

INDEX SHEET

Interviewee Charles P. McCurdy  
Date of interview April 2, 1975  
Place 500 23rd St., Apt. 305 - Washington, D.C.  
Interviewer Emily Williams  
Session number 1  
Length of tape off 120 mins.

Contents:

Approximate time:

Panfret's relations with WAM since 1951	4 mins.
Students days, 1929-1933	4 mins.
description of town and college	
effect of Great Depression on students	
discipline	
work of J.A.C. Chandler	5 mins.
McCurdy's evolution	
McCurdy's relations with	
presidential elections at WAM, 1917-1922	2 mins.
effect of J.S. Bryan on WAM social life	5 mins.
Worfolk scandal	
selection of Panfret	6 mins.
character of Board of Visitors over years	2 mins.
Panfret's lack of political connections	1 min.
growth of athletic program and Board of	6 mins.
Letters	
Faculty Statement, Board of Visitors, and	6 mins.
election of A.D. Chandler	
evaluation of A.D. Chandler	1 min.
McCurdy's resignation as alumni secretary	12 mins.
general comments on athletics at WAM	7 mins.
discovery of faked transcripts, Panfret's reaction	4 mins.
Panfret's resignation	3 mins.
evolution of Panfret, Chandler, Graves	5 mins.
Koenigle incident	2 mins.
fund-raising	5 mins.
Marshall's investigation	4 mins.
miscellaneous impressions - on F.R. Dow, alumni,	10 mins.
connection and Bryan, law school, expansion of program	

See back of sheet for names and places mentioned in interview

Indexing Terms used

Chandler, Julian Alvin Carroll (AL, Fac, Pres)

Dew, Thomas Roderick (AL, Fac, Pres)

Little, John Peyton, Jr. (AL)

McCurdy, Charles Post, Jr. (AL + Staff)

Metz, Lulu D (BOV)

Pollard, John Garland (Fac + BOV)

Pomfret, John (Pres)

Taylor, Bessie Porter (Staff)

Tuck, William Munford (AL + BOV)

Alumni Association

Alumni Association -- Censorship Controversy of 1951

Associated & Branch Campuses -- Norfolk Division -- Grade-changing

Scandal of 1941

Athletics -- 1930's

athletics -- c.1945-1950

athletics -- c.1970-1975

athletics -- Football -- Scandal of 1951

Board of Visitors -- 1940's and 1950's

Curriculum -- c.1934-1940

Development Office

Marshall-Wythe School of Law

President of the College -- Appointments -- Bryan, J.S.

President of the College -- Appointments -- Chandler, A.P.

(to back of next index sheet)

INDEX SHEET

Interviewee Charles P. McCurdy  
 Date of interview April 3, 1975  
 Place 500 23rd Street, Washington, D.C.  
 Interviewer Emily Williams  
 Session number 2  
 Length of tape 46 mins.

Contents:	Approximate time:
story on W.M. Tuck	2 mins.
student strikes, 1932 and 1933	8 mins.
C.C.C. comp on campus	1 min.
alumni operations, 1930s - 1950s	20 mins.
selection as alumni executive secretary	
<u>Alumni Gazette</u>	
duties of alumni secretary	
presidential involvement in alumni work, J.A.C. Chandler to Grace	4 mins.
character of alumni office after 1951,	14 mins.
relations between president and alumni secretary	
McCurdy's work since 1951	2 mins.
role of W+M alumni	

Indexing terms used (cont)

President of the College -- Influence + Changes  
During Administration -- Bryan, J.S.

President of the College -- Influence + Changes  
During Administration -- Graves, T.A., Jr.

Scandals -- Flat Hat Incident of 1945

Student Life -- 1930's

Student Protests -- 1932-1933

Student Rules -- 1930's

Charles P. McCurdy, Jr.

When Charlie McCurdy graduated from William and Mary in 1933 his connection with the college was far from over. In 1937 he became executive secretary of the alumni association, in charge of publishing the Alumni Gazette (which became a prize-winning magazine), fund-raising, and homecoming planning. In a 1951 dispute with the board of directors of the Society of the Alumni he resigned; the board had refused to allow further publication of a series of articles probing the athletic program at William and Mary. At the time of this interview he was national chairman of the William and Mary Fund.

The following transcript was edited by both the interviewer and Mr. McCurdy and its use restricted (permission of Mr. McCurdy required) during his lifetime.

(McCurdy died in 1987)

Charles P. McCurdy, Jr.

April 2, 1975

McCurdy: Back in 1958 I was at the Phi Beta Kappa exercises at the college, and afterwards we went over to the Guys's for drinks. Mrs. Guy and John Garland Pollard, Jr. (the son of the former governor), and I were saying that somebody needed to raise money to have a portrait of Mr. Pomfret painted for the college collection. If we didn't do it then it wouldn't be done or else it would be painted from a photograph. So quietly Gladys Guy and I wrote letters to friends for contributions -- without knowing how much it would cost. When we had over \$1000 I wrote to Mr. Pomfret telling him we had done this and for him to pick an artist of his choice out on the west coast. He turned us down -- he was still feeling bitter about his experience at William and Mary. I wrote a scorching letter back. Fortunately, as you should do with such letters, I didn't send it. I read it to Mrs. Guy on the telephone, and she cautioned me not to send it or to tone it down. I did. But I reminded him that he had been president of the college for nine years, and to the students who were there during his time, he was their only president. He was high in their affections -- most of them -- and he should appreciate this. He knew that the college had this collection of presidential portraits (with a few omissions). Finally he agreed to have it done, and he chose an artist (I think a very fine one, as it turned out) on condition that it never be displayed at the col-

lege during his lifetime. We didn't like to accept that but we did just to get the portrait. It was sent to the Guys's residence. We had an informal unveiling down there one Saturday afternoon, then it was put in a secure place in the library. Subsequently, Mr. Pomfret was back, the last time, I guess, when Mr. Paschall was president. Paschall went out of his way to be kind to President and Mrs. Pomfret, and Pomfret was just overwhelmed (he told me so himself) at the courtesy that the Paschalls had extended. At the end Mr. Paschall asked him, "Mr. Pomfret, won't you let us hang your portrait? We want it in the Wren Building." And I can see Pomfret telling him, "Okay, go ahead and do it." We were glad.

I hope you do get to see him. His letters now are so much different than they were some years back. I've seen him two or three times out there and here. That unfortunate experience -- it's still unfortunate -- but it's faded in memory, as such things should, and he remembers the good things at the college. Now he has been quite helpful in interesting certain alumni in making bequests to the college, and very successfully so with one man in New Jersey. Pomfret is absolutely responsible for doing this in the last two years. The man in New Jersey<sup>7</sup> has set up a sizeable unitrust at the college. So he's back in the fold, and that's the way it should be.

You asked me about my student days, and I think I can cover that very briefly. I went there in September 1929 which, as I

said earlier, is almost forty-six years ago. It was quite a different place than it is now. The railroad station was back of where the Governor's Palace is. There were no taxis; I had to haul a suitcase from down there to Monroe Hall. It was a seedy town; you've probably heard that from many people. Duke of Gloucester Street was probably one of the dustiest and ugliest streets in the world, particularly the first two blocks off the college campus, the business district. There are many pictures of it in those days. The college was a delightful place, with a small student body.

