Robert G. McEwen
College Proctor

An Interview Conducted by

Mary Donin

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INTERVIEW: Robert McEwen

INTERVIEWER: Mary Donin

PLACE: Hanover, New Hampshire

DATE: March 1, 2004

DONIN: Today is Monday, March 1, 2004. I am Mary Donin, and I am sitting here in Rauner Library at Dartmouth College with Proctor Robert McEwen. Okay, Proctor McEwen, I guess what we'd like to start out with today is to get a little bit of background from you to find out how you came to work at Dartmouth College back in 1967.

McEWEN: Okay. Well, I grew up in West Lebanon, New Hampshire, and went to school there. Joined the military in 1962. Returned to the Upper Valley in 1966. A very close friend of mine, who I went to high school with, was working in what was called the Campus Police -- at that time was the name of the department. I was working in East Hartford, Connecticut, for Pratt and Whitney.

He called me, and knew that I had experience with law enforcement and security in the military for four years, and asked me if I might be interested because he was thinking about stepping down, and if I might want to apply for the position. So I thought about it, and I said, well, okay, maybe I'll do that. I'd like to get back up into the area where my family was located, my brother and sister, my mother.

So I applied, and fortunately I was offered a position as a patrol person on the midnight shift by John O'Connor, who was the college proctor then. And John served in that position from, I think, 1964 until his death in 1975. So I served as a patrol officer in the department for about two years.

And again, I was fortunate enough to be elevated to a supervisor position, to the rank of lieutenant, which at that time was the second in command in the department. And it was a department of five people in that era when I first came there in 1967.

So I stayed in that position for about seven years, and then when John O'Connor became ill, I was asked to take on as the acting

college proctor during his illness, which I did for about a year. And then applied for the position after his death when they advertised the position. And again, I was fortunate enough to be, you know, promoted, which was just wonderful.

DONIN: When you started out, what did you do as a patrolman?

McEWEN: As a patrol officer, when I first started out, our main responsibility was to unlock doors, which was kind of... During that period of time, of course, the Campus Police did not have a dispatch center -- all of our calls were handled by the Hanover switchboard after hours and on weekends. So you can imagine that any type of call, from the smallest request from a student or faculty or staff or a visitor to the campus could be a very small thing, their needs and stuff, up to and including the most serious things.

And these were switchboard operators who were trained to transfer calls to the Hanover Inn to rooms in the inn and not trained with how to deal with emergencies. So there were a lot of interesting things that occurred. But during that period of time, of course, *in loco parentis* was a big deal, and parietals were in effect.

And another one of our responsibilities was to be very in tune with women in residence halls after hours and on weekends. And if we saw -- if we found women after a certain hour—I believe the cutoff time was eleven p.m.—then we would write the occupant of the room up. It was a fairly serious offense back then. So that was another part of the job.

Another part of the job that I had no idea about before I was hired... And again, you can imagine, you go through this process of conducting—or wearing a badge as a Campus Police officer without arrest authority, without weapons, which was fine for me because I felt that we were here to help students and to help folks that needed guidance and assistance, along with enforcing the rules and regulations. And that was the easy part of it in my mind because everything was in front of you. It was dealing with those difficult situations, was someone having a problem at home or a relationship or things like that.

But a big surprise that I got was the fact that we were dogcatchers during that period of time. And if you follow the history of the college, I mean they still have committees today that talk about

what do we do about dogs on campus, you know. But we had snares, and we had one vehicle then which was a station wagon equipped with a stretcher and a first-aid kit, and we were really the only first-responders, not only on campus but in town.

We responded to all kinds of calls. If someone fell on a sidewalk in town during the day -- no affiliation with the college -- they would call us because there was no ambulance then. So we would go and pick people up and transport them to the hospital.

DONIN: Good grief!

McEWEN: But the dog business was interesting because on any given day, we would have six or eight dogs corralled in the Campus Police office, and we were in the basement of College Hall then. And the proctor's office -- John O'Connor's office -- actually became sort of the pen, if you will, to put these stray dogs in until we could locate owners or get someone to come and take them to the Humane Society.

DONIN: Now in those days dogs had pretty free run of the campus. I understood they could be in classrooms and the library?

McEWEN: They were everywhere. Yeah, yeah. A lot of employees brought their dogs to work with them, which was fine because they had voice control. But students had dogs everywhere, and the college had a—and still has...I mean they had a policy then about no dogs in residence hall rooms. But dogs were—I mean they were everywhere.

The problems were that... The biggest problem stemmed from the fact that fraternities, the Greeks, had, you know, every house had four or five dogs, and they used to run free.

DONIN: No leash law in those days.

