

Teddy K. Willey, Jr.  
Dartmouth College Oral History Program  
Dartmouth Community and Dartmouth's World  
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DONIN: Today is Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013. My name is Mary Donin. We're here in Rauner Library with Officer Teddy Willey. Is it Willey or Wiley? Willey?

WILLEY: Yes.

DONIN: Of the Dartmouth Safety and Security office. Okay, Officer Willey, first off, we'd like to find out a little bit about you and how you ended up at Dartmouth, and part of your story should be telling us why you have that wonderful Southern accent and how you ended up up here. [Laughs.]

WILLEY: It's actually a pretty good story. I was an underground coal miner for 20 years, and when the mines, you know, just totally shut down in the '80s and late '90s, I went back to school and started teaching. So I was teaching computer classes, and all of my students were, like, "You should chat. You should chat," back in the early days of Internet. And one time, I was bored in the evening. I was building a new home, and I was just relaxing on the computer, and I went to a chat [room], and I actually met someone in Lebanon, New Hampshire. So I thought, *That was nice*. We talked for a couple hours, but I didn't do it again for a couple weeks. And I thought, *Yeah, I'll do that again*.

So oddly enough, we spoke again. So at that point we decided, you know, it was really fun, so we got into the habit of talking some evenings. And then, after a few months started sending pictures and phone conversations, and finally after about six months, I said, "How about if I come take you to dinner?"

DONIN: [Laughs.]

WILLEY: So 800 miles later—

DONIN: [Laughs.]

WILLEY: —had a nice evening, and—

DONIN: Had you ever been up North?

WILLEY: Never.

DONIN: Oh, my.

WILLEY: And I fell in love with the Upper Valley. I just fell in love with it. So we continued the relationship, and I would fly up every couple months or month. I was self-employed, working two jobs. So eventually it just—I finished my home, and I said, “How about if I come to the Upper Valley and we live together?” So we did that for—and we were together 16 years. Finally it did come to an end, and now I’m single and she’s—you know, the kids are all raised. They were all her children anyway. But anyway, I’m staying. I love the Upper Valley and I love Dartmouth.

DONIN: Yeah.

WILLEY: So anyway, I transitioned when I came here, and a friend worked at Safety and Security and said, “You’d be perfect.” So I applied and they hired me.

DONIN: And this was back in what year, 1999?

WILLEY: It was just the beginning of 2000.

DONIN: Uh-huh. And what was the process like of applying to Dartmouth? Was it intimidating?

WILLEY: You know, it really wasn’t. It’s changed a lot, but back then, it was very simple. I met with the director of Safety and Security, the college proctor, as he was called back then, and a couple of sergeants, and, you know, a lot of it wasn’t so much experience but your mentality. Are you the right kind of person to converse with these kids and not get upset? Because you will run into situations that would upset a saint.

DONIN: [Laughs.]

WILLEY: But it’s been wonderful. I absolutely love my job.

DONIN: A lot of it is your personality, isn't it? How you connect with people?

WILLEY: I think so, and that's something in the hiring process that I think our new director works on really hard because you can't teach someone to be compassionate and to be understanding. It has to be something that's kind of inside of you.

DONIN: So describe what your job is.

WILLEY: Well, the department of Safety and Security is 24/7. We have 35 members now. There are only ten that do the job that I do, which is patrol the campus 24/7. And my job primarily in the summer is on a bicycle. And we just wander campus, you know, and communicate with the students, observe, and anything that looks out of the ordinary, we report, we take care of, whether it's, like, a sinkhole from a big rainstorm—you know, we find the person to fix it or make it safe; making sure the buildings are secure, helping the students to just have an experience that's safe and hopefully productive for them.

I mean, when we see something that's silly, it's like, "You probably shouldn't be doing that"—[chuckles] and talk to 'em. So it's not like police work at all. It's almost like a parent.

DONIN: You're like a real community angel, in some ways.

WILLEY: [Laughs.] Well, if the students thought we were angels, that would be a *wonderful* thing.

DONIN: [Laughs.]

WILLEY: For the most part, though, I would say that 98 percent of the students love us to death.

DONIN: They *do* think you're like—

WILLEY: They really admire us,—

DONIN: Yeah.

WILLEY: —because we—we *are* compassionate, and we're not there to get anyone in trouble; it's all about safety, and that's all we think about. It's safety. You know, keeping everyone on this campus safe. And that's faculty, too. I mean, we do a lot with faculty and staff because they have issues that they bring to work, or arise at work or, you know,—you name it, on any given day we can run into some really different situations. And sometimes you just have to scratch your head and say, *I don't think I've ever run into this*. And then you have to go with your compassion and understanding and just do what you feel is the right thing.