You raised a question about the depression. It started a month after I arrived -- the collapse on that Black Friday in New York on Wall Street. But I don't think we were too conscious of it. It came into our consciousness each fall when certain students did not return and the reason, as we learned, was that they couldn't afford to come back. But those of us who were there weren't too conscious of it. Our needs were simple. It didn't cost as much to live there then. Tuition was small. We were able somehow to have a good time without spending a lot of money. We had dances every Saturday in Blow Gymnasium; we had all those beautiful girls on campus. You mentioned something about discipline; the social rules for women were simply unbelievable -- and inexcusably so. Why we put up with it -- I suppose part of it was because of the puritanical times and in large measure because Dr. Chandler was so inflexible and rigid in everything he said or did -- it didn't matter



if it was discipline or anything else. We were afraid of him. But beyond that, we had a good time. There were many activities: we had one broken-down movie house there on Duke of Gloucester Street, where the present building now is. I suppose a good portion of the student body [activities] revolved around fraternities and sororities, but there were other activities, too. The dramatic club and theater were always prominent at William and Mary, particularly under Miss Althea Hunt, who was the long-time director of the theater -- a great woman.

[Also,] I was there at the beginning of a creation of a first-rate faculty. Now to be sure, there were some weak links in it in my day, and I suppose there are today. But for all of Dr. Chandler's problems -- I refer to him as Chandler Major in contradistinction to Chandler Minor -- he built that college. I saw him do it in the last five years of his life (my student days and one year later, when he died). If it hadn't been for Dr. J. A. C. Chandler, I don't believe John Stewart Bryan would have come there to succeed him or Pomfret to succeed Bryan. He created the physical plant, and he devoted all of his time to it. Bryan and Pomfret could then devote their efforts to building a good faculty and to the cultural aspects of the college.

Williams: It seemed to be almost an obsession with Chandler.

McCurdy: Absolutely, and he was trying to get it finished -- that is, that part of what we now call the old campus -- not the new campus today -- trying to do it before he died. Of course, he really

did not complete it, but he got it on the road. He had great influence in Richmond. He could have been governor of the state almost by acclamation, but he told John Garland Pollard, who was the head of the government department, "Garland, you go run for governor because I can get more out of you for William and Mary than I could get for William and Mary if I was governor." So Pollard did run. He was living right there in Chandler Court in Williamsburg. I was there the night he was elected. We all went out there in Chandler Court and greeted him. But Chandler -- his whole concern -- I don't think it's fair to say he had no interest in people, but his prime concern was getting that college built. There was no social life in the President's House. I never heard during my whole time there (during his presidency) of his entertaining in the house, even officially. His wife had died a couple of years after he became president. He took his meals in the college dining hall, Trinkle Hall, in a little private dining room. Occasionally he had guests for dinner or luncheon over there. The Board of Visitors came, and he would entertain them there, but never in the house. No faculty members to my knowledge were ever invited. Some people went there for his last faculty meeting. (This was three weeks before he died.) He was so ill that he had to have the faculty meeting in the President's House, and everybody knew they were looking at him for the last time. I think that evening he went to Norfolk to the hospital, where he died. But that was the first time any faculty

members had gotten in the President's House. Well, he was a great man in many ways, but he was not beloved.

Williams: How did the students feel about him?

McCurdy: They were not happy with him. They were not close to him.

I happened to have a very good relationship with him -- I don't know why. And there were others who did, too, of course.

I was a close friend of his youngest son, Julian Chandler (now deceased), who was in school with me. (One of these days I shall be buried right next to him in Arlington Cemetery. He was buried the same day in Arlington that my wife was buried, and there is a space in-between Harriet and Julian for me.)

Well, I had a very good relationship with Dr. Chandler, and being president of my class I had more contact with him than some students did, I guess. He always treated me very kindly. My last act after graduation was to go by and say goodbye to him and thank him for what he had done for me. But he was not beloved by students. He was a cold person. And then came John Stewart Bryan.

There is an interesting thing about the election of presidents of William and Mary. Going back to the election of Chandler in 1919, I guess almost with exception until the election of President Graves, whenever we elected a president there had to be a terrible battle that tore people to pieces. In 1919 it was between Dr. Chandler, who was then superintendent of schools in Richmond, and James Southall Wilson, a graduate of the college, I think in the class of 1904, who was the son-in-law of

retiring president Lyon Tyler. Of course, Tyler's name in William and Mary's history was great, and Wilson was highly respected. Many thought he should be president. But Chandler was the man for the time if there ever was one. Wilson would have carried on his father-in-law's easy-come, easy-go, sleepy way of doing things. Probably few if any new buildings would have been built. Wilson would have been more interested in scholars. So Chandler was the right man at the right time. In 1934 we had another horrendous battle between John Stewart Bryan, the publisher of the Richmond newspapers, and Sidney B. Hall, a graduate of William and Mary, class of 1920, who was superintendent of public instruction in the state of Virginia. Subsequently I came to know Dr. Hall very well and admired him. But in 1934 Bryan was the man for William and Mary just as Chandler had been in 1919. I don't like to use the word culture, but that's what the college needed, and John Stewart Bryan furnished it. First of all he started bringing in some teachers, mostly from Harvard. Mr. Bryan had a bias: if you didn't have a doctorate from Harvard you had to sit below the salt. But as a consequence of that, we got Professors Fowler, Miller, Charles Harrison (now retired at University of Sewanee), and many others -- fine, top-flight professors across the board. He began finding money to put into music and art. He developed our fine arts department under a genius named Leslie Cheek, who has since retired. (He was head of the art museum in Richmond.) This is exactly what William and Mary needed in those

days.

Everybody was heavily engaged in social activities. Mr. Bryan entertained everybody in the President's House: faculty, alumni, students. Of course, during Chandler's regime, even if he had entertained, he couldn't serve alcohol because of Prohibition. Well, that ended just about the time Mr. Bryan came, and so he was serving cocktails in the President's House. This was something new. He was a distinguished man, one of the greatest men I have ever known. Now people have asked me sometimes and I have asked others, "How many truly great people have you ever known?" In my case I say three, and John Stewart Bryan is one of my three. To know him was to love him. Well, he was there eight to nine years, too, and added all kinds of things, like the Christmas ball, the like of which had never been seen before and never will be again. We imported costumes from New York. We all had to be in costume. All this was free. All the seats were taken out of the old Phi Beta Kappa Hall for the dance. A throne was up on stage where Mr. Bryan sat and presided throughout the ball as the "lord of the manor." I remember one night that John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and Mrs. Abby Aldrich Rockefeller were guests, and they were in costume, too. Mr. Rockefeller made some comments about the curls in my wig. I didn't tell him what I thought about that wig. It itched terribly.

While all this was going on, though, Mr. Bryan ignored the divisions of the college, then two: Norfolk and Richmond. The

then dean of the college, Dr. Kremer Hoke, cautioned Mr. Bryan that he'd better give them more attention or we were going to have accreditation problems. Mr. Bryan's real attitude about that was, "Oh, Dean Hoke, leave me alone. I don't want to hear about it." Dean Hoke was right; Mr. Bryan was wrong. If Mr. Bryan had had his way he would have gotten rid of the divisions. That would have been all right, too, if he had done it, as far as I was concerned, but as long as we had them we couldn't let their standards tear down ours. We had a dean at the Norfolk division who violated the regulations of the Board of Visitors. They gave courses there they weren't prepared to give. They didn't have the library facilities or laboratory facilities. Sure enough, on December 8, 1941, we had a convocation in the old Phi Beta Kappa Hall, packed to the rafters. Mr. Bryan was on stage, and we thought this was to be a statement about Pearl Harbor, which had happened the day before. It wasn't mentioned. We were told that the college had lost its accreditation. Finally it had happened. I suppose to students it didn't mean a great deal, but to faculty members this was very serious. Shortly after that Mr. Bryan announced his forthcoming retirement the following June. He was in his seventies. He had left a mark; he had done a great job at William and Mary. As I say, he was one of the most respected, beloved, and greatest men.