McEWEN: There was no leash law, right. They were in the dining hall, they were in Hopkins Center, they were...the places where food was served, which was a violation of, I think, the state statute in terms of where you have food service. But, of course, the local police at that point in time, they didn't want to be involved in that. It was our problem because it was on campus. So we dealt with them.

But it was, it was interesting because John O'Connor actually had a favorite pet on campus, a dog that belonged to an undergraduate who lived in a residence hall. And John said, "You're going to fall in love with this Irish setter when you meet her." I said, "Well, you know, I mean I like pets and all that. But I'm not sure about that."

But he said, "Well, in cold weather, you will see this dog wandering about on campus." And he said, "We're trying to work with the owner, trying to work to be sure that the pet's not being abused," he said. "But if you happen to see the dog -- it's your decision -- but if you happen to see this dog, please stop. She'll jump in the backseat of the cruiser. She'll ride with you all night and sleep and will not create any problems at all. But get her out of the cold."

So there were many nights when I was on the midnight shift in wintertime when I would have a rider in the backseat. No one really knew about it, but it was just kind of fun.

DONIN: Good company.

McEWEN: Absolutely.

DONIN: You said you spent a lot of time unlocking doors. My sense back then was there weren't a lot of locked doors, not like today.

McEWEN: Well, students, they were just locked out all the time. I mean they would leave and lose their keys or, you know, and…

DONIN: So the dorm rooms were locked even back then?

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: Uh huh.

McEWEN: Yes. But I mean there was a level of—there was a level of looseness with that, but it was like...During that era, because we were a very small organization – department -- we were generalists and not specialists at that point. So we did everything. But during our foot patrols, we would walk by rooms that were unlocked, no one in the room, and we would just close the door. And they would have to call us. And we'd say, "Hey, we probably saved your stereo system."

Because in that era, when I came here, the drug culture on campus was just out of control with LSD, with peyote, with other hard types of drugs. And a great deal of the problems that we dealt with were in the form of thefts. People were stealing to sell stereo equipment to get money to buy drugs.

And drugs, even though alcohol was still the drug of choice during that period of time, the administration, the institution, we really didn't know how to deal with the problems of hard-core drug activities: selling, possession, and that type of thing. And we dealt with many, many cases of students tripping on LSD where we would end up with physical wrestling matches with students to take them to the hospital to get them to the emergency room because they needed medical assistance. But that was almost a daily occurrence, where you would have someone on a bad trip.

DONIN: What did you know about the drug culture when you got here? Were you prepared for that?

McEWEN: No. I mean I knew a little bit about the drug culture nationwide, being in the military for four years. You learn about these things, you hear about certain things. And you have some encounters with things. But to see the amount of activity that was happening -- occurring on campus at that time was—it was an eye-opener.

And I think by 1970 -- it was right after I was promoted to lieutenant -- I was sent to federal drug school in Washington with one of the associate deans—and it was a weeklong school—to learn more about what's happening, what was happening nationwide on college campuses, and how to deal with some of these things.

But it was a major problem. I mean I recall Dr. [Raymond Sidney "Sid"] Jackson, when he was the—Sid Jackson was the head of Dick's House at that point—one time...And Dick's House again, you know, they didn't have a lot of staff back then – employment and staff.

But he came to a residence hall one night at our request because we had a student on the fourth floor in a room who was tripping, and was talking about flying out of his window into the parking lot because the parking lot looked like a runway, a landing area. So, I mean we had the head of Dick's House come, and he didn't know how to deal with it. I mean the student grabbed him by the necktie,

and we physically—it took five of us, and this was on a weekend, we had additional staff around—it took five of us to physically hold this young man down.

And believe me, he didn't weigh more than 120 pounds. But the drugs that he was on, that he had taken, I mean he just felt like he was superhuman, Superman. It was like – it was incredible.

Yeah, we went through that -- that period of time was a very, very difficult time for students, for the administration, for everybody that was here in that era.

DONIN: Just staying on this drug topic for a minute -- did you work with other departments on campus -- the dean of the college, the medical people?

McEWEN: Yes. Yes, we had daily contact with Dick's House, with the dean's office, with -- even with the police on occasion. If the college had any suspicion that someone was trafficking in drugs -- selling, distribution, any of that, cultivation, we would talk to the police.

But we just didn't know. We had to go through sort of a period of time where the institution was ready, I think, to accept or recognize the fact that, yeah, alcohol's still here, but we had a major problem with drug use during that era. And I think it was nationwide.

DONIN: Mm hmm. So the campus was really just reflecting what was going on nationwide.

