planter containing unique plants. One corner is adorned by a biological mobile featuring a dried worm snake. The



Gold Barrel (*echinocactus*)

The reawakening of interest in botany is the result of our concern with feeding our increasing population and with the quality of the environment. William and Mary has developed a botany program which reflects these concerns and employs our rich botanical heritage.



Living stones (*lithops*)

At left, Martin Mathes works in the greenhouse.

walls are covered with murals describing the "Age of Mammals," by way of a "tree" with a variety of leaves, and a floral mural (painted by members of a basic design course) titled *Cheiranthus*, or wallflower.

The greenhouse, adjoining the display area, is the hub of botanical activity. Research and teaching are the primary objectives of the greenhouse, and the benches are overflowing with a random collection of interesting and exotic plants. The greenhouse entry contains an informational display of the "Plant-of-the-Month," which is in a crop rotation program with the community library. A box of free cuttings is also nearby. Pruned clippings are not discarded but are used as green emissaries to provide far-reaching contact with the botany program.

Individuals who follow the self-guided tour discover unique topiaries (snake and owl), a smell-and-tell corner for tours of school groups (coordinated by the School of Education), a magic tree and a begonia collection. Hard-core zoologists are enticed into the bowels of the greenhouse to observe an iguana, tropical birds and a student collection of snakes.

Greenhouse plant care is provided by students and a vital group of dedicated mature volunteers who gather on a weekly basis to accomplish housekeeping chores. Their *in vivo* enthusiasm has significantly contributed to the greenhouse program. School groups and parents are encouraged to view the flowers of our labors, and the greenhouse is one of the most frequently visited spots on campus.

During the Christmas vacation when most academic greenhouses are at an ebb, we provide a student fringe benefit -- the Plant Sitter Service. For a 10 cent fee, volunteers care for the plants, thereby removing the need for homeward phytotransportation during a period of low ambient temperature. During the holidays, over 1600 additional plants have been packed into the greenhouse. The money obtained from "plant sitting" is used to expand and maintain the plant collection.

William and Mary is fortunate to have an uncluttered campus which offers a variety of habitats for the growth of plants. The presence of organized plantings on the campus draws attention to the botany program and provides factual information concerning the plant species. The donation of private funds has



This magnificent dawn redwood was brought to America from the Orient by the late Professor John T. Baldwin. It is probably the largest of its kind in America.

been instrumental in the development of separate planting areas. The recent addition of a mulched bulb display area on the bank behind Millington Hall has served two purposes -- to control erosion and to provide an educational display. An illustrated key identifies approximately 800 daffodil, Dutch iris, *Iris reticulata* and horticultural onion species. Future plans include the expansion of this planting area to include a collection of day lilies.

Another educational area has been developed as a result of the cooperative efforts of Colonial Williamsburg. An outside planter adjacent to Millington Hall auditorium was, for a number of years, annually planted with an assortment of shrubs. Because of the severity of the hot and dry environment, the woody species expired and were annually replaced by volunteer weeds. This season, however, cacti species, contributed by Colonial Williamsburg, thrive in environmental extremes of moisture and temperature.

A final area of botanical impact has evolved as a result of the dedicated efforts of Dr. Baldwin. The campus contains a unique collection of woody species which must be protected and encouraged. The priority of these efforts has been recognized by the appointment of a Landscape Advisory Committee which oversees the maintenance and development of the campus plantings. A number of unique plants, selected because they were for many years included in walking tours guided by Dr. Baldwin, have been included in a self-guided campus planting tour. Plants on the old campus include the coast redwood, a palm tree and others.

The Baldwin tours established a continuing relationship between the College and the community. Recent efforts to expand our teaching collection of plants have resulted in the development of a landscape plan which features the organization of an architect and the variety of a collector. This approach is visible in the array of oaks and the selection of dogwoods in the Common Glory parking lot.

The Class of 1979 has also made plans to supplement our plant collection and initiate a new tradition -- the planting of class trees -- and has designated a portion of their class gift to establish an endowment to maintain the trees and to perpetuate this tradition. These trees (Southern

As in the manufacture of beer, a rich heritage is used to develop a quality product. At William and Mary, the botanical program is based on a longstanding plant heritage, a concern for the utility and beauty of the campus and a commitment to quality education.

and Mexican cedars) and the future accumulation of exotic tree species will increase the botanic spectrum of the open classroom which is available to future generations.