Williams: I understand that before Chandler died he was afraid that Mr. Bryan would be his successor. Do you think this is possible?

McCurdy: I did not know that. I have heard it the other way: that Dr. Chandler wanted Sidney Hall to be his successor. That could be so. Mr. Bryan was the vice-rector of the Board of Visitors, so Dr. Chandler knew him well, of course. Really in many ways, Mr. Bryan was the most distinguished Virginian, far more distinguished than many governors we had during his time. But I don't know that Dr. Chandler expressed that fear. He may have. Certainly they were entirely different in their way of operating. One of the first things Mr. Bryan did was to countermand all these silly disciplinary rules that Dr. Chandler had put in. He also got rid of the then-social director and made Miss Marguerite Wynne-Roberts the social director, which isn't to say that permissiveness started at that time, but things did ease up, particularly for the girls. They could smoke in their rooms if they wanted to without fear of being expelled. Considering some of the things the girls put up with -- it's a wonder they stayed. You never quite knew who was responsible for these silly rules, whether they came from the Board of Visitors or from the president or from Miss Bessie Porter Taylor, who was the powerful social director. Mr. Bryan got her out. She retired to the eastern shore of Virginia.

In June 1942, Mr. Bryan left and we were faced with an election. In the meantime, I had left the college to go into the navy, but I kept in close touch with what was going on, and I was very much interested, of course, in who was selected to succeed Mr. Bryan. There was a member of the Board of Visitors

who was the mayor of Williamsburg, Channing M. Hall. He was a close friend, and we were in constant communication. It came down to a choice -- there were many people considered -- but the final choice was between Pomfret and a man named Morgan Coombs, who was then president of Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg. I never met Mr. Coombs, but I didn't like some of his supporters. It did appear that he personally was conniving to get this appointment. I didn't know Mr. Pomfret either, but all that I read about him convinced me that he was far preferable to Mr. Coombs.

Mr. Coombs was a prominent factotum of the Byrd political organization; indeed, his brother was Harry Byrd's principal lieutenant and a behind-the-scene manipulator. Morgan Coombs was so politically oriented that I could not believe he would contribute much to the academic reputation of the college, which it certainly needed at that time, having recently lost its accreditation. It ought to be noted here that when colleges lose accreditation it is usually a matter of years before it is restored. The Southern Association had so much confidence in John Pomfret that it restored William and Mary's accreditation in less than a year. In sum, I was for Pomfret and against Coombs because the members of the Board of Visitors for whom I had the highest regard were for Pomfret. These were: Gordon Bohannon, Channing Hall, Francis Pickens Miller, and George Scott Shackelford. I had a low regard for the Visitors who wanted Coombs, notably Oscar L. Shewmake, A. Herbert Foreman.



Well, Channing Hall and I had almost daily correspondence (and incidentally, that and many other letters of my experiences at William and Mary have been turned over to Herbert Ganter at the college library. He can tell you where they are. I wrote him some years ago and said, "It's a question of throwing them away or turning them over to you. What do you want? I don't know that they are of any value." He insisted that I send them. All of my correspondence on the Pomfret election is there if Herbert hasn't disposed of it). But my assignment -- really, my contribution to the election: there was a woman on the board (the only woman on the board), a Mrs. Lulu Metz McManaway, who lived in Manassas. I don't know if she's still living there or not.

Williams: She's dead.

McCurdy: She was a school teacher. These were the days of the gasoline shortage. I was stationed here in Washington and to go to Manassas you had to worry about your gas. I talked with Mrs. McManaway frequently on the telephone. It got down to where she was going to be the key person; if she went the other way Coombs would be elected. The Coombs people thought she was in their corner because she was a school teacher; she had taught at Fredericksburg. I went to Manassas and had a nice Sunday afternoon visit with Mrs. McManaway. She was a very pleasant woman, but I don't think she was really qualified to serve on the Board of Visitors, and I never knew why governors appointed and reappointed her. Well, the election came in August of '42

(I was in Washington -- I couldn't go to Williamsburg. My father was dying). Telephoning back and forth -- I'll never forget the Saturday night that I got the telephone call from Walter Ferguson, who was then president of the alumni society, to tell me that Pomfret had won. He was elected on the vote of 6 to 5. This was interesting because in those days the board had ten appointed members plus the superintendent of public instruction, who at that time was Dabney Lancaster. The question came whether Lancaster could vote, and the rector of the board, James Gordon Bohannon, another very fine alumnus of the college, determined the ex-officio member could vote. That elected Pomfret 6 to 5, with Mrs. McManaway and Dr. Lancaster voting for Pomfret. Pomfret later told me that had he known that he never would have accepted. Some of the board members just weren't large enough to make a motion to declare it unanimous, which is the usual thing to bring in the new president with the best wishes of everyone. Pomfret didn't know it at the time he came. I went back for his inaugural on Charter Day, 1943. (Mr. Bryan became chancellor of the college.) It was a great occasion, though it was subdued because it was wartime.

While I'm speaking of the Board of Visitors, that takes me back to a comment Mr. Bryan made one time. We had many distinguished people serve on that board. They were all appointed by the governor. But it reached the point where only two -- maybe only one, but let's say two -- who were alumni, and this was

offensive to many alumni. So the speaker of the House of Delegates, Ashton Dovell, a William and Mary graduate, was able to get through the legislature the requirement that of every five appointments, two had to be alumni, and this satisfied us. Although the alumni society was then authorized to submit recommendations to the governor, the governor didn't have to accept them, but it [the society] was given permission to recommend [them]. But it went not the way we wanted; it switched around until nine out of ten were alumni. That was not good, either; that was too inbred. We needed to have some other people on the board. The appointments became progressively worse, and Mr. Bryan used to say, "Well, Charlie, there's one thing certain; no matter who the governor appoints next time they can't be any worse than we have now." And invariably Mr. Bryan was wrong; they got worse. There was one time when if you had lined up all sixteen thousand living alumni in order of quality and ability the one man at the bottom would've been the governor's appointee. They were simply frightful. Now I imagine Mr. Bryan had to put up with some of this, but Pomfret had it throughout his entire nine years. It's a wonder he stood it as long as he did.

Williams: Mr. Pomfret wouldn't have had even as much influence in Richmond, perhaps, as Mr. Bryan.

McCurdy: Not at all. Mr. Pomfret steered clear of anything smacking of politics; he didn't even go up to testify before the appropriations committee, which he should have done. He sent Charlie

Duke, who was the bursar. Duke knew his way around Richmond, but that's not the same as having the president there. I knew later through President Paschall and a good friend of mine, former president Edgar Shannon of the University of Virginia, that Edgar spent practically the whole legislative session in Richmond. Sure, he had other people come down there with him to testify on certain facts, but Shannon was there talking about the needs of the university; Pomfret just wasn't built that way. It's too bad; that's one of his failings. So he sent Duke. In consequence, the college received no capital outlay during Pomfret's administration; oh, I think he got some money for improvements for the buildings that were going to rot. We did get the buildings painted, the grounds improved, but that's about all. The board got worse and worse, and it reached, I think, its lowest nadir at the end of the Pomfret regime. You can imagine what we expected when that board was going to elect a new president. Now this brings us up to this frightful situation which faced the college in the late '40s, culminating in 1951.