DONIN: It's hard—it must be very hard to remain—what's the right word?—sort of neutral and non-judgmental.

WILLEY: The way the process is set up with judicial, we are so separated. So we're fact gatherers, so when we do have a situation—let's say it's just a big room party or something. We have to go—everybody else is wanting to sleep and they're having a party and there's alcohol involved and there's underage people. We gather the facts, and we let the students know, "That's all we're doing here. You know, we're going to make you safe tonight. This information will be passed on to judicial affairs, and we, as Safety and Security, never know the outcome."

DONIN: Oh.

WILLEY: We're kept totally separate from that. So two weeks from now, when Mary or John or whoever it may be that got in trouble comes to me on the street and talks to you, it's, like, "You're not gonna believe what happened, Willey." But the deans are really, you know, sympathetic. It's not like they haven't seen this before. "Thanks for your help that night, on helping us." And it's always appreciative; it's never, like, "Why did you do that to me?" Because it's the process. We just gather the facts, and the deans and judicial handle the adjudication, so we can kind of say, "I'm sorry. I'm just doin' my job."

DONIN: So the ten of you who patrol the campus are really sort of the watchdogs—

WILLEY: Yes.

- DONIN: —for what’s going on.
- WILLEY: Yes. And we have five night security [officers], who walk the buildings, actually physical walk, and those guys are our eyes as well because they’re just constantly on the move.
- DONIN: That’s what Pete [Cornelius] does, right?
- WILLEY: Yes. And they’re wonderful. We have the best group that—since I’ve been here. They’re just—all of ‘em are really observant. You know, they let us know if they see something. And by walking the dorms constantly, they hear, you know—and they’ll say, “You might want to kind of walk through the Choates. Gettin’ a little rowdy down there,” that kind of thing. [Chuckles.]
- DONIN: And I assume there are certain days of the week that are more busy than others.
- WILLEY: Yes. Surprisingly enough, Monday nights are busy.
- DONIN: Really!
- WILLEY: Because of the secret societies.
- DONIN: Ohh.
- WILLEY: And most people don’t realize that, but that’s their night to howl.
- DONIN: So they party and stuff on a Monday night?
- WILLEY: Mm-hm.
- DONIN: Oh. And then Wednesday night, I’m told—
- WILLEY: Is meetings night for all the Greek system, so everyone is obligated to show up for house meetings from 7:30 to 9:30 or whatever time. Different ones are different times. And typically that’s when they do their whatever they have to do to belong to certain organizations. And, of course, Friday and Saturday nights is the busiest. I mean, it just always will be.

But Wednesday nights are interesting because that's when scavenger hunts, that's when the little game-playing between fraternity, sorority, or otherwise—it's fun.

DONIN: So there's always something interesting going on.

WILLEY: Always. And that's why I chose that schedule. So I work two days, and then I go to work Wednesday and Thursday nights.

DONIN: Oh, so you get a real mix, don't you?

WILLEY: I get my mix, yep. And I love it.

DONIN: The difference between the day and the night is very different.

WILLEY: Very different.

DONIN: Yeah. Somebody—I think it was Dennis Brown who was the first one who pointed out the fact that—you know, for those of us who are simply staff during the day, Dartmouth is a very different place at night.

WILLEY: Completely different world.

DONIN: It's like two different worlds. And the students become different people at night as well.

WILLEY: They do.

DONIN: You know, we see them as sort of high-functioning, smart kids who are here doing their homework and their class assignments and acting more or less like adults,—

WILLEY: Mm-hm.

DONIN: —and yet all of that changes after dark. Is that a fair assessment?

WILLEY: It's very fair. And, you know, you see all the strange outfits and the funny costumes and the skimpy outfits, and you see the students happier than you could ever imagine—you

know, after they've been—just taken the edge off their inhibitions? Is that the word for it?

DONIN: Mm-hm.

WILLEY: And you do see a different side to the campus. And that, there again, is when we have double the staffing, and you can't go a block without seeing one of us, because we are right there.

DONIN: Oh, of course. It makes sense. You've got twice as much staff at night than you do during the day.

WILLEY: Yup. So at those times, when things are more likely to happen, we've got personnel within yards, literally. I mean, any call, we're within seconds; one of our cruisers or officers is on the scene. So if someone pushes a blue light that there's panic at 9 Webster Ave., literally within seconds one of us'll be there. So we've got a really good handle on where to be.