Members of the community have been encouraged to participate in the botanical "umbrella" program. Free landscape plants were provided as a result of a "Dig-in" held at the pre-clearing site for a new residence complex. These plants were widely disseminated and served to reinforce an environmental concern while providing a useful community service. Construction sites, prior to clearing, also serve as a source of plants for the Wildflower Refuge.

Educational involvement at the community level is also encouraged by the creation of "extracurricular" botany courses. Outstanding high school students are encouraged to enroll in the plant development course to obtain college credit for their labors. This concurrent program provides an important transition in the process of "freshmanization," allowing a college experience without the traumas associated with formally entering college. The botanical classroom is also extended with the availability of non-credit special program courses dealing with houseplants and plantology for young people.

Members of the biology department also offer botanical presentations for community groups, while a structured "Biobureau" provides an opportunity to discuss botany on a variety of levels in the local school systems. Phi Sigma Biological Science Honor Society members have in recent years supported a number of projects leading to biological heraldry in the form of annual bumper stickers and T-shirts.

William and Mary's botanical program emphasizes both formal research and classroom study in the traditional sense. But in response to an evergrowing public interest in the world of plants, the College has also developed a practical plant biology program which appeals to students

from 8 to 80 and involves the "community" in a dynamic open-ended continuum. An individual can begin his or her exploration of this fascinating world by merely walking through the Wildflower Refuge or entering the greenhouse, where a

variety of self-guided tours are available.

Meanwhile, the next time you sample your favorite beverage, let it be a reminder that William and Mary is a very special place to study botany.



Two of the volunteer guardians of the greenhouse, Mrs. Martha Moody and Mrs. Nell Erskine, who come at least once each week to help prune, weed and water the plants.

A Defense of the Fourth Estate

A veteran journalist insists
that a free press remains essential to the survival of democracy.

By Robert Pierpoint

My experience has been that the closer one gets as a broadcast journalist to the centers of national power, the less one is judged as a broadcaster and the more as a journalist. Most top national news broadcasters closely resemble in knowledge, responsibility, interest, and outlook their colleagues in the written media.

A former Vice President whom you may remember, Spiro Agnew, liked to imply that this similarity of viewpoint constitutes some kind of conspiracy, as if a group of journalists daily gather in a basement somewhere in New York to decide such issues as whether the war in Vietnam is a mistake and should be ended, or Richard Nixon is a crook and should be run out of office. Today that charge is as ridiculous as when Agnew first made it over nine years ago. But, it is true that when competent journalists are given the same general facts, they will usually come to the same general conclusion, just as most competent doctors, given

the same symptoms, will usually come to the same diagnosis of the ailment. Of course, doctors can be wrong, as witness their current losses due to malpractice suits. And so can journalists, although so far most of us have been lucky -- or have hired better lawyers.

Journalists do face, however, periodic loss of public confidence, and this can become a serious problem. In my experience, the problem first became acute during the Republican party's swing toward the right in 1964, when it selected Senator Barry Goldwater as its candidate. A noticeable anti-press attitude was fostered during that period, not so much by the Arizona senator himself as by those around him. Even former president Dwight Eisenhower pandered to this emotional hysteria during his speech to the 1964 Republican convention that nominated Goldwater: "Let us particularly scorn the divisive efforts of those outside our family, including sensation-seeking columnists and commentators . . . because, my friends, I assure you that these are people who couldn't care less about the good of our party." The partisan crowd erupted in wild cheering to that slur on the press, and it was painfully clear that many in the audience were more than happy to vent their frustrations and angers on us. That ugly outburst was only the beginning. At one point during the campaign a man rushed to a Goldwater aide to point out the reporters covering the candidate's speech at a rally and to declare in ominously accusatory tones, "Look at