McEWEN: Yeah. I think that with the Vietnam War, with all those things that were happening here with ROTC, there was just a lot of stuff...And, you know, residence halls were—although they were patrolled, it was still – it was limited because of, you know, number of staff. And custodial folks at that point, I mean they had no idea. I mean, they wouldn't know an LSD tab from a marijuana plant from a tomato plant. I mean that's, you know...

DONIN: Now at this point the dean of the college was Thaddeus ["Thad"] Seymour ['49A]?

McEWEN: Thad Seymour and then Carroll [W.] Brewster ['75A].

DONIN: So did you have a fair amount of contact with their office in terms

of...?

McEWEN: I did through—because I reported directly to the college proctor, John O'Connor. So John was kept informed of, you know, all of this activity.

DONIN: And likewise with Dick's House as well.

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: Uh huh.

McEWEN: Yeah. I think...I don't know what the chain of command was back then, if the director of Dick's House reported to the dean or reported to the president's office or what, but I mean, everybody was involved. They were aware -- they knew what was -- you know, what was going on.

DONIN: And was it your sense that these drugs were coming from outside of campus?

McEWEN: Yeah. I -- what we found was that most of the stuff that showed up in large quantities was—you know, students were either traveling to Boston or New York or even Canada back then to pick stuff up and bring it back. I mean there was a great deal of selling.

I mean we also found students cultivating marijuana. It wasn't unusual to go into a room that had that peculiar-looking light that you would see at night, and go in and find a hundred, two hundred plants growing. That was not unusual.

DONIN: And what was the punishment for that?

McEWEN: Well, I'm really not sure. It was written up as a violation of the alcohol and drug policy on campus. That information went to the dean's office. And then whatever adjudication occurred after that, I mean I don't know. I think some students, if the college could prove that a person was involved in selling, distribution, trafficking, that type of thing, then I think they were invited to leave the college.

DONIN: Did this also have to get reported to the Hanover police?

McEWEN: In some instances, it was reported, but not in every case.

And the police were—I mean certainly they were aware of the situation, things that were going on, on campus. But I think the sense or feeling at that point in time was that: well, it's your issue or your concern. So, you know, deal with it.

DONIN: You said before that you didn't have power of arrest. So in terms of your job description then, whatever violation of the law that you were witnessing, you passed that on to the dean's office.

McEWEN: Yes, it was internal. Right.

DONIN: And then it was the dean's office decision whether or not to involve the Hanover police?

McEWEN: Yeah. Generally, I mean if the dean of the college said, "Well, look, this is a… We've got this person that's…It's obvious that they're selling. They're trafficking in drugs that…You know, we should notify the Hanover police." But that was -- those decisions were made at the dean's level, would go to the college proctor, and then that's when that communication would occur. I mean I had very little to do with that at that point.

DONIN: Did the Hanover police ever come on campus themselves?

McEWEN: Yes. They, as a matter of fact—I can't recall the dates—but there were a couple of occasions where they actually had early morning raids where they searched rooms where they had information and made a few arrests. The state police were involved. I think the information filtered through to—went to Hanover police, Hanover police went to state police, and then they had some undercover folks. And then they picked up on some things and came on campus and made a few arrests.

DONIN: And this was to arrest people who were suspected of being dealers?

McEWEN: Yes. Right.

DONIN: I see. Uh huh. So there's quite a chain of command.

McEWEN: Yes. And not always clear. There's always been a level of—I really don't want to describe it as murkiness, but sort of a lack of clarity in

terms of what the next step should be or how each case, you know, would be handled. It was a case-by-case thing, and we would make a decision based on that information, which probably made sense. I wasn't privy to a lot of that stuff at that time.

DONIN: So it was never...The part that you said was unclear sometimes was whether the Hanover police should be involved or not? Or what their role should be?

McEWEN: Yeah. Because what was happening back then was that some calls that actually went to Hanover police, they just said, "We're not interested. You deal with it."

So, again, it left one wondering I think at the dean's level, at the college proctor's level, "Well, okay, we called them on this case and we thought that this was serious enough, they didn't want anything to do with it." And you don't call them on the next case, which might be a step down or whatever, they find out about it and say, "How come we weren't informed?" So there's that.

DONIN: I see.

McEWEN: But that's always been the sort of that town-gown -- I mean the town has always…Hanover police has always viewed the college as, "Well, you're protecting your students, but you have no interest or you don't care about other folks," or this type of thing.

Which has never really been the case. I think that's a perception that has just been carried through the different administrations that they've had in the Hanover police over the years.

DONIN: Uh huh. Does that exist...I mean that's an ongoing problem?