DONIN: Mm-hm.

So let's back up to when you first came here. What was it like—what was the notion of working at, you know, a fancy, Ivy League, private college with all these rich kids? Which as we all know, isn't really what this place is about, but that's the reputation it's had. What was it like coming into a place like this? Were you intimidated?

WILLEY: Yeah, I was. And it was so foreign. I was raised so simple, you know. But it wasn't hard because of the mix here. Dartmouth has always had this wonderful mix of students. I mean, from the poorest of poor and from the farthest points of this Earth to the most wealthy off of Park Avenue. So in my job, being on the bike, I've had a nice mix of conversations and relationships. I mean, I could tell you stories of meetin' with students in the middle of the night, bawling their eyes out and, you know, spending an hour talking to 'em that were dirt poor, and then *they* were intimidated.

DONIN: Yeah.

WILLEY: You know? They just—I can't even explain it. But I think Dartmouth has done so well with the mix of people here. It lessens the intimidation. It's like the DOC trips. I've spoke at those for ten years. They invite me to Moosilauke, and I'll speak and go through the whole—you've been there, probably—the whole dance and—

DONIN: Yep.

WILLEY: —scarin' the students. Well, I've been blessed to be one of the guest speakers there for years. And this year they let me do the morning one to send them off, and it's just—you see all these happy faces, 'cause they're so excited, right, this first, you know, few weeks.

DONIN: Mmm. But it's also scary for them.

WILLEY: It's got to be scary.

DONIN: *Am I gonna fit in? Am I gonna find a friend?*

WILLEY: Yeah.

DONIN: *Am I gonna be able to do the work?*

WILLEY: And then the homesickness.

DONIN: And they're homesick.

WILLEY: Homesick, yeah. I've run into that a lot. And they're intimidated 'cause of the workload, because of the system. It's so short. That first year is brutal.

DONIN: Yeah.

WILLEY: I mean, you see these kids really, really working hard.

DONIN: And they're pretty shell-shocked in the beginning.

WILLEY: They are. Yeah, yeah. But I think the faculty and staff does such a good job, even right down to the custodians in these buildings. You know, I talk to them all the time, and, you know, they end up like a surrogate father or mother, you know.

DONIN: Yeah.

WILLEY: I know one down at French, it's like, "Miss Lisa." It's like—you know, they just love 'em to death.

DONIN: Mm-hm. And it's really—I think it's the people that are working sort of behind the scenes, like you and the cleaners and the cooks and everybody else. They're the ones that have the real connection to the students because you see them at their most vulnerable.

WILLEY: Yeah.

DONIN: I think we work—when we work with students, they've got their act together, and they're not crying, and they're not drunk, and they're not tired. So we see a very different version of the student than I think all of you people who work behind the scenes see.

WILLEY: You know, also the people that market Dartmouth like it and love it so much. It's like you and your husband. I mean, you don't run away from this campus the second you punch the clock. You might walk downtown and have a gelato or a cup of coffee and continue the community and conversations. I mean, that's really important. And I think so many of the staff here do that. And, you know, the faculty and the professors and—you know, it's not like a job; it's like—it's community, which is really important.

DONIN: So how would you describe the Dartmouth community that you found when you came here? Do you consider your community just your work colleagues in Safety and Security, or is it broader than that, encompassing other parts of the Dartmouth family?

WILLEY: Because of our job and our interaction with so many different groups—I mean, we routinely talk to the UGAs because that's, like, the first line of defense for the undergraduates. It's an undergraduate adviser, which is on each floor of each residence hall. You understand. But then the community directors. We build this rapport, or I have, over the years. Every one of the community directors are walking this campus all the time. They walk to their meetings, 'cause they

live on campus. They're walking downtown. So they're—24 hours a day, they're literally living, breathing, sleeping the experience. So we talk to them all the time because sometimes it's middle of the night drama, but other times it's just—

Or the SAPA coordinators. You know, Amanda Childress. You know, this wonderful lady that deals with some of the most horrible things that happen on this campus, and always a smile. So she went on vacation a couple weeks ago and she was all excited to tell me, so I hop off the bike, and I walk her from her office to the Choates, to her car, and we just have this wonderful conversation. But she's way up here [apparently raises arm] as far as faculty, compared to me, just this little security guy. You know what I mean?

DONIN: But you're all working together.

WILLEY: But we're all together, and we're all tryin' to do the same thing. And deans. I mean, I routinely just hop off the bike, Teoby [Gomez]—or whoever. You know what I mean?