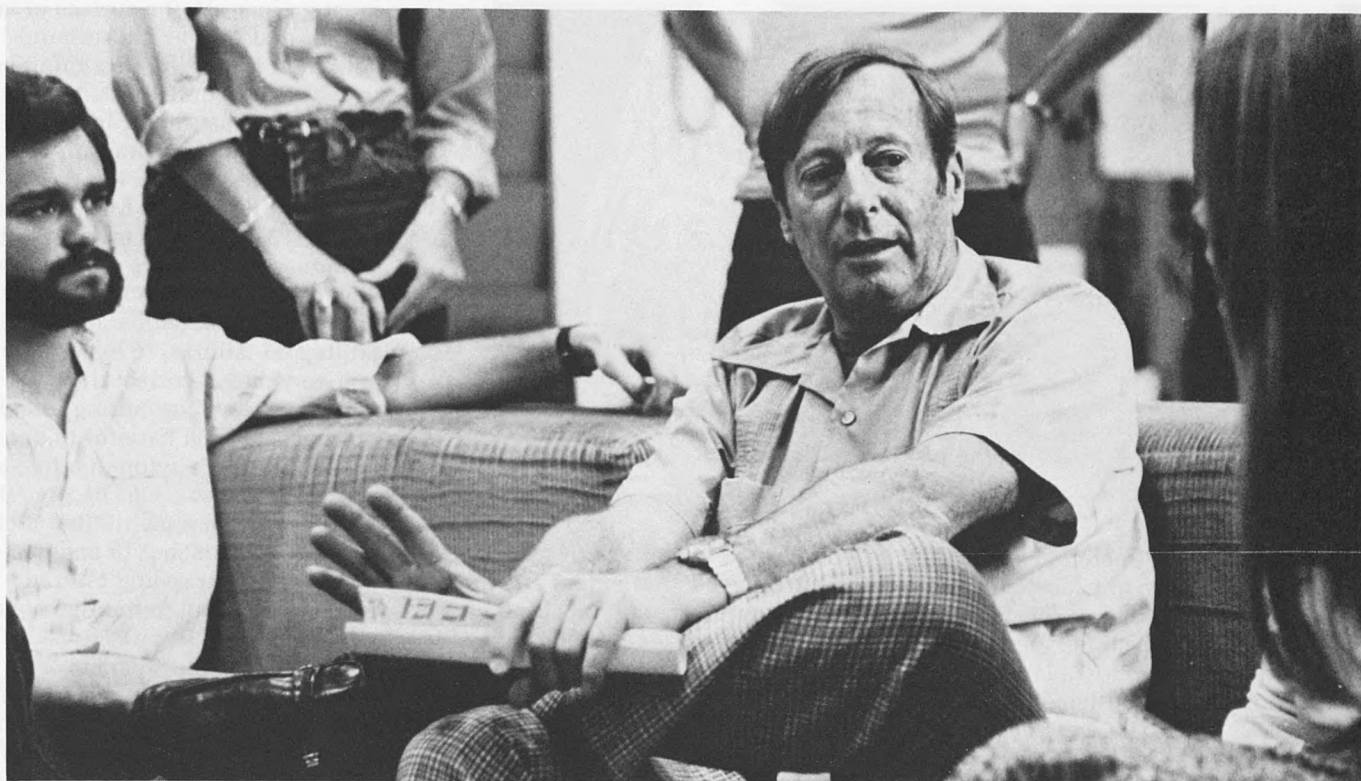
them . . . they're writing down every word the Senator says."

As the press buses wound their way around the country following the candidates, both Goldwater and then-President Lyndon Johnson, members of the press became almost used to angry gestures and insulting words hurled in our direction. That syndrome was encouraged and exploited during the Nixon-Agnew era. In my view, Agnew's efforts against the nation's press, particularly broadcast journalism, were actually a campaign designed by the White House, aimed at intimidating the news media, with the purpose of softening its coverage and stifling its criticism of the war in Vietnam. To a limited extent that campaign succeeded, if only for a brief period.

During and after the Watergate scandal, the press has enjoyed a revival in public esteem. Thanks in large part to those two outstanding reporters from the *Washington Post*, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, journalism has again become an acceptable, even popular, craft. But one wonders how long this sudden surge of respectability will last. Unfortunately, the unresolved ethical issues of journalism allow us to complicate our own problems with the public. One of those is the troubling issue of privacy.