Mr. Bryan was partially responsible for this; he brought in a coach, Carl Voyles, to more or less put William and Mary in big-time football. He certainly did; we played such schools as Oklahoma, Michigan State, and Arkansas -- I forget all of them now. We got in one bowl game. This got out of control. Voyles was dismissed during the war, and after the war McCray was the coach. There were all kinds of rumors going around about some hanky-panky in admissions policies as they pertained to football

players. The then dean of the college, Nelson Marshall, talked with me, among others, about what he was uncovering as dean. This was a disgraceful situation. I'm not going into all the details because I wrote this up in the Alumni Gazette for that period (October and December 1951 issues), which caused my own defenestration at the college.

The point was that the Board of Visitors was really a glorified athletic committee and more concerned with athletics than they were the day-to-day operations of the college or academic policies -- not that I wanted them to interfere in academic matters -- but they were obsessed with football. One time they had a board meeting on a Saturday we were going to have a home game, and the then rector of the board, Mr. Foreman, just had the twitches because he was afraid he would miss the kickoff. He was trying to get the board out of the way. Foreman was an incredibly weak member of the board. He never missed a meeting; his proudest boast was that he had never missed a meeting. I was critical of Mr. Foreman for having been reappointed (in those days you could be reappointed every four years forever), and Alvin Chandler said to me, "Why Charlie, don't you know that Mr. Foreman has never missed a meeting of the board?" And I said, "Mr. Chandler, I think there are more important things than bodily presence. You've got to contribute more than that."

Mr. Pomfret didn't like a dispute; he wouldn't tackle the board on this. There was a time -- I don't think there's any

question about it -- I think Harold Fowler and some others (like Jim Miller) would agree with me -- that if Mr. Pomfret had gone into the Board of Visitors' meeting knowing what was going on in the athletic department (falsifying transcripts, changing grades, giving grades when they didn't even take a course -- that kind of thing) -- if Pomfret had gone into that board meeting and banged his fist on the table and said, "Mrs. McManaway and gentlemen, this is going to stop or you have my resignation this minute," the board would've backed down; they couldn't have stood the scandal that would've been created by the president resigning under those circumstances. And Pomfret could prove this; Nelson Marshall had given him the facts. He temporized with it, and in the end, of course, he lost out. He's the only president, though, to my knowledge, who after being president of a college, particularly a great college like William and Mary -- there's not anything higher you can go to -- Pomfret, in a way, did. He went on to become the distinguished head of the Huntington Library and Art Museum in Pasadena and served there for another ten years or more. He left and with him (I used to keep a tally) fifteen of his administrative staff left for one reason or another.

Well, the election of Alvin Chandler -- there will never be another one like that, hopefully. When I say that, I'm not critical of Chandler; I'm getting back to the Board of Visitors. The board then had as its Director as devious, malicious, and mendacious a man as has ever lived: Oscar Lane Shewmake of

the class of 1902, '03 (somewhere in there), who had been a professor of law at the college. He was a shrewd lawyer, no question. He did not enjoy a very good reputation in Williamsburg, but he did have strong support among football alumni. He made a great statement that the board would search the country wide for the best man (most colleges do that, you know). He had Jim Miller named acting president of the college. (Jim had been dean of the college.) The faculty calmed down. Oh, we got up a resolution that protested -- I don't know whether you've heard about the famous protest?

Williams: Yes. Can I stop you and ask you questions there?

McCurdy: Surely. Stop me any time; please do.

Williams: Well, I'll back up later and ask you questions, but here it seems to me. . . . Yes, I know that you had been very active in writing the "Faculty Statement." One of the things that no one has been able to tell me is who originated this idea and when was it decided the faculty should write a statement? When I say faculty, I don't mean to leave you out of this.

McCurdy: I was in it principally because we realized we had to get money for printing and distribution. It couldn't come from alumni funds. We wanted the widest possible distribution. The faculty members by and large contributed -- most of them; I had to get the rest. We got it through various private sources. I was not the author of the statement; I worked with the committee that did write it. Now there's one person living -- there are two who may help on this, but one in particular. You might

check with Warner Moss, who is still living.

Williams: Yes, I've talked to Warner Moss.

McCurdy: I don't place him as the author.

Williams: He certainly didn't claim it.

McCurdy: Bill Guy was on it, a chemistry man. Fowler.

Williams: Mel Jones?

McCurdy: Mel Jones, maybe. Yes. It was done in my office in the Braffer-ton. My office furnished all the secretarial work -- the draft-ing, retyping, so on, and getting it printed. I forget now; I think we had something like ten or twenty thousand copies printed, mailed to all alumni -- and this was the point that was so touchy. I would be on the spot if we used alumni money for postage or to print it. The faculty was determined that every alumnus would get a copy and of course, every prominent person in the state, from the governor on down. We handled all the technicalities. I was criticized for allowing the use of my addressing machine for this purpose (to send it to the alumni). The statement was presented to the Board of Visitors at the time they were meeting in Richmond and we understood so angered the board, particularly Shewmake, that they decided in effect, "To hell with the faculty committee to select a president; we're going to find one ourselves and right away."

Williams: Do you think that's what did it?

McCurdy: Oh, yes.

Williams: Without that statement it wouldn't have been this way?

McCurdy: You check the Alumni Gazette for '51; it was in the October and



December issues that the whole story's recorded. (Don't be fooled. I can remember it now; the printer made a mistake and put September on the October issue. When I say October, the magazine shows September. I've got it here, but it's in the library, of course.)

Williams: Yes. It's in my office right now.

McCurdy: The Board of Visitors held a brief meeting one Saturday morning in early October and heard brief statements from the faculty committee and the Society of Alumni president indicating their views of what qualities the next president should have. The president of the alumni society then, Carroll Quaintance, a lawyer who lives here in Washington, appeared before the Board of Visitors and got short shrift from Mr. Shewmake, who subsequently stated that the statement from the alumni society board had no relevance whatever. Nobody could understand it. The faculty committee went over -- I know Moss was there and Phalen, who's since died (a professor of mathematics); I don't think Miller was on it as acting president. It was a three-man faculty committee: Morton and I'm sure Warner Moss were on that. You better catch him; he's one of the last survivors of this. I also believe retired professor Albion G. Taylor was on it. (He now lives in Colorado.) And they came away mystified by the attitude of the board. The board asked them no questions. They thought they were going to discuss the type of person we wanted at this particular time in the life of the college. This was on a Saturday. The following Tuesday (Monday or Tuesday) the

faculty was having its monthly meeting in Washington Hall. Acting president Miller was reassuring the faculty that a rapport had been established with the Board of Visitors and this committee was looking into finding a president and another committee was looking into developing a new athletic policy so these terrible things would not recur. They broke up about 6:00 P.M. to go home for dinner, and as Jim Miller went in his house, his wife called him to the radio in a hurry. George Passage, a newscaster from Richmond, was announcing that Vice-Admiral Alvin Chandler had been elected the preceeding Saturday and that the delay in announcing it was to give Chandler an opportunity to resign from the navy. The faculty was just indignant. They had one more meeting, and they drew up another statement deploring the action of the board, not deploring the man. They didn't know anything about the man. They admittedly (and I certainly would share this) disliked his background; not that all navy admirals necessarily make bad college presidents, but this one left much to be desired. Chandler arrived, and they were going to install him a week or so later, but when the faculty came out protesting the manner of election Shewmake moved it up two days, hustled him down to Williamsburg and went into the president's office there (Marshall-Wythe building it was then), and invited the deans of the college and Henry Billups, the black bellringer, who of course knew Alvin Chandler as a young boy, and Shewmake swore Chandler in. The then dean of women, Katharine Jeffers, broke into tears (she has

since died, too). This was the coup de gr<sup>^</sup>ce. The manner of his election and the manner of his installation had literally, as some people described it, been done under cover of darkness. He was brought in and installed before anyone could do any more protesting.