DONIN: Mm-hm.

WILLEY: And walk with them, you know?

DONIN: That bike is really a great tool, isn't it?

WILLEY: It's such a tool. And, you know, it's funny because when you're on foot, you get the impression like you hurry to catch up to the student and talk. They don't have the same—it's almost intimidating, where the bike—it just all goes away. I can circle a time or two, do a little pirouette or something, and talk and, like, "What's goin' on, John?" or Mary or whoever. And just kind of casually converse with them and walk.

President Hanlon. I can't tell you how many times he's been out on the bike—or, excuse me, walking his dog, and I'm on the bike—or Miss Hanlon—already. You know, there's probably been 20 instances where we've—"Good morning," you know. So everybody—

DONIN: So your community is everybody.

WILLEY: Everybody.

DONIN: Yeah.

WILLEY: And right to the custodians. I mean, everyone on this campus is information for me.

DONIN: Mm-hm. But do you think that's the case—I mean, do you think you have easier access to everybody because of your job, because everybody recognizes that Safety and Security is sorta there for them? You know, these students that you encounter who feel like they don't—you know, they're not gonna manage here and maybe they don't have any friends or they're not gonna find any friends—are there sort of separate groups that people feel they don't belong to because of the—you know, because of who they are?

WILLEY: I think regardless of their ethnicity or background or raisings or what they've been used to as far as law enforcement, from the very beginning, starting with H-croo—have you ever heard of Hanover-croo?

DONIN: Yeah.

WILLEY: They brag—or they emphasize that these are the people that are gonna help you the most the next four years, and they—'cause, I mean, from the first day off the bus, “My dorm's locked,” and they push the red call button because they're lost and they have no idea who to talk to. You know, our dispatcher will answer, “We'll send somebody right over.” And you know—and they need us. And it's all about, like, “These people are helping me.” They don't think about the badge and “these are the people that hurt or reprimand me.”

DONIN: Right. Yeah.

WILLEY: From day one, we're the nice guys that are just here to help you. So—I think I got away from the question. But we're just always—from day one, we're the good guys.

DONIN: So you're really—they distinguish strongly between you and what they call H-Po [Hanover Police], right?

WILLEY: Yes, most definitely. And that begins right with the DOC trips and talking to the trip leaders, and the safety talks. You know, I go at night when I can, and I'll sit through the safety talks, and they'll introduce, and they'll say, "These are the good guys. If you ever need anything"—and, you know, when I meet a parent it's, like, "You know, next year when Junior, like, hasn't called you for three or four days and you're wondering, *Is he okay?* You call us, 'cause whether he's on campus, off campus, if he's in Tanzania, we'll find him, and you'll get a phone call." And we do it routinely. So whenever you need something, we're the ones. Just call us. We've got the resources. We know who to contact.

DONIN: That's fantastic.

WILLEY: Every department in this college has someone that's 24/7 that we've got their phone number. For instance, Mr. Donin. You know, ultimately they can get a hold o' him.

DONIN: Yeah.

WILLEY: Yep.

DONIN: So parents count on you sometimes.

WILLEY: Oh! I tell them all the time, "You ever wonderin' about Junior or Sis, you call us. We'll talk to you."

DONIN: Oh, that's wonderful.

WILLEY: Yeah, and we do take those conversations quite often.

DONIN: Mm-hm.

WILLEY: Yeah. And then they graduate and they're gone, and it's so sad [chuckles], because you get so connected to so many of 'em.

DONIN: Yeah, you do.

WILLEY: It's tough.

DONIN: Well, that's part of your job is connection with these kids.

- WILLEY: Yup. The reunions? Oh! It's just one big hug. It's just constant, from tent to tent to tent, you know.
- DONIN: Mm-hm.
- WILLEY: And it's nice when they come back and remember you, and it's nice when we can remember them.
- DONIN: So the kids feel free and open to talk to you and come to you—
- WILLEY: Ninety-nine—
- DONIN: —when they're having a hard time.
- WILLEY: Ninety-nine percent o' the time, they do, absolutely. And there again, you know, that's the nice thing about summers, is where you really connect with these kids. You know, they're grilling, they're barbecuing, they're foolin' around out there in a little pool in the front yard or whatever, you know. And you stop and shoot the breeze, you know, and just hang out. "Willey, you want a hamburger?" It's like, "Eh, I better not. I'm tryin' to eat better." But sometimes I will. I'll just hang out and eat a hotdog with them and talk and socialize.
- Our director is, like, so all for that. You know, public relations is a huge part of our job.
- DONIN: Yeah, I bet.
- WILLEY: Huge part.
- DONIN: So what do you make of the—I mean, even in the 14 years you've been here, almost 14 years, the sort of changing face of Dartmouth? You know, there's all this talk about diversity and increasing the students who are from foreign countries, from different religions, different color skin, different sexual orientation, all of that, in order to make the Dartmouth family more diverse, and that's both in the faculty and the students, I should say. Have you seen that, or was it that way when you got here?
- WILLEY: It's gotten better every year.