McEWEN: It's an ongoing problem, but I think there have been major improvements over the past, you know, eight or ten years. When we changed the name of Campus Police to Department of Safety and Security, that sort of took a little bit of the icing off the feeling that the police had that -- well, people think there's two police agencies in Hanover because of your calling yourself "Campus Police" and you're not. So that helped a little bit.

And, you know, you just keep hammering away at this -- day in and day out -- with everything that comes up, and hope that there's an

understanding at their level, there's an understanding at our level, and we can sort of meet in the middle and work these things out.

And it's not always the Hanover police -- the agency that, you know, that comes into play. The county attorney a few years ago was involved in wanting to come to campus and do all kinds of stuff to look for drugs because his sense that the college counsel was involved in -- Sean [M.] Gorman ['76] -- as part of those meetings -- That in a sense was that, "Every dorm room that you walk into on this campus, a brick of marijuana is probably going to fall on your head." That was sort of the, you know, it was like, "Okay, but that's really not the way it is."

So other agencies get involved, too. And when that happens, that puts another twist and, you know, presents a whole new approach or at least discussion on where do you go and how do you handle it.

DONIN: Now do they take the same level of interest in alcohol abuse as they do in drug abuse?

McEWEN: No, no. The only time they've really gotten involved in the alcohol stuff is the...Well, if they find someone that's underage, or if they get a complaint. And usually, generally what happens is there's some form of complaint filed that, well, kegs were sold from one of the local vendors, and underage students bought it for a party, and that type of thing.

And either the local police will follow up, or they will contact the liquor commission, and then they'll send someone up to look into it. But…yeah, the alcohol thing is very interesting because, you know, we all know from—I mean the administration, the police—what goes on with the town-gown relations that alcohol's the biggest problem that we have on campus.

If we could reduce that, if we could—we'll never eliminate it, but if we could reduce the abuse that goes on, a lot of those really sad things that occur, from assaults, sexual assaults, the injuries and that type of thing – deaths -- we'd start to see that to diminish.

But that's a hard one to deal with.

DONIN: And what about kids who are off campus but local who are abusing

alcohol, for instance, in one of the places downtown on Main Street? What's the role of the college versus the role of the local police in terms of enforcing?

McEWEN: That's really the local police if it's off campus. The college will, because of their obvious interest and concern for town-gown relations and so on and so forth…I mean, if they – if the college learns about some wrongdoing -- alcohol, drugs, or whatever, off campus, generally what they'll do is if the police make an arrest, they'll wait 'til there's a court decision. But information will be gathered along the way by the dean's office, by Safety & Security if they ask us to look into it. And we will provide information to the dean's office to say this is what's happening, and this is where they are with their investigation.

And if it's a serious matter -- I mean if the police believe that we had a student off-campus that was trafficking, dealing in drugs, then I think that that's a decision, based on the information…that the dean of the college can say, "Look, I think you need to be away from here for a term or two until this thing is all worked out, to find out, you know, if you're guilty or not."

But if one is considered to be—and I'm not sure of the language—but a threat or has created some type of a threat to the community, whether it's drug-related or whatever, then the dean can make that decision, to say, I guess in the absence of a formal hearing, that it would be best for you to leave the campus and the college for -- until it's thoroughly investigated and so on.

DONIN: Now how about -- just sticking on this theme of the Hanover police -- how about their relationship to what goes on in the fraternities? Are they allowed to do any sort of inspection when there's a party going on? Or does that have to fall to Safety & Security?

McEWEN: Well, if they see something that's a clear violation of law, then they can act. But generally what they do, because the houses are private/not private -- I'm not really sure -- they'll wait until there's a complaint, either from the college or from another person. A student might file a complaint to say, "Hey, look, I tried to get into this party -- they wouldn't let me in. I recognized three people in there that are underage, and they're drinking." Then they might address it. Or they might call us and say, "Would you guys go down and check that out? And then get back to us if you find anything."

DONIN: So it's really hit or miss whether or not the complainant, whether it's a student or a neighbor or whatever, they could call either the Campus Police (or Safety & Security), or the Hanover police.

McEWEN: Right.

DONIN: So I see where the roles can be muddled because you don't control where the information is coming from.

McEWEN: No. The only...

I think the best thing that's happened, and this has been for about six or seven years now, is that Safety & Security, through a program that we started in terms of registered social events that the Greeks have -- fraternities, sororities -- that we go and make spot checks at least two times during those events. We've become recognized as folks that students…I mean they will say, "We trust Safety & Security. We don't trust the administration. We trust Safety & Security."

So I have patrol officers who actually make these physical checks. And I think what's happening is that we're making some good improvement in terms of sharing of information.