How much of what a reporter may learn in the pursuit of his duties does the public have a right to know? In their famous book *The Final Days*, Woodward and Bernstein mention two incidents I personally believe would have gone better -- at present -- unreported. One sentence deals

Robert Pierpoint delivered this address at the annual banquet of the Society for Collegiate Journalists, held in the Great Hall last March 25. A White House correspondent for CBS for the past 22 years, Pierpoint received the Society's Heritage Award for excellence in journalism and spent three days on campus as journalist-in-residence. The Society of the Alumni annually provides support for the journalist-in-residence program.



Pierpoint answers student questions in a seminar held last spring on campus.

with Mrs. Nixon's confidential talks with her doctor about her relations with her husband, and the other reveals a bit about her private drinking. Some critics raise objections to other facets of what is -- in my view -- overall a remarkable and valuable contribution to history. But those two small disclosures do bother me.

Journalistic responsibilities and ethics are under constant review by journalists in the area of privacy, and I have come to no final conclusions. The problem first became an acute one for me when I learned some of the facts of John F. Kennedy's private life before and during his Presidency. I was aware that President Kennedy was involved in extra-marital affairs. But I did not report it. Although I was troubled by the issue and discussed it with my colleagues and others, I decided I was not a gossip columnist. Basically, the decision most of us made at the time, and which most of us still use as our ethical yardstick, is that the public has a right to know about its political figures whatever affects their conduct of public office. But that is a very flexible standard, leaving much to the individual case and the conscience of the reporter.

A second area of unsettled

controversy, both within and outside journalistic circles, is that of government secrecy. How much of secret government activities does a journalist have a duty to divulge or the public the right to know? Basically, I am opposed to what might be called "self-censorship" by reporters or news organizations. Usually what a journalist learns, a clever enemy agent could also learn, and frequently does, far ahead of the journalist. Let me give you an example. In early 1961, various reporters began to pick up evidence, both here and abroad, that the United States was organizing some kind of military action against Cuba. The *Los Angeles Times*, for example, reported on a training base in Central America where Cuban refugees were being trained and equipped, by men and funds that appeared to be directly connected with the CIA. Eventually the *New York Times* and CBS News learned that the CIA was about to sponsor an invasion of Cuba, directed at overthrowing Castro. Most of the sources for the information were Cubans in and around Miami. But CBS News and the *New York Times*, after much discussion among top executives, did not publish the information, apparently on the grounds that it might compromise national security.

That did not stop Castro's agents, however, from picking up the same basic information, and perhaps much more, from the same kinds of sources available to the *Times* and CBS. As a result, Castro's soldiers were ready and waiting when the CIA put ashore at the Bay of Pigs the ill-fated Cuban Brigade. It was an operation that was badly-conceived from the beginning, and the bloodshed, deaths, and the humiliation to the United States might have all been averted if the *New York Times* and CBS News had published in advance of the operation what they knew about it. But -- and this is a serious problem for those of us in news -- what would have been the reaction of the U.S. Government and of the public? Would the two news organizations in question not have been subjected to strong criticism for having unpatriotically given away American secrets, and saved Castro? Sad to say, I think many in our society would still be calling us traitors, as some believed of us because of our coverage of the war in Vietnam.

I do not suggest that there should be no government secrets withheld from the public. In this day of instant communication, when we do indeed still have potential enemies in the world, that would be suicidal. Certain



Pierpoint praises the famous Post team of Woodward and Bernstein

military plans and operations of a contingency nature in peacetime, certain technological and scientific information having military application, and obviously most plans and operations during wartime, must be kept secret. But in my view, far less secrecy than the Government now affords itself would be perfectly adequate for our democratic system. You and I would doubtless be appalled at how much government information is kept secret for the convenience and protection of people high up in government, and their friends in positions of power outside it. The recent scandals of bribery and political payoffs by Lockheed, Gulf Oil, and other large corporations ought to be proof enough of that.