Well, he survived.it. And in fairness to Chandler Minor, by the end of his regime he too had done a lot in Richmond and had begun to build the new campus,which Davis Paschall in large measure completed. Chandler certainly made many valuable contributions to the college. I think he was inspired in large part by the memory of his father. He was determined to put his father on a higher pedestal -- there were still enough people living who disliked his father -- and Alvin was determined to make his father greater, and really, it was a waste of time. Nobody can take away from the elder Chandler what he gave the college, whether you liked him or didn't like him. I refer to him as the modern-day James Blair of the college.

There was no competition /in selecting Alvin Chandler/ like we had with Bryan and Sidney Hall or Pomfret and Coombs; it never got that far. Whoever suggested Chandler, nobody knows to this day. I don't think Shewmake, for example, was an intimate of Alvin Chandler. Well, his election brought an exodus. That's when I left. Now for my own part -- if you have those Gazettes, you know what happened. We had an alumni board /of/ nine members, and in regular session in November (it had been moved

up to favor me because I was at that time president of the American Alumni Council and had to take off on a tour of the district meetings around the country, so they advanced the meeting to November [it's usually the first week in December], and eight of the nine members were there. [There was] one absentee; Crawley Davis of Wilmington was sick. The first order of business was to elect Malcolm Sullivan as president of the alumni society. Malcolm was a close friend of mine [when he was] a student; he was probably the youngest alumnus to be named president of the society, class of '42, and here in '51, nine years later, he was president of the alumni society -- well-liked and an able guy. (He was here just two weeks ago; I had a nice visit with him, and he went on to Williamsburg.) [The] first thing after electing Sullivan was that they turned to me and to my associate editor, Fred Frechette, and commended us because the Alumni Gazette for the second straight year had been named one of the top ten alumni magazines in the country -- we were competing with California and Harvard and Yale and some of the greatest alumni magazines of that day (today, too, I guess) -- it was quite a distinction, one of which I was immensely proud. The alumni board formally congratulated Fred and me for this distinction. The October issue of the Gazette had carried the first of a series of three articles Fred and I had written on football at William and Mary. These had been started before the scandal really broke loose. We started in June of '51 doing research

in the library, and the first one had been prepared and printed in the October (which is self-styled September) issue. The alumni board, seeing that it was to be the first of three, debated for five hours whether the second and third should be printed or not. The second had been finished; it was in galley proof. The third one was still in the typewriter stage.

The titles were: 1) "The Academic Cost of Football," 2) "The Financial Cost," 3) "The Moral Cost." It was obvious the board wanted the series discontinued, but they wanted to avoid having a vote on it, and I was determined there was going to be a vote. Fred went over to the office and brought back the galley proof on the second one, and I read it to the board. Their argument was that this should not be printed because it would embarrass President Chandler, the new president, that we should all rally around and support the president. My argument was that this in no way could embarrass President Chandler; he had nothing to do with the scandals that preceded his arrival, and I thought that in the long run it would help him to get this story out -- just what had happened at William and Mary in this disgraceful athletic program. About 2:30 in the morning they took a vote; the vote was seven to one against me. The one who supported me and thought the remaining articles should be printed was Jacqueline Fowlkes Herod of the class of 1943, and she fought, argued, almost cried; she was as spunky as any of them, but she stood alone. So in sheer exhaustion the board adjourned. I said nothing of my plans at that time. I happened to drive

Wilfred Lambert home (he was on the board and voted against me), and as I let him out I said, "Wilfred, you know what this means. I am through." "Oh, now," he said, "you'll feel better tomorrow." I said, "I certainly hope I feel better tomorrow after this frightful night. I'm through." The next day I met with Sullivan (it was a Saturday morning) and told him that my resignation would be on his desk within a week, as soon as I could get time to compose it. He objected, wanted me to reconsider, but I was determined not to back down on this. Fred and I had been commended for the distinction of the Alumni Gazette and a few hours later censored for having made it distinguished. Subsequently, as a result of this Fred and I received special citations from the American Alumni Council -- I have it hanging in my study and cherish it greatly. I resigned and left February 29, 1952. They allowed me to finish my visits to the American Alumni Council regional meetings. Harvard University came to my rescue and offered me a position, which I accepted.

Williams: Looking back on it, can you see any reason? As I read the Alumni Gazettes, it seems to have been a very stormy period, a very "bad scene," in the common vernacular. But can you see any other reason? At the time it looked like out and out censorship; does it still seem that way to you?

McCurdy: Yes, because they absolutely forbid me to publish the articles, which was their right as directors. I was the editor but they were the controlling factor -- they denied permission to print

the second editorial. The second editorial I, of course, didn't print, but I did print a news story in the December '51 issue that covered this whole business and the censoring vote, right down to Mrs. Herod's vote. Mr. Davis, had he been present, based upon his knowledge, would have voted for me, too. This angered the alumni board. They thought by deleting the editorial that there would be nothing in the Gazette about this whole episode. If you look at the December issue, I just continued the story. The October issue did not carry, for example, the election of Alvin Chandler. It only went as far as Pomfret's departure. It was a marvelous place to start again in the December issue with Chandler's election: how it came about, some of the things I've told you about the faculty meeting, and then going home and hearing about it on the radio. (The board didn't even have the courtesy to tell Miller that he was no longer acting president.) Because I did report these details in the December issue really angered them, and they were pretty determined that I wouldn't have the opportunity to let loose again, which would have been the March issue; so I got out on February 29th.

Williams: Then there were two articles that were never published: the one in galley proof and the one you were still writing?

McCurdy: My wife and I left Williamsburg (I forget the exact date) by train to go to Chicago. The first stop was Highland Park, Illinois. After I left, my resignation was announced publicly to the press, and pretty much the story I've told you was released

to the press, too. I arrived in Highland Park and had a whole packet full of telegrams, long distance telephone calls to return -- this kind of thing. Jack Kilpatrick, who was then the editor of the Richmond News Leader, a good friend and a supporter in this whole business, wanted me to turn the two unpublished articles over to him. He wanted to print them in the News Leader. I wouldn't let him do it. I thought this wasn't cricket; if they couldn't be printed in the Alumni Gazette I wasn't going to turn them over; this would be revenge that I didn't want. I had all manner of phone calls. This followed me all the way to California; I went from Highland Park to Lincoln, Nebraska, to Denver, to Berkeley, and Seattle. At least as far as Berkeley everywhere the press was there because there were other football scandals at the time. West Point was another nasty one.

Williams: What was in there that was so embarrassing to the alumni board?

McCurdy: It wasn't embarrassing to the alumni board. Their point of view was (who's to say whether they were right or not) that to publish the next one would kindle the controversy again, that now that we have a new president and we've got the lid on, let's let this thing simmer down. Don't keep stirring it up by repeating it. I was not certain that just because we'd gotten rid of Rube McCray and his assistant, Coach Wilson, that unless the alumni really knew what they had wrought in the support of football at William and Mary that we'd really gained a great deal. As it turned out, of course, Alvin Chandler did, to his credit,



tone down the football excesses, and as far as I know we never had that kind of thing happen again.