Where a few years ago it was like bells and whistles every time we visited a house, and that's what it was. They had bells and whistles, and they would send these bells ringing in the basement that, oh, and that's the signal. Drop your drinks and hide. Or get rid of the alcohol because Safety & Security's here. Those things have disappeared. So we're making some inroads there.

Now as far as the abusive drinking goes, you know, I mean that's something that, you know, I think it's just going to take a long, long time through education. Because I think education is the key.

Enforcement is easy. You can go and write a student up. But that same student might be drinking the next night, the night after that, whatever. But the education component needs to be, I think...

I think we're doing the best job that we can. But I think it needs to be strengthened, and they need to pay more attention and have more staff for that.

DONIN: Now in terms of the drinking and enforcement, they changed the drinking age while you were here several times.

McEWEN: Yes, it's changed a couple of times, which made it very difficult.

DONIN: When you came here in '67, I assume the drinking age was still eighteen.

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: So that really wasn't an issue. The alcohol abuse was an issue, but the drinking age wasn't an issue.

McEWEN: Yeah, yeah. During that era we had an open-container policy on campus. And we got away from that, and now we have it again.

So, yeah, as you look at the whole issue or concern or practice of enforcing, monitoring, educating students with the alcohol policy, I mean at best it's flip-flopped back and forth over the years. And, you know, it does -- it's created a lot of confusion…not only for students, but for folks that see this stuff all the time and have to deal with it -- for administration, I think, for educators.

But I mean I recall one of the first cases that as a patrol officer that I dealt with, with a young man on a Sunday evening. It was in the – it was late spring, and he was wandering back from Webster Avenue. He'd been at parties and was headed back to his fraternity, which was on West Wheelock. And I saw him walking in front of the Masses. I'd just come out of Parkhurst for some reason.

And I asked him to please stop -- I wanted to talk to him because he was carrying a quart bottle. It was like a malt beverage bottle, and it was apparent to me that he had alcohol in it. There wasn't a lid on it, so it was an open container. So I started to talk with him, and he became verbally abusive to me. And I said, "Look, you know, I really don't want to have to write you up. But it looks like, you know, this is where this is headed."

And this incredible voice...

[End of Tape 1, Side A – Beginning of Tape 1, Side B]

McEWEN: ...[inaudible] with alcohol in it -- there was, in front of the Mass dorms across from Parkhurst. And he was being verbally abusive and just giving me, you know, generally a rough time.

And then I just heard this voice, this booming voice by—and for folks that knew John [Sloan] Dickey ['29], I mean his -- you know, he could really resonate. And I had never met the president, and it sort of startled me. I looked back; I recognized him, and he said to the young man, "I think you had better do what this officer is telling you to do. And if you refuse to do that, then you will be in my office tomorrow morning." And…so, he just kind of looked at me.

I got his I.D., I wrote him up. I took the information down. Then I took him back to his fraternity, and turned him over to one of the fraternity members. And I just said, "Just so you know, the president of the college, you know, just dealt with this along with me. You know, he saw this guy giving me a tough time, and I think you need to keep an eye on him."

So I left, and I continued about my duties. And about—and this was, like I said, this was early evening -- it was still daylight, so it was probably six-thirty or seven o'clock -- it was in the spring. So I get a call from the fraternity, and it's the young man who wants to talk to the officer that he just dealt with. He said, "I'm still pretty groggy," he said, "But tell me that wasn't the president of the college."

And I said, "Would you like me to tell you that he would like to see you in his office tomorrow?" He said, "Oh, did he say that? I heard something about his…" I said, "You need to take care of whatever you need to take care of and be in the proctor's office tomorrow morning." Which was -- we did that back then. And so he said, "Okay." So…and I left a note for the college proctor.

And he showed up the next morning all [inaudible] – all, you know, sport coat on and tie and the whole thing. But he was scared to death. But it was -- that was the first time that I actually met President Dickey, and it was like, you know, *I* was startled. [Laughter]

DONIN: I'll bet the kid never ran around with an open container again.

McEWEN: Well, I never saw him again after that, and so -- he was there for

another two years after that. But, no -- that was just one of those cases with -- you couldn't have planned it any better. I mean it was like...

DONIN: Perfect.

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: What are your other recollections of Mr. Dickey? Had you heard anything about him before you'd come to take the job?

McEWEN: The only thing that I knew -- because I grew up in West Leb, was I remember when Dwight Eisenhower landed at the big Lebanon Regional Airport, and there was a motorcade through town, through West Lebanon, and I think it was to come to Dartmouth at that – and…it was probably for commencement. I think he spoke at commencement. But I was ten or eleven years old then, but everybody said, "Oh, the president is here!" So I knew that he had – that he -- that Eisenhower had come here and had met with the college president.