Particularly dangerous to the free press are recent rulings by judges in two separate areas, rulings which are still being debated and tested in the courts. Several years ago judges began ordering reporters to disclose their sources of information. Confidentiality of sources is one of a journalist's most important tools. Without that tool, a great deal that you know now, or need to know about the operations of our society and our government, will become unavailable. Some reporters have gone to jail to protect their sources and your right to know.

In the second area of conflict between the courts and the press, some judges have recently imposed "gag" rulings on the press, banning so-called "pre-trial publicity," and other access to trial information. Perhaps inadvertently they have weakened the First Amendment by an overscrupulous application of the Sixth. That is, they have ruled that the public's right to know what is going on in the society or the courts should be limited by what they

define as the right to a fair trial. This too often means that judges attempt to bar reporters from publishing confessions and similar information which might influence jurors, information that any person physically able to get to the courtroom can learn. The theory that this muzzling of the press insures a more fair trial by a more impartial jury at the very least denigrates the ability of jurors to reach an intelligent decision based on a careful weighing of the facts they have learned inside the courtroom. This is a particularly pernicious development in view of our experiences with the Watergate trials, when juries proved that despite intense national emotions and pressures, they could deliver what most critics agree were fair and impartial decisions, exonerating some Nixon Administration officials of certain charges and convicting others. Certainly the freedom of America's press to report social, legal, criminal, and court developments is more important to the functioning of our Democracy than this recent perversion of the traditional jury trial system.

The necessity for a free press in a free society simply cannot be over-emphasized. It is absolutely essential. In fact, one can not exist without the other. A free press is the first institution to be shut down by a totalitarian government of either the right or the left. We are the public's eyes and ears -- on City Hall, the State House, the White House. Democracy is based on the assumption that citizens will make the proper choices, but democracy also assumes that the citizens have the information on which to base those choices. That information must not only be accurate, but also complete, which means reporters

must go beneath the surface of facts to find and convey background sufficient to put the bare information in its proper context. That sometimes means we must report information the public does not want to hear. As my former colleague, the great journalist Edward R. Murrow, used to put it, "We've got to make 'em itch." We must, because we are not the cheerleaders of our society, we are critics. We look deliberately for the faults and failures, to expose them to you so you can correct them.

Cutting down or cutting off a flow of information is harmful to our system. America without a free and aggressive press could become that "pitiful, helpless giant" that Richard Nixon warned about in another context, a giant seeing blurred images, listening to muffled sounds, and lurching into disastrous decisions like the Vietnam war.

Of course it is our job in the media to help prevent this cut off of public awareness. Our talents and our tools help, but we must also have access to information. That is why we fight for freedom of the press. Sometimes we have grown complacent or unwary in this effort. Many Americans take their free press for granted because they have enjoyed its rights so long that they are unaware of the constant struggle to preserve them. We in the media have a vested interest in this struggle, but so do the American people, who must hope to grow and prosper in a free society. Never take that freedom for granted. Wherever that freedom is diminished, the free society itself is endangered. Limitations on a free press are as much a threat to you and society as they are to those of us in the media. Abuses of that freedom by some members of the media may bother you, as they should. But they are no excuse for limiting freedom of the press.

Certainly we in the press make mistakes. In fact, despite what some self-serving flag-waving politicians may say, nothing about our democracy is perfect, or ever will be. But I have faith in our system, and I want it to survive for future generations. I warn you, however, that it will not do so without the support of a responsible, aggressive, critical, but above all free press. I ask for your help from here on, in whatever you do with your lives, for the institution of a free press. In giving it your support, you are helping ensure that this system of democracy, the best we have in an imperfect world, will survive . . . and even flourish.

There Remains a Place for Idealism

A successful jurist encourages young lawyers
to seek great purposes and a few lasting achievements.

By R. Harvey Chappell, Jr. '48, BCL '50

Commencement is an interesting word. It means not only the act or time of commencing but also, in the educational field, it refers to a day such as this when degrees are conferred marking a termination of an important portion of your lives. On these occasions it is customary to tell assembled graduates that they are commencing an exciting time in their careers with many challenging and rewarding experiences to look forward to and, if the speaker is particularly eloquent, there may be a word or two about passing on the torch. The popularity of this theme probably is because it would be unseemly to bring up something unpleasant on a basically happy occasion.