Williams: Before the summer of 1951, was it common knowledge in Williamsburg that the athletic program at William and Mary was what was later called a "college-sponsored racket"?

McCurdy: I would say it began around 1949. We were in such big-time competition. I flew, for example, with the team to Michigan State. Now Michigan State has been one of the football powerhouses for years. William and Mary hadn't any more right to play Michigan State than I have to taking on Muhammed Ali in a prizefight. I thought our reputation suffered, but in the eyes of many of these alumni this was the greatest thing that had ever happened -- that we'd played Oklahoma and Michigan State. They weren't content to play our so-called "natural rivals" -- Richmond, and Washington and Lee, and the University of Virginia.

Williams: Do you think a majority, or even a large minority, of the alumni were behind this kind of program? You spoke -- I think it must have been in the December Alumni Gazette -- about the "raccoon coat variety of alumni whose vision didn't extend past the homecoming parade." This must have been a very vocal group.

McCurdy: Oh, yes. Also, there was this factor in the article I was not allowed to print (one of the two I was not allowed to print): the financial thing. When Carl Voyles became coach in 1939, the Athletic Association had a deficit of something like \$12,000 -- relatively small. Well, by the time Voyles left it was well over \$100,000. The alumni started what they

called the Educational Foundation (they've just recently changed the name of it). This was to raise money to pay for this oversized football, and of course, they never raised it. (I've had some recent discussion with President Graves about it because they now have a new football policy where again the alumni are supposedly going to contribute about \$250,000 a year, and I don't think there's any more chance of that than there was before, even though we have more alumni. I called the president when I heard about this and said, "Mr. Graves, I hope the second Yankee president of William and Mary will not become a loser like the first one on the same issue." He assured me he wouldn't and I believed him. Mr. Graves, you know, is more on top of this type of thing than Mr. Pomfret. Pomfret's idea was that if you look the other way, it'll go away, and it didn't. Mr. Graves -- I think if we got into a serious scrap where we were threatened with losing accreditation -- we were almost threatened with losing it again -- would take prompt action to correct the situation. Pomfret got the accreditation restored after we lost it with Bryan, and then we almost lost it again as a result of the football scandal.)

Williams: There was this element, though, in the alumni.

McCurdy: Oh, and still is. This fall (1974) I was so surprised -- I was sitting here and the telephone rang, and I didn't recognize who she was by her married name but subsequently I did remember her. A girl, class of '41 or '42, I'll say. She'd

heard about the new policy, that William and Mary was going all out for football, and I hadn't heard about it, and I felt like an ass. I didn't know what she was talking about. I said, "I'm sure that's not so." Well, she had it on good authority. Her son was at William and Mary, and he'd told her. "Well," I said, "I just hope it's not so." Then she took me to task; she said if it weren't for football we wouldn't have any alumni fund at all. Then I said we better not have any alumni fund if that's what it's got to hang on. So we had a real hassle. She called me several times to urge my support of the new football scholarship program. It did alert me to get in touch with the president. There are still many alumni -- most of them centered in Norfolk and Richmond -- who can get back on Saturdays to see the games. Somebody out in California would not even know if we have a team or who we play. I'm not against football any more than any other sport. I'm trying to get Fred Kovaleski, who was our great tennis star of 1949 -- I was talking with him in New York last month -- to see if he can rally some of the tennis boys, some of whom have done extremely well, and get money to build tennis courts at the college in memory of Sharvy Umbeck, who was, in addition to being dean, the tennis coach who brought these great tennis players in. I don't know of a single one of them who wasn't decent and honest; they were just top-flight men, and they graduated, which is more than you can say for most of the football players of the period of which I speak. I don't know

what the percentage of graduation is now.

Williams: And that was one of your criticisms in the article that was published.

McCurdy: That's right.

Williams: The point in bringing in Carl Voyles -- Mr. Bryan's point, I should say -- was, as I understand it, to increase male enrollment or to make William and Mary more attractive to Virginia boys. Now is this a correct assumption?

McCurdy: That probably had a part. It was also due to the fact that we had had for a number of years under Coach Branch Bocock losing seasons, and this can be demoralizing to students. Voyles had a good coaching reputation; I forget the sequence -- Illinois and then Duke. He was assistant coach at Duke before he came to William and Mary, and he made quite an impression when he arrived. Boy, he didn't let the grass grow! He accomplished what he set out to do, but at what terrible costs to the college!

Williams: When you had been here as a student, what kind of attitude did the students have toward athletics? Was it something of an amateur -- say comparable to intramurals?

McCurdy: No. It was more than that. For example, we played our opening game every year with the United States Naval Academy. This was good; we were playing a reputable institution. Most of the rest were Virginia schools. Bocock was coach part of that time and at other times a man named "Honest John" Kellison. They were clean and honest. There were many football players on scholarship, and there's nothing wrong with that, but they had to make

their grades. If they didn't, they lost out, and Bocock was the first to stand by this. He was not going to have them unless they could make the grades. But we didn't play big-time, and that suited me. I suppose the first big-time game we had was during the Voyles tenure. We played North Carolina, both in Williamsburg and Chapel Hill. Out of that game came our (William and Mary's) one and only, so-called all-American: Gerrard Ramsey. He was a nice guy who did graduate!

I don't know whether Lambert told you, one of the key things that brought this to a head: there was a principal of a high school in Hampton who came up to see Lambert, who was then director of admissions (or dean -- maybe he was dean of men, but he had much to do with admissions). The principal was indignant (he was an alumnus of the college, too) that the college was admitting people whom he refused to recommend. Lambert denied the college had done any such thing. This principal said, "How do you account for so-and-so being admitted?" So Lambert pushed a button (he loves to push buttons) and had his secretary bring in the folder on this particular student. Lambert got it out and here was a recommendation on the transcript that this youngster from Hampton be admitted to the college. Lambert showed it to this principal; "Here's why we admitted him." The principal said, "Where did this come from? I have nothing further to say, but you will never have another recommendation from me." Well, Lambert -- I'm missing some points of this. If this is important,

he could fill this in -- Lambert then decided to check this. And sure enough -- a transcript had come from the Hampton high school to the athletic department instead of the admissions office and had been changed in the athletic department before coming over to the admissions office.

Williams: And this was the first that was known of this?

McCurdy: This was the first. Then Nelson Marshall started this investigation and unearthed all kinds of things. They're in that article [in the Alumni Gazette]. Somebody who was presumably enrolled in summer school to get some credits wasn't even in Williamsburg; he was driving a truck up in New Jersey. I cited many similar cases, and there were many more that could have been cited -- but enough to illustrate the point that it was simply crooked. Pomfret, faced with these facts, simply couldn't believe it. He trusted McCray, and he said he just couldn't believe anybody he trusted could betray him this way.

Williams: And even after Dr. Pomfret knew this was going on, he recommended McCray for a promotion.

McCurdy: Exactly. Nelson Marshall had presented him with this information. Unbeknownst to Marshall or anyone else, at the Board of Visitors meeting in June, when promotions are approved -- this came out several months later -- they promoted McCray to full professor with tenure. It was unreal.