DONIN: Really?

WILLEY: I think so. Every year. I've noticed the largest difference in sexual orientation, though. But I think that's the way the world's evolving. You know, everything is more open. Everything is more—you know, if that's how you feel, it's okay. And so maybe it was here and I just didn't recognize it as much, but I think we are moving in that direction. But they've always done a great job with diversity. Gosh, I've met students from all over the world.

And then the speakers that we'd get. I mean, we're, like, so blessed. I mean, Madeleine Albright.

DONIN: Oh, yeah.

WILLEY: Ahh! She was the sweetest lady in the world. And I worked her detail for two days, and literally I would meet her at breakfast and walk her through her day and at night walk her to her Hanover Inn room and—

DONIN: Meet 'er the next day.

WILLEY: Meet 'er the next day. Goodnight. And she was just the sweetest lady in the world. And I'll never forget that. I mean, all the presidents I've met and shaken hands.

DONIN: Yeah.

WILLEY: You remember the time I had the Segway for two days?

DONIN: [Laughs.] Yes!

WILLEY: Oh! So much fun!

DONIN: [Laughs.] You feel like a celebrity.

WILLEY: Yeah, that was a few days in the newspaper, too. Yep.

DONIN: [Laughs.] That's right. The Segway!

WILLEY: Oh, it was so much fun!

DONIN: Whatever happened to it?

WILLEY: It was on loan.

DONIN: Oh, it was on loan.

WILLEY: The company gave it to us just on promo.

DONIN: Yeah. Do you think they'd be a useful tool on campus?

WILLEY: They would.

DONIN: Not in the winter, obviously.

WILLEY: They would be very useful. But it's also something that could be abused really easily.

DONIN: Yes.

WILLEY: And I don't think most people have the mentality to control themselves. [Laughs.]

DONIN: And I'm afraid it would be "borrowed" —

WILLEY: [Laughs.] Yeah.

DONIN: —from time to time.

WILLEY: You know, that's funny. The Class of '04 put out a ran— not a ransom but they were trying to steal our bicycles. And they actually had it on the Internet and stuff. "If you can get one, we'll give you \$500."

DONIN: Amazing.

WILLEY: And it got to where every unlock, you're carrying that to the third floor.

DONIN: Oh, gee.

WILLEY: It got—oh, it was pitiful. So very shortly after, I learned every little nook and cranny where I could lock my bike up on the ground floor [chuckles] so I wouldn't have to lug it.

DONIN: Gee, that—

WILLEY: But we can't leave them out of sight for a second.

DONIN: Well, they're very high-tech and fancy.

WILLEY: Well,—

DONIN: Aren't they?

WILLEY: Compared to the students' bikes, no.

DONIN: Oh, really?

WILLEY: No. It's, like, a \$600 bicycle, but in today's—you know, these students have \$5,000 bicycles.

DONIN: Yeah, I guess they do, some of them.

WILLEY: Some of 'em. And hopefully they're locked.

DONIN: Mm-hm.

WILLEY: [Chuckles.]

DONIN: Yeah, there's quite a bit of trafficking in stolen bikes, isn't there?

WILLEY: There is. Yes, there is. And I do that a lot, just patrolling just, like, bike rack to bike rack, looking for stolen bikes.

DONIN: Yeah. Right.

WILLEY: I do that a lot. We find them weekly—you know, a few.

DONIN: Yeah, I bet.

WILLEY: Yeah. They're just "borrowed"; they're never stolen.

DONIN: Uh-huh. So what do you make of what happened here—how's our time?—What do you make of what happened and continues to happen from time to time where, you know, a small number of students are not kind to one another, for whatever reason, whether it's shouting at the prospective students this spring or attacking kids that live in the gender

neutral house or, you know, mimicking students speaking foreign languages? You know, all this stuff that just seems to play over and over again in the news. How do you—you must get involved with the students who are part of that, either on one side or the other. How do you deal with that, or them?

WILLEY: Routinely.