For my few minutes with you this day I shall try to remain in equilibrium -- with modest amounts of good news and some not-so-good news.

First and most important, you are indeed coming on the stage during a

particularly exciting, if at times frustrating, period in the development of the legal profession. You have been condemned to live in interesting times. The opportunities to serve have never been greater. One need only consider the fact that the law, the machinery of the law and the persons of the law continue to be in the forefront of all social advancement, notwithstanding the criticism that the profession receives and will continue to receive.

Further, there has never been more emphasis on access to legal services, access to the courts and innovative techniques for dispute resolution. The population explosion, both throughout our nation and particularly within our profession, has necessitated these new emphases and although there is some trial and error before the right course is selected, these are encouraging developments.

In the area of training, self-discipline and continuing education, the urge toward improvement has never been greater. This, too, gives cause for encouragement and, yes, pride in the positive steps being taken by our profession.

But in the not-so-good news category we know from our daily newspapers, radio and television, that the legal profession is under the microscope. The criticism stems not only from consumer groups, but from no less persons than the nation's Chief Justice and the President of these United States. Disparaging books are written and are instant best sellers; do-it-yourself techniques and publications abound. And nothing, it seems, is so newsworthy as a lawyer

gone bad.

Is this cause for concern? It most certainly is; but it certainly is not cause for despair.

As lawyers we should never expect to be loved. The nature of our work is such that in most instances we have to take a position, and in taking a position it will be displeasing to some person or persons. The often misunderstood quotation from Shakespeare's *Henry the VI, Part II*, "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers," brings this proposition in sharp relief. The Duke of York aspired to the throne of England held by Henry and, to that end, York retained Jack Cade to foment insurrection as a means of fostering domestic discontent. Cade directed that there be no more money, ordered a man killed because he could write, commanded that all records of the realm be burned and announced, "My mouth shall be the Parliament of England." It was under these circumstances that his aide, Dick the Butcher, uttered the phrase which has long attended unpopular actions by lawyers, for lawyers have long been in the forefront as protectors of the rights of individuals against arbitrary governments.

Having said all that, however, much can and should be done by the profession not only to improve our work product but also the public's perception of what we do. In this area you will be commencing your practice of law at a time when advertising is permitted. Reasonable people can and do differ as to the need for and the benefits of advertising, but it is upon us and it

This address was delivered in 1979 at Marshall-Wythe School of Law Commencement exercises by R. Harvey Chappell, Jr., who earned his undergraduate degree from the College in 1948 and his BCL from Marshall-Wythe in 1950. He is currently a partner in the law firm of Christian, Barton, Epps, Brent and Chappell in Richmond and a member of the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association. He served as rector of William and Mary's Board of Visitors from 1972-1976.

will be fully tested during your term at the bar. Well intended persons have gone so far as to extend the advertising to personal solicitation and two recent decisions of our United States Supreme Court, *Ohralik* and *Primus*, have charted only part of the way toward the answer to this interesting suggestion. Lawyer discipline is being emphasized as never before and the public is being advised of it. As a matter of fact, in some jurisdictions the lay public participates in the disciplinary process. Lawyer referral (of which we have a state-wide service in Virginia operating quite successfully), and prepaid legal services (which is just in its infancy) both have potential not only to facilitate the public's access to legal services and to the courts but, equally as important, to improve the public's perception of the availability of such services.

You also enter your career at a time in which nothing can be taken for granted. This license to practice law is neither a *lifetime ticket* to security and comfortable living nor one that cannot and will not be challenged on occasion. If lawyers do not demonstrate fully and forcibly that they are capable, under the supervision of the courts, of properly administering the profession in the public service then someone will do it for us. One need only take note of the suits against the bar throughout the country, litigation based on constitutional and anti-competitive grounds, to realize that we are on our mettle and will be judged whether we like it or not.

On a positive note it was my good fortune to have been able to participate as a member of the Council of the Virginia State Bar in the process now dictated by Rule 10 (Rules for the Integration of the Virginia State Bar) which insures public participation in the promulgation of unauthorized practice of law and legal ethics opinions with ultimate review by the Supreme Court of Virginia. This is a clear demonstration of how self-evaluation as well as appropriate response to criticism can produce an effective result.