One night in August of '51 we (Harriet and I) hadn't seen the Pomfrets (and we were very fond of them. Mrs. Pomfret is one of the most delightful women you'll ever meet). Harriet

went to the phone and called Mrs. Pomfret and said, "Couldn't you and Mr. Pomfret come over for a game of bridge?" Yes, they would. They came over. It was a hot night; we sat out on our porch and played bridge. You wouldn't have thought that anything had ever happened. They were calm but did mention in passing that the next day they were going to fly to California. The strange part about this was that neither of the Pomfrets were given to flying anywhere. They never flew. They were going out -- and the way he put it -- California Institute of Technology had invited him to come out to talk to them about setting up a program similar to one that William and Mary had with M.I.T., an exchange where you could come to William and Mary for three years and go to M.I.T. for two and get degrees from both institutions. This went on for a great many years and was a very fine program. It made sense to me that Cal Tech wanted to see how this worked at William and Mary and maybe they wanted to have such a program. (I remember driving them home because in the president's yard there is a fig tree, and Sara said if I came home, she'd give me some fresh figs, of which I was very fond. I drove them. Nothing rattled them at all.) When they flew back from California they stopped in Richmond, and he turned in his resignation to Judge Shewmake, came back and called several of us, asked us to come over to the house. I forget who all was invited that night; many people were still on vacation, like the Fowlers, who were in Maine. I forget who was over there

with me. Harriet didn't go; no wives, just men. We got there and he told us he'd resigned that afternoon (it hadn't been announced on the radio yet). He left the next day -- just that quickly.

Williams: Before that, though, there had been these hearings, and I've been told by other people I've talked to that they felt from the beginning that the hearings were rigged -- not rigged, but intended to blacken Mr. Pomfret's name. Perhaps even going back to his election and the problems that he had had there . . . .

McCurdy: Yes, I suppose as you look back on it and try to be objective, Pomfret never should have been a college president at William and Mary or anywhere else. He'd had administrative positions, and he was dean of the graduate school at Vanderbilt. Prior to that he had had a deanship at Princeton. But he was a scholar; his interests were writing, research, reading. All these administrative details really bored him, and therefore, he shoved them aside. This is what he did not only to the Nelson Marshall exposés, but to other troublesome things that came up. I can hear him now: "Oh, Charlie, stop worrying about that. Why do you keep on talking about that? That will pass." And it used to make me angry. Yet having said that, I still regard him as a wonderful man, a great friend. I just suffered because he failed. I think that really sums up how I feel about him.

Of all the presidents I have known -- I don't know whether you saw it or not, I made a little speech -- I made it twice, once to the alumni here and in Williamsburg last fall for the



William and Mary Fund -- and I started out (Graves was present at both meetings; it was the same speech): "I have known six of Mr. Graves's predecessors. I was a thorn in the side of five of them; three of whom I am happy to say are still living to testify to the fact: Mr. Pomfret, Mr. Chandler, and Mr. Paschall." I was at sword's points with Bryan many times, too, but you can do this and never be rude or insulting. William and Mary's been lucky. There's some celestial hierarchy that must shine upon William and Mary every time it selects a president. Even those I opposed, such as Alvin Chandler and Paschall, to a certain extent, I have to concede they did a good job; it wasn't all bad. If you'd have asked me in October '51 what the future would be at William and Mary under Alvin Chandler, I'd have said that nothing could be dimmer. I was wrong. He did a very good job, but again he's not a loveable person. No one will ever remember him with great affection -- outside of his family. He was so much like his father that sometimes -- the few times I saw him (he came in in October, and I left the following February, so I didn't have much contact with him, but what contact I had was very pleasant) -- but sometimes I'd sit across from him and it was almost eerie: I thought it was his father sitting right across from me. He had the same mannerisms, the stubby fingers . . . .

So, Mr. Graves has been there now over three years, three and a half, I guess, and I begin to hear rumblings (you know, some people carping about this and that about the president,

which is to be expected). I suppose he's had a longer honeymoon than other presidents. I have confidence in President Graves that he will still have things under control.

Williams: Do you think it's hard for an "outsider" (and I put that in quotes), such as Mr. Pomfret or Mr. Graves, to come into a situation in the state of Virginia at William and Mary?

McCurdy: Yes. I think it's less difficult now than it was when Pomfret came in, but there is sort of a built-in provincialism. I heard one female alumna, one woman graduate, belittle Mr. Graves because -- "That Yankee; we don't need those Yankees down here." You'll run into that kind of thing, but I think it's diminishing. I think Mr. Graves, as far as I know, is getting excellent support from his board, basically Virginian. (I think we now allow three out-of-state people on the board.) I think he's getting support from the current rector, Harvey Chappell, who's a very prominent lawyer in Richmond and who I think goes right down the line for the president.

This was not so with Mr. Pomfret. He had one particularly unfortunate thing occur; I don't know if this has come up in your interviews or not. I wasn't there when it happened, but in 1944 or '45 -- I'll say '45 -- the then editor of the Flat Hat, a girl named Marilyn Kaemmerle, editorialized about a time not far distant when -- in those days we referred to them as Negroes -- would be enrolled as students and would be pledged to sororities and fraternities and this kind of thing. I don't know if she went so far as to say we'll be marrying them or not,

but this really blew the top and almost cost Pomfret his job then. But he held firm. The then rector of the board, Bohannon, who was an excellent man in every other way, and Channing Hall simply were irrational on this subject. Pomfret's attitude -- he quoted former President Conant of Harvard, and I think he had a good statement. Conant said, "Mr. Pomfret, student newspapers should be as free as the wind and never read by adults." I've thought of it many times, that it's true. Pomfret refused to dismiss the girl (expel her) because she'd written this editorial. Now in that case he stood firm, but it angered many alumni -- you could see what it did for his reputation among some of these stand-pat professional southerners like Bohannon and Channing Hall and many others. They never forgave him. The strange thing was that the following June Marilyn Kaemmerle graduated, and Bohannon had to give her the degree, not once, but twice. She got a A.B. and a B.S. Many years later -- the Pomfrets had a summer place down near Cape May Point, New Jersey, where Mrs. Pomfret spent the whole summer, and he'd go back and forth -- they were walking on the boardwalk one day, and this girl came up and said, "Mr. Pomfret." Pomfret recognized her as a former student. They chatted; "How are you?" I think she'd gotten married, and she introduced her husband, and finally Mr. Pomfret said, "I'm awfully sorry, but what is your name?" Of any girl he should have remembered it was this one. I was stationed in Minnesota at the time, and it was even on the front page of the Minneapolis Star about this situation.

This year as national chairman for the W&M Fund -- I guess it was to be expected -- the first complaint I got was a letter from a good friend in Richmond, a retired lawyer of great prominence. He didn't say he was not going to contribute, but he was very angered about this appointment of Jeroyd Greene to the law faculty, not on the basis of race, but because he was totally unqualified to teach aspiring lawyers. And I have to say on the basis of what I've heard, I think Greene should never have been appointed either. Well, I got this man straightened out, pacified, and I think he contributed all right. Most of the complaints I received were disaffected because of the admissions problem where sons and daughters of alumni had been turned down -- one particular one upset me terribly. But another one came from a former editor of the Flat Hat, a fraternity brother of mine and a little bit ahead of me in college, who had spent his whole career in newspaper writing, who wrote me that he was not going to send in his modest contribution this year because John Dean came to campus. Well, I sat down and wrote him a scorching letter that he, of all people, a former editor of the Flat Hat -- I said I don't know why the students wanted to hear John Dean, but I think they had every right to. I said I'm told (I'd been down there for Charter Day) that they started walking out halfway through Dean's speech. I said I remember when I was a student we had Norman Thomas down there (and this was in a day before Thomas became really respectable), and the alumni raised hell about our having

him as a speaker on campus. I don't see any reason why the students can't hear Norman Thomas or John Dean if they want to. And I said then in the war we had this Kaemmerle editorial, and I said, "You know, I expected to go back to Williamsburg to see the Wren Building razed. I was there last week and the Wren Building still stands, and there are not only blacks in the student body, they're on the faculty, too; and nobody pays any attention to them."