DONIN: Yeah.

WILLEY: That's part of what comes out of people that I'll never understand. When there's alcohol involved, I understand.

DONIN: Yeah.

WILLEY: One instance you mentioned, too, was mimicking their language. That was during the day, no alcohol involved, higher thinking going on. You know, working, classwork, studying. Where would that come from? Part of that was a misunderstanding. It turns out that it was just kind of practicing the language, and unthinkingly directed it to someone. There wasn't a motive to hurt someone. But every now and then they do.

The attacks on the gender neutral housing. Horrible. I mean, come on! What century are you living in? I mean, we're not a bunch of skinheads or racists or—I'm from the South, so a lot of people would associate—but I had the kindest parents in the world and raised religious. And, you know, the thought of ever saying something hurtful to someone,—you just would never do.

So I struggle with that, Miss Donin, and when I have to interview someone and find out, like, “Just what were you thinking when you said this?” or “when you threw that at someone?” or “when you were just riding by in your car and you yelled, ‘Hey,’—you know, whatever, out the window?” I just don't want to repeat any of it.

DONIN: Is it just boys being boys?

WILLEY: Usually it is. But 90 percent of it's alcohol, though. When alcohol's involved, the brain cells and the IQ—and you get

three or four people together that are, like, egging each other on and one-uppin' the other one, you know, their IQs just tend to drop.

DONIN: Uh-huh. So their behavior drops.

WILLEY: Yeah. And, you know, it's funny because I've been so tightly related to the Greek system because I was the only one allowed in the houses for years. For, like, three years, myself and Officer Bobby were the only two people ever allowed in a fraternity.

DONIN: Why?

WILLEY: Because we were the only two they trusted.

DONIN: Oh, you mean they were allowing you in and nobody else?

WILLEY: No one else.

DONIN: 'Cause it is private property.

WILLEY: Private property. That's all evolved. We started the process. And now it's nonchalant: go up, key the door, walk in. "Hi, I'm just here for the safety visit." Wander through. But it's funny you'd say that about the groups. You know, I've seen the different types of groups, between the Theta Delts, the ADs, the Gamma Delts, the Betas. And...I don't know, it's like the houses draw from a different, like, money pool or raisings and stuff. You know, these tend to go this direction; the SAEs, you know, tend to be Connecticut, New Jersey and money and New York. And, you know, the Theta Delts are all prep schools. They all came from prep schools.

DONIN: So you're saying they all have their own personalities.

WILLEY: They have their own personalities. And when you go to interview someone that's said something racist or—in the back of your mind, you're thinking, *Okay, where did this come from? You know, they weren't raised that—I mean, they didn't do that at—whatever prep school—I don't even—whatever. I don't know. I'll never understand it, though. I know I'm wandering, but I'll never understand, you know, the racist and the ethnicity and gender-bashing.*

DONIN: And we should be clear here: This isn't just Dartmouth where this happens. I mean,—

WILLEY: Oh, of course not.

DONIN: —it's this age group, wherever they are in school.

WILLEY: Yeah. And it's everywhere. And, you know, the problems that Dartmouth's involved in right now with Title IX and things—I assure you [chuckles], any college you go to anywhere, there's things going on, you know. I was in Burlington last weekend, just enjoying Burlington and the sailing and the—whatever that street is that you walk down.

DONIN: Church Street.

WILLEY: Church Street. And, you know, I saw so many things in just a matter of hours. [Chuckles.] I'm, like, *Well, it's good to know it doesn't just happen at Dartmouth, you know?* [Laughs.]

DONIN: To be sure. To be sure.

WILLEY: Yeah.

DONIN: [Laughs.]

WILLEY: But it's a nice area.

DONIN: It's a nice city to visit.

WILLEY: You know, it's funny: On my day off a lot o' times, you know, it ends up coming back to Dartmouth, whether it's a soccer game or whether a rugby game or whether just Hanover, and you can't say "Hanover" without Dartmouth because it's all one, you know.

DONIN: Pretty much.

WILLEY: It's a great place.

DONIN: So that calls into question another idea. So when you think of the Dartmouth family, do you think that that includes the townspeople of Hanover?

WILLEY: Absolutely.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

WILLEY: And I think the college works really, really hard to do that. I'm sure there are some that say, "Uhh, thank goodness it's summer and all those"—you know what—"Dartmouth students aren't"—

DONIN: [Laughs.]

WILLEY: —stepping in front of me.”

DONIN: Yes.