Some of you already have your commitments for the coming year precisely laid out. You will be going to a big city law firm where you will learn the intricacies of securities law and antitrust litigation; or you will be returning to the place of your birth and will practice in a small office across the square from the courthouse or you will work in a storefront office



Harvey Chappell

The legal profession is under the microscope. The criticism stems not only from consumer groups, but from no less persons than the nation's chief justice and the president of these United States. . . and nothing, it seems, is so newsworthy as a lawyer gone bad.

servicing the poor. Some of you may have no plans at all at the moment and you doubtless are concerned. My recommendation to all of you is that whether or not this first step into the practice of law is exactly what you want, get on with it, bearing in mind that in the scheme of things it is highly unlikely that you will find your final and safe harbor on your first venture. You can learn a lot by experience in differing situations and just because you did not get the offer from the law firm of your choice does

not mean that the world gets out of joint or even gets slightly bent. You will be facing competition of an intensity previously unknown and you will be expected not just to do a good job but a superior job. On reflection, you should not have it any other way.

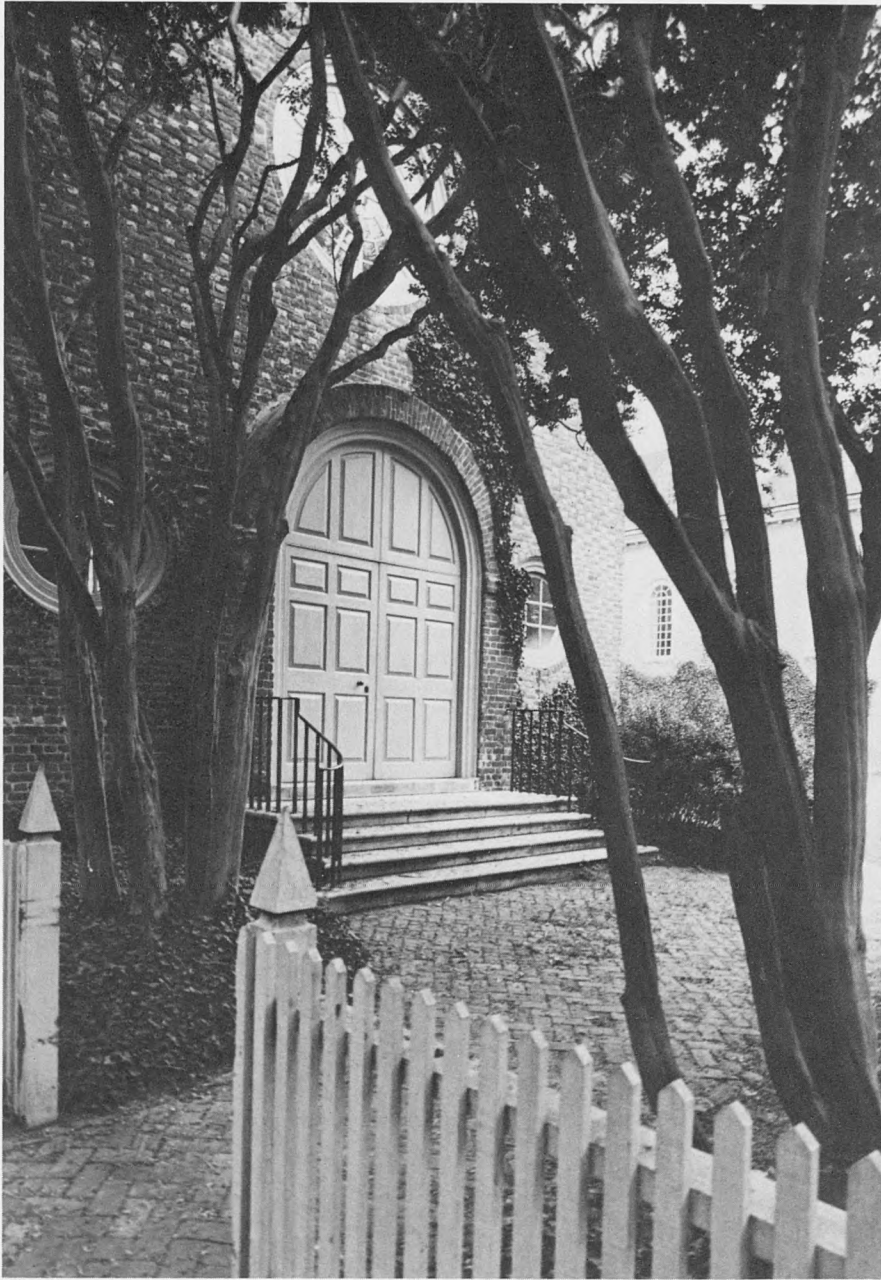
You will have an opportunity to make your individual impression on the legal profession and I hope that you will not let it slip by you. As someone has said rather cynically, life is a business of narrow margins, a game of inches, and it's better to be lucky than smart. I do not subscribe to this wholeheartedly but there is a measure of truth in taking advantage of every opportunity that is fortuitously presented because it may not return again.