And then I started hearing, as I got a little older, I started to hear stories about the college grant, which I had no clue...I didn't know anything about the college grant. I mean the president of the United States up there meeting and fishing with, you know, with John Dickey.

And the way I learned some of this stuff was that as I was fourteen or fifteen years old, and grew up with—my mom raised three of us. And so I had to do a lot of odd jobs and working for income for the family. And I was lucky -- I landed a job at Mary Hitchcock Hospital when it was in Hanover. And I worked in the dish room, and a lot of Dartmouth students worked there at that time.

I met this young man who was a – and I can't recall his name; but at that time the Dartmouth boxing team was very active, and he was on the boxing team. I met him, and he started to tell me stories about Dartmouth and the president and so on. So I started to learn a little bit there.

I mean it wasn't anything that I had any big interest in at that point. I liked the fact that, you know, we had Dartmouth athletics -- you know, we had the football team. Back then the stadium was always

full. You couldn't buy a ticket. I mean it was like, a sellout every game.

Dartmouth basketball was, you know, they had a couple of...There was a guy [Rudolph A.] Rudy La Russo ['59 TU '60], who was actually, I guess, one of the -- probably one of the best basketball players they'd ever had. He went on to play with, I think, the Lakers and stuff. But he was...I think I'm pretty accurate with that.

But it was a big deal because when I played basketball in high school and baseball, and – so you'd hear about these things, you know, with the Dartmouth athletics and say, oh! Everybody wanted to come up.

But it was hard to get tickets back then. It was really difficult to…and, of course, the hockey team -- Dartmouth hockey was always a big deal. But they had Davis Rink back then, which was this little tiny place. But I mean it was a great place for hockey.

But again, it was hard for locals—locals were Upper Valley folks, and that's the way they were sort of described, back then—to get tickets unless you knew someone. It was pretty hard then to…

DONIN: Really! Because of the demand?

McEWEN: Oh, yeah. The football -- almost every...Well, even when I came here in '67, football games were sold out. There was 20, 21 thousand people in the Memorial Field every home football game, you know, you could not – it was –

DONIN: What happened?

McEWEN: Well, I think over the years, as the programs changed, and you had – as the college became more diverse, and after coeducation with – the venue became greater to choose from—and, you know, for women's sports, for all kinds of things. It only takes a couple of losing seasons before, you know, you sort of lose interest.

But I also think that the increase in cost of tickets. I mean, the Upper Valley for the most part, is not a – you know, is not an affluent area, and there's a lot of folks that can't afford to pay the twelve bucks or whatever it is for a ticket now. So it makes it hard. And if you're going to bring your family and there's three or four of

them, you're look at fifty, sixty bucks before you even have a soft drink or that type of thing. So I think there's any number of things.

DONIN: Well, going back to sort of the beginnings, I'd like to hear any more stories you – recollections you have of Mr. Dickey during his presidency. It was a very—as you said, a very tumultuous time when you came to work here at the end of the '60s, and lots of protests going on. Do you have memories of Mr. Dickey himself, and his interaction with students or with you, in terms of dealing with the protests?

McEWEN: I don't because most of those…when the protests occurred – this was a – that era—and this is my own description of what was happening in that period of time—was the fact that college administrators, trustees, they didn't know how to deal with student unrest. They didn't.

The one thing that they missed, which was the most obvious, and you can say this in retrospect and I only say it as a lay person, and I would never, ever say this to a big college president, that we just didn't know how to deal with young people back then. The missed opportunities were, college presidents didn't come out of a building and address three or four hundred protestors to talk to them about how the college, talked certain things and where they were going, or…And trustees didn't either.

And I think that was something that, I think, that young folks needed. They needed to hear from the people that were sort of running the show, if you will. And that didn't happen. Through no fault of college presidents -- we just didn't know at that point.

I remember attending a conference at Rutgers, and the speaker, who was this—it's a long time ago, I can't remember his name. I remember one thing he said. "You know," he said, "the one thing—the biggest problem that we have on college campuses and high schools rights now -- junior high schools -- we're afraid of our kids. We don't know how to deal with them. We don't know how to talk to them. We're afraid that if we push too hard here, something's going to pop up over here." And I think that for a period of time that's, you know -- those were some of the things that were happening at Dartmouth.

DONIN: Well, the type of students, though, that he was dealing with at the

end of his administration were very different than the types of students he was dealing -- that he knew on campus, you know, during his early times here. And he was known as a man who was really out and about and speaking to students and interacting with them. But there was a very different kind of student from the protestors that were active towards the end of his...