WILLEY: And then I see the contractors trying to get through town in the morning—you know, because everyone has to be driven to school at Hanover High. You know, it's a nightmare for an hour and a half coming off of the interstate.

DONIN: [Laughs.]

WILLEY: I feel so sorry for 'em. But, you know, it's fifteen minutes o' drama, it all settles down, and now you can walk around town. You know, you can enjoy a day at Dartmouth. And that's the beauty o' the bicycle. I see so many people that are just, like, "Oh!" and then are leaf peepers, you know. And the architecture. And Hanover can be really happy that Dartmouth architecture is here because Hanover wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the college, so—

And, you know, I think it's funny, too, that people that worked at the college ended up working at Hanover. For instance, Janet Rebman. You know, years at alumni. So you know, she brings that to the Chamber of Commerce.

DONIN: Right.

WILLEY: We're just, like—we're so tied together.

DONIN: Lots of connections—

WILLEY: Lots of connections.

DONIN: —between all these groups.

WILLEY: Yup. And community.

DONIN: Yeah.

WILLEY: I mean, you and your husband for years just—you walk back to your house.

DONIN: Right.

So is it fair to say a big part of your role is to focus on the kids who *are* having a hard time fitting in, feeling like they may not belong here, and, you know, you're a logical person for them to go to, to have a heart-to-heart with. I imagine that everybody at some point entering this community of Dartmouth, this family, whoever you are, feels like they're an outside from time to time or that they don't belong. And I should think you hear a lot of that from people, that, "Oh, I don't belong here. I can't fit in."

WILLEY: I'd like to think that we're counselors in our own way, although none of us have been trained in that direction.

DONIN: But it's your personality.

WILLEY: There again, yes. And if they hire the right people, you know, you do have that mentality and that mindset to always want to help. But it's funny: There's a trainer with athletics, you know? I sat for, like, a half hour on the bench one day talking to her, and she was here just off the bus, coming for an interview. She's like, "I'm not sure. Is there any hiking around here?" You know, "Is there any biking? I'm an outdoors person. What can Dartmouth do for me?" So anyway, like, eight years later, she's still over there, training. And she always says—she says, "If it wasn't for you, Officer Willey, I wouldn't have picked Dartmouth." [Laughs.]

But everyone's going to feel a little intimidated because of the money. Some of these kids—you know, they've had a nanny. They've never been home. They've been at prep schools their entire lives. But, on the other hand, you know, those are the ones that need us the most sometimes.

- DONIN: You're their family.
- WILLEY: Because we are what they have. It has evolved a lot with cell phones. Life has changed. Back in the days of Blitz, when everybody was Blitz—Hanover had the worst cell phone reception in the world.
- DONIN: Yeah, I remember that.
- WILLEY: You'd pick up the average intoxic on a Friday night—it's, like, "C'mon, let's go to Dick's House." "Okay, Willey, let's go." And it was so funny because Dick's House had a terminal in the ground floor. "Willey, lemme check Blitz before I go." [Drums fingers on table imitating typing.]
- DONIN: [Laughs.]
- WILLEY: And it would be all they can do to stand, but they could check Blitz. [Laughs.] And it's, like, "Okay, c'mon, John, let's go." [Drums fingers on table imitating typing.]
- DONIN: [Chuckles.]
- WILLEY: "One more"—you know. And then they'd go upstairs and they were happy as clams. But it has changed a lot, you know, with the cell phones, and community.
- DONIN: Now, with the increased number of women on campus, obviously, since—even the whole time you've been here—are there women who do the same job that you do? I mean, what's the—in terms of—
- WILLEY: We do. We do.
- DONIN: In terms of staff.
- WILLEY: We do, and it's interesting: I think our director is really, really trying hard to increase the numbers, but you've still ultimately got to have the applicant that fits the job.
- DONIN: Right.

- WILLEY: I mean, it's not like, "We're hirin' a woman next." It doesn't work that way.
- DONIN: Mm-hm.
- WILLEY: And we just hired a retired policeman. He's goin' be wonderful. But anyway, we have one, two—two sergeants, female sergeants, and we have one, two, three officers, and then one night security, so we've got an excellent mix right now.
- DONIN: Not that gender really matters, doing what you do, other than—
- WILLEY: You know, it doesn't. But I know when I work the evenings and I'm working with a female coworker, I'm so much more comfortable with my job.
- DONIN: Really!
- WILLEY: It makes my life so much easier because we do deal with some really, really intoxicated—
- DONIN: Personal—
- WILLEY: —and personal. And, you know, when you have a sexual assault or when you have someone that's in a female restroom, you know, undressed—you know, it's really helpful to have "Mother"—you know, this mother, who has raised her family, you know, that's as well trained as you are, if not better, to go with you and to help you. And the same thing goes for her. You know,—I'm not tryin' to be, like, man-woman or anything like that.
- DONIN: Right, right.
- WILLEY: But it's just natural to be more comfortable, you know, with someone of that gender helping you.
- DONIN: Sure.
- WILLEY: So it's awesome.
- DONIN: So it makes a great team—

WILLEY: Oh, it's wonderful.