Williams: Not meaning to beat the subject of the 1951 athletic situation to death, but just a couple more questions about the articles that you wrote: I could tell in reading the previous spring's Alumni Gazette that something was going to happen, and I thought it strange almost that there was a hint of the impending blow-up, that the alumni were suddenly writing letters about the athletic situation. Was this what began your articles?

McCurdy: No. This contributed to it somewhat, but what really started me was Nelson Marshall tipping me off to some of the things he'd unearthed as dean. The athletic committee did nothing; it was just a pro forma thing. Marshall, chairman of the athletic committee, went to Mr. Pomfret, and finally he asked to be relieved of the chairmanship unless he had some authority to clean up some of this. Pomfret did ask him to specify what corrective changes he would make, and Marshall did, but Pomfret didn't do anything about it. That was the time when he promoted McCray. No, those letters I don't recall precisely, though there had been from time to time some letters about the

athletic thing, usually along the line of people objecting to getting a solicitation for something called the Educational Foundation and then thinking they were contributing to the William and Mary Fund. It's only been in the last year that they changed the name to whatever it is now to identify it for what it is.

Williams: Why did Nelson Marshall get the task of investigating? It seems Dean Lambert would have been the one. I asked this of Dean Lambert.

McCurdy: Nelson was dean of the faculty or dean of the college, and these things had been brought to his attention. Lambert would never have been the one to do it, even if he had known it. But Marshall went after this. Nothing could stop Marshall. Every time he uncovered one bit of dirt, that only convinced him there was more to uncover; and he did. It'd be good if you could talk to Nelson. (Discussion on how to locate Nelson Marshall.) I felt sorry for him. He couldn't settle down. He carried this William and Mary thing on for years and years; it just ate on him like a cancer when he should have forgotten it and gone on to other things. He had done everything he could. He enjoyed a fine reputation. The faculty admired him immensely for what he did and for the fight he carried on. You might say he lost, but it wasn't his fault.

This was I would say in 1941: Mr. Bryan occasionally got some cockeyed ideas, I thought. The thirteenth president of William and Mary, Thomas Roderick Dew, had gone to Paris and died

in 1846 and was buried over there somewhere. One of his collateral descendants (he had no children of his own) was Mrs. Alfred I. DuPont. Of all the things William and Mary needed for which we could use Mrs. DuPont's money, Mr. Bryan prevailed upon her to pay to have Thomas Roderick Dew disinterred in Paris and brought back to be buried in the chapel. They had I don't know how many empty crypts in there -- there are still a few. On the day appointed, the remains came down from Richmond in a hearse; it was a rough wooden casket, just unfinished pine. Charlie Duke and I supervised lifting up the floor where he was to be put. Mr. Bryan came over and was determined that the wooden box be taken off, that he was certain there would be a casket inside the box. Well, I wasn't all that certain, and I didn't know what we were going to open up. Mr. Bryan was right. The workmen (some black college people) were scared to death. They didn't like being down in that crypt anyway. Sure enough, they opened the rough pine and there was a polished casket with an engraved plate on it. I have a feeling that after a hundred years -- it had been almost a hundred years since Dew died -- we didn't know if we were getting Dew's bones or some good French soil. We put him in there, and Charlie Duke and I had to stay by to see that the marble slabs were put back and sealed. Later they had a very impressive memorial service.

One time I wrote to Alvin Chandler, who was then in the navy. I thought of all past presidents who ought to be buried in the Wren Building, J.A.C. Chandler should be. Alvin wrote

back that he would have no objection; of course, he'd have to take it up with his three brothers. But he for one, would not permit his father to be brought to the college unless his mother could be buried there, too. Well, that was certainly all right with me. But nothing ever came of it. I talked to Mr. Bryan about it; if we were to have any other president it should be J.A.C. Chandler. (He's buried in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond.)

Well, there've been lots of other, sometimes funny, things. The former dean of women, one of the most beloved professors of my day, Dean Grace W. Landrum, went down to Florida in the mid-'30s after I had come back to the college as alumni secretary, and she reported that she found an alumnus down there who had long since been reported dead. He was alive and very active. -- John Peyton Little, class of 1873. Sure enough, in our files he was listed as deceased. Well, he was the oldest living alumnus of the college, so we paid to have Mr. Little and his wife come back for homecoming. We put them in the homecoming parade in a horsedrawn carriage, made a great to-do over him. He came back once again; Mrs. Little died, but he came back. Then one time I went to Tampa, Florida, to an American Alumni Council Meeting and invited for dinner the oldest and second oldest living alumni of the college. The second was a retired Episcopal minister named Wilmer. I remember it so well. Mr. Little said, "I'm ninety-six years and I've never had a drink in my life and that's why I've lived this long." Wilmer said,



"Well, I'm only eighty-eight, but I've never gone through a night without having a drink and that's why." We had drinks for Mr. Wilmer and me.

Williams: When Mr. Bryan had come, I'm assuming that he was very conscious that William and Mary had been primarily a teacher's college. Am I being unfair by saying that? Let me ask you that first.

McCurdy: Well, it's true we trained many teachers. The education school was quite large, but the degrees that were given, of course, were not in education; they were A.B.s and B.S.s. Now Mr. Bryan had the pure liberal arts concept and straight away decided he wanted to get rid of all professional courses. He started with one he knew best of all -- journalism. He thought that journalism was something that -- first of all, you couldn't teach it. You could either write or you couldn't and as far as learning the techniques of a particular newspaper, that newspaper would train you, but the college couldn't. So he got rid of that. He wanted to get rid of the law school, the departments of library science and secretarial science. He succeeded in closing the latter two but not the law school. He reduced home economics to just a few course offerings and eliminated professional physical education for women, but of course, he couldn't do it for men. How could you staff a football team without professional physical education, that is a physical education major? He didn't tackle -- well, he did tackle head-on the law school, and actually the board voted it out, but then rescinded the action. Some alumni, law school alumni, by

and large, raised so much hell about it that they did not kick out the law school. And he never faced up to business administration, but he would have because he felt -- he didn't want any professional schools. I must admit I went along with this, including the law school. We had in those days a magnificent professor of law named Dudley Woodbridge. I had the feeling, not only when I was a student and took a course under Mr. Woodbridge, but in later years when I was alumni director, that the law school thing would be self-answering; when Mr. Woodbridge died or retired, the law school would fall to pieces anyway. He was the only thing that kept it together; (Mr. Woodbridge was not the dean in those days; he subsequently became dean). Well, I had enormous respect for Woodbridge; he was an ornament on any faculty, and he had repeated offers to go back to his own alma mater, Illinois. So it was nothing personal about that. Mr. Woodbridge and I argued about this. After I left as alumni secretary and was back here in a new job we had correspondence about it. But now, of course, they have 450 students in law, and I can remember a June commencement where maybe five or six law degrees were awarded and that's all. I was wrong about law. It is the oldest law school here on this continent. I initially didn't think that was any reason to keep it, but I think I was wrong. It's an attribute of the college now.

I still oppose the use of the word "university." President Graves has done it in his annual report several times; I sounded off on that. I objected when President Paschall put