McEWEN: Oh, yeah, absolutely. I mean it wasn't uncommon to see President Dickey, you know, walking around campus, you know, during normal working hours, after hours, weekends, walking his dog up and down Webster Avenue and, you know, different places and stuff. And he made – he had a lot of contact – at least, that I was told – a lot of contact with the grounds workers and folks. I mean he was almost—with a lot of them on a first-name basis.

I had heard a story, and I don't know how accurate it is – but there was a grounds worker—I know his name was [Charles E.] Charlie Hock – H-O-C-K—and Charlie was the guy that walked around with—he had one of those poles with a sort of nail on the end of it, and his job was to go around campus and pick up litter. And Charlie was in his—he must have been in his 60s. And his mother was still alive but was quite ill then and was in a nursing home.

And the story that I heard—and you could probably verify this with folks that were here, you know, a few years before me. But the president – John Dickey saw Mr. Hock in the middle of the green or on the green picking up paper, and he struck up this conversation. And Mr. Hock started to talk about his mother.

And so the story goes was that – and, you know, he was a very poor man. He didn't have—he didn't make a lot of money at the college, and wasn't wealthy. But the president either wrote him a check or gave him some money to help with the...The money – the bill was for his mother being in a...Which didn't strike me as being unusual or whatever, because I think that was -- that's just the way he was.

He liked the Campus Police Department. I know that for a fact because his wife, who was just a lovely lady, brought us cookies and all kinds of goodies every Christmas, as she did a lot of folks. But it was always with a nice card with thank yous and...you know.

But, yeah, it was a tough time. I mean we spent a lot of time at the

president's house during that era with – you know, we had SDS on campus. We had a small faction of some Weathermen.

I mean there were some hard-core folks around, and they were anti-everything; I mean ROTC, anti-...I mean they were so against the war. In 1970 when Nixon announced the invasion of Cambodia, that just blew the lid off everything. I mean the Parkhurst takeover itself in '68 was...You know, that was a tough one to deal with because I think the institution finally said, "Yeah, we're in trouble." These kids – you know, it's no longer this, you know, sort of name-calling or these flyers or these posters. I mean, they're – this is – they're serious.

DONIN: Before the Parkhurst takeover, there were other incidents of protest in various ways that I'm just wondering if you were actually here for. For instance, George Wallace came to campus.

McEWEN: Yeah, I was on duty that night when he spoke in Webster Hall.

DONIN: Really.

McEWEN: Yes. Yeah. That was a – that was just a – that's one of those nights that...Let's see, what year was he here?

DONIN: I believe it was spring of '67, shortly after you came.

McEWEN: Now, was he the governor at that -- then? I don't think he was the governor yet, was he?

DONIN: Mm hmm.

McEWEN: He was.

What I remember about that night was that—I was a patrol officer on duty that night—but what I remember about that was the best plans that we came up with, with working with the local police, working with Wallace's group, his staff, security, the police – and, with Hanover police and state police – failed.

We did a good job up to the point of where Wallace, some of the remarks that he made created quite a ruckus, and the…I mean there were hecklers throughout the—from the beginning of the event until a group got up and walked out.

And they weren't all Dartmouth students or faculty or community. Some folks were from outside of the community. But they got up and they left. They walked across the green, and they all gathered in front of Hopkins Center. And that's when renewed or discussed whatever it is they wanted to do next.

Well, we said, "Okay, well, the problem's gone. They're out of here." We locked the doors so no one can get back in. They would have to knock on the door, and we would check identification. So in the meantime, more of the folks that were in…

And Webster Hall was—I think it was full that night. And Wallace had his private—a state trooper with him in plainclothes that was the size of a mountain; the biggest guy I've ever seen in my life. And as he's making a remark – his speech – people are starting to stand up again, and they're pointing fingers, and they're shouting and heckling. So the guy -- the state trooper -- decides he's going to step closer to the podium.

So you can see him sort of inch up from the wings. I mean he was always visible – or, to most of the folks. The folks in the upper, you know, couldn't – balcony area couldn't see him probably. Well, the people on the east side could.

So he started to move close, and when he did—and I don't know if he did it for effect – if he did, it was one of the dumbest things I've ever seen—he opened up his blazer. And, of course, there he is. He's got his handgun. And it's like, "Uh oh." That did it. You know, people just...

And almost at the same time, we had a person with false I.D. come to the door, a media identification, which wasn't – you know, people were doing this all the time back then to get into different events and stuff. But the officer who was on door opened the door just enough to read the I.D.

And when he did, all of – the group that had met over—they were right there. They grabbed the door, pulled it open. That's when they *stormed* the stage.

And…so we got Wallace out the side door across from Rollins, and they had their motorcade out there. And so you had cars parked in

legal spaces, the motorcade – so, running, you know, parallel to the parked cars. Then the driver – the lead car, the one that Wallace was supposed to go in – he flooded the car. He couldn't get it started.