DONIN: —if you're one of each.

WILLEY: I love it, all my evenings. 'Cause the days, I don't have that.

DONIN: No.

WILLEY: I can always call a sergeant.

DONIN: Sure. And they'll come.

WILLEY: Yeah.

DONIN: So I think—I think we're done, unless there's anything else you wanna talk about in terms of the Dartmouth family, the community.

WILLEY: We could go on forever, Miss Donin, 'cause it means so much to me. I know Mom wants me to come home now that I'm single.

DONIN: Does she?

WILLEY: Constantly. So we talk every day.

DONIN: Aww!

WILLEY: So it's, like, every other day, it's, like, "Junior, remember where you live." [Chuckles.] You know, it's tough.

DONIN: So where is Mom?

WILLEY: Southern West Virginia. And she won't come up here.

DONIN: Oh, no.

WILLEY: It's just too much of a journey.

DONIN: Yeah, at her age.

WILLEY: Yep. So this community, though, has become such a part of me, it's, like, I could retire in five years, but I don't think I

want to. [Chuckles.] I enjoy my job so much. I work a four-day week. The three-day weekend gives me all the opportunity in the world to volunteer or to just enjoy the community or the Upper Valley.

DONIN: Which you're famous for, having been written up in *The Valley News*.

WILLEY: [Chuckles.] Yeah, that was—

DONIN: Thirty hours a week!

WILLEY: That was very nice that they did that.

DONIN: It was great.

WILLEY: And it was nice of the Outing Club to recommend me for that, 'cause there's a lot of people in the Upper Valley that do a lot of volunteering and work.

DONIN: Well, there's a lot of opportunities and—

WILLEY: There are.

DONIN: It seems to be part of the culture up here, which is great.

WILLEY: It really is.

DONIN: And the Tucker Foundation enables the students to engage in a lot of volunteer work as well.

WILLEY: Surprisingly enough, yes. And a few of 'em show up with us at stores, and I see them at Listen [Center] once in a while.

DONIN: Yeah, yeah.

WILLEY: And Jay [Davis] over at Tucker—he's constantly doing something with groups from New York City or—

DONIN: Yup. The students.

WILLEY: Whatever.

DONIN: Yeah. The SEAD program.

WILLEY: SEAD program, yup.

DONIN: Yup.

WILLEY: And then there's a couple of others that are here through the summer, and the acronyms, I can't even begin.

DONIN: [Laughs.]

WILLEY: But there's a lot of 'em that come.

DONIN: Yeah.

WILLEY: And this year, I know they gave them all new laptops—

DONIN: That's great.

WILLEY: A new iPod, the little one.

DONIN: iPod. The little one?

WILLEY: The little iPod. Not iPod.

DONIN: iPad? The one that opens up?

WILLEY: The Mac. The little MacBook Pro this year.

DONIN: Yeah.

WILLEY: And he said that—somehow they got the funding, and they said, "This is the only access to Internet" or—

DONIN: Computers.

WILLEY: For the computers that this particular group would have, and there was, like, 50 of those kids.

DONIN: Goodness!

WILLEY: And they were from, like, the heart of the worst of Washington, and New York, and Philly and stuff. And the way they talked, it's—if they have access to a laptop, it's a

proven fact now that—it's, like, 75 percent more graduate than if they don't have access to a computer today.

DONIN: Yeah, 'cause they're really at a disadvantage without it.

WILLEY: Yep. But it gives them an option and gives them another look at—like, there's more, there's more, there's always more.

DONIN: Right.

WILLEY: But anyway, we could talk forever.

DONIN: I know. But you need to go back on the job.

WILLEY: I gotta get back to work.

DONIN: All right, I'm gonna turn off this machine.

WILLEY: Okay.

DONIN: Thank you so much.

WILLEY: You're welcome, Miss Donin.

DONIN: But you know what? One thing you gotta do is stop calling me Miss Donin.

WILLEY: It's from the—

**[End of interview.]**