One final comment. I hope that you believe that you can change the world; that there is a place in your lives for idealism. Such an attitude can be most helpful for you and for the larger community in which you live. But know that you probably will not accomplish all that you would desire. A Smith Hempstone column called my attention to this observation by Malcolm Cowley in his book, *And I Worked At The Writer's Trade*:

"Every age group is doomed to disaster, or at least to defeat in terms of its aspirations, when these are measured against its actual way of life. Some groups are defeated sooner than others, for more predictable reasons, but each in the end reveals fatal overemphasis, some flaw in calculation, some failure to cope with historical events; or else it will be destroyed by the simple passage of time."

"There comes a morning when the survivors grope among the wreckage, as after a tidal wave, and learn that their world has been swept away with, among other things . . . its rewards and penalties for being honest, and its fine gradations of respect. A fortunate generation . . . is one whose defeat is palliated by a few lasting achievements, and perhaps by the memory of great purposes and good times."

Great purposes, good times and a few lasting achievements. I wish you all of these, together with success and enjoyment of and pride in being members of a great profession. Good luck!



The Great Hall

Though the Wren Building's Great Hall was used for a variety of purposes in Colonial days, it primarily served as a place for the president, masters and students to receive their meals together. Sitting at the head table with his back to the fireplace, the president, accompanied by the masters, could observe the students and servants as they ate at long tables which stretched along each of the Hall's wood-paneled walls.

Dressed in full gowns, the diners followed unique medieval customs by using ancient utensils and beginning each meal with Latin and Greek versicles and responses. Beer was served at the meals as it was thought to benefit one's health and to make the boys grow. It was also considered to be better than water since the latter could harbor typhoid germs.

While the Great Hall served as a place for the students to fill their stomachs, it was also a spot for them to have their brains picked by demanding professors. On the first day after the customary breaks students received between academic terms, they appeared in the Hall to face the College's famous--or infamous--oral examinations.

The room was also used by students for fencing, singing, drawing and dancing classes. The Virginia House of Burgesses met twice in the Great Hall, while the Capitol was being built in the early 18th century and again in the mid-18th century when the Capitol was being rebuilt following a fire.

On the Back Cover

Life as a professor at a small college in the colony of Virginia must have been a new experience to the men who travelled across the Atlantic in the 1700's from the colleges of Oxford, Trinity and Dublin. Required by the College Statutes to be single, each professor, or Master, had a small suite on the third floor of the Wren Building.

But they also needed a place of their own to meet and be sociable, so the Common Room sprang into being. In the room were books, philosophical (or scientific) equipment, a wine chest, and comfortable chairs and sofas. The professors apparently maintained their own system of etiquette, remembered from European academic life. Then, as now, it was a mark of distinction at English universities to be invited to the professors' common room for coffee or Madeira.

At the door each night that the College was in session, the professors counted and blessed the students at curfew before sending them to bed. This room was strictly for the use of the professors. The assistant teachers, called ushers, were not allowed in without invitations.

The Professors' Common Room