So we've got people jumping on cars, trying to tip cars over, knocking people down. I ended up being between the motorcade and the parked cars, and I was trying to pull people down off the roofs of vehicles. And I was getting kicked in the—didn't realize it at the time; I could feel things, but I didn't realize until about a day or two days later when I noticed how bruised my legs were.

But a state trooper got knocked down in the middle of the street. His hat was taken. There were fisticuffs everywhere. I mean, people were...And they finally got the lead car started, and they escorted him out of town.

But it was a night that…I've just never forgotten that night because it was like, when I think about how bad it could have been – it was bad enough, but it really could have…You know, we could have had some serious injuries.

And again, it gave Dartmouth a – you know, a big black eye in the media. It was unfortunate.

DONIN: The level of physical contact was probably something that you weren't used to in a job like this.

McEWEN: Not in a job like – I mean I was used to this from my military – because I was in riot control and stuff in the military and security and police and stuff. So I knew a little bit about that. But there—I mean in the military you have the tools to deal with that. In this type of situation, I think the main concern for the folks that were here that night was to try to prevent injury, you know, try to protect people as much as you could.

DONIN: And you had obviously beefed up your number of officers, plus you had the state police and the....

McEWEN: Hanover police.

DONIN: Hanover police. Is it your sense that there were a lot of outsiders that were inciting the students on campus?

McEWEN: Yes. Yeah. I think we had a lot of folks from other colleges and other communities that came up that were just looking to, you know, create some type of a ruckus. And they did.

DONIN: Did Mr. Dickey have a reaction the next day to this event that you recall?

McEWEN: I really can't speak to that. I'm sure that he did, but I just can't recall.

DONIN: Mm hmm. Okay. Now you mentioned earlier the ROTC protests. What are your memories of that? Obviously you read the D and there was a lot of movement to keep the Marine or whatever military recruiters from coming on campus. And of course it culminated in the first takeover of Parkhurst.

Do you have specific memories of those?

McEWEN: I remember recruiters being on campus, and that we would provide—I mean the college proctor and there would be the lieutenant – who was Fred [E.] Spencer back then before I was promoted – would be at these events. And, you know, they would try to figure out routes to bring their recruiter in, where they could get him in with the least resistance from…I mean back then, the protestors were different than they are now with most of them.

I mean they were—a lot of them were aggressive, they were pushy, they would try to get into areas to sit down, to position themselves so you couldn't move them, or you'd…It would – you know, create a spectacle, that type of thing. But that became pretty common.

I remember recruiters in College Hall, Thayer Dining Hall – different places. And we would try to get them in safely, get them out, and prevent injuries.

DONIN: Who were the other administration officials that had responsibility for dealing with this level of protest?

McEWEN: Well, I mean the dean's office would have some involvement. But back then the dean's office was very small. You had the dean of the college, you had your dean of students, you had – might have one or two assistants. The first year – freshman office – would have

maybe two people.

And they pretty much left most of the stuff up to Campus Police. And like in [Emanuel Robert] Skip Sturman ['70]'s situation of being the head of career—what was the title of that office now? I have forgotten that one. But anyway, that's where a lot of protests occurred.

DONIN: Oh, in the career counseling office.

McEWEN: Yes. 'Cause they would bring in the recruiters and stuff.

DONIN: Oh, I see.

McEWEN: And it wasn't always military. It could be some...

DONIN: Big corporation that they objected to.

McEWEN: Yeah. But, at any rate, that person would generally be there to help out.

DONIN: Uh huh.

McEWEN: But the advantage...Things that happened—some of the things that occurred back then – which – where the Campus Police knew a lot of students. And a lot of the students that you knew, you knew by first name.

And that had this ungodly effect of impact whenever there was a situation to say – to call somebody in the crowd by their first name. Say, "You know, I really need to…" Because other people would look and say, "Oh, geez, if they know him, then they probably… "—and I say him because there were no women here then—"then they probably, maybe they know who I am. I want to remain.., I don't want people to know my name."

But that happened a lot.

And I mean you could talk to students, you could talk them out of things, and get them out of an area. But, I mean they would come back, and they'd be pushy.

Like when we had protest of ROTC down in Chase Field – because

that's where they used to hold all of their ceremonies with their marching and parades and all of that…

It wasn't just students. You had a lot of people from the Upper Valley, different towns that would come and protest this whole program, this ROTC program. You'd get a lot of people from the – we had communes all over the area, South Strafford, and you'd get a lot of those folks that would come down. And they didn't care.

I mean they would push the envelope right – end up being arrested, if that's what it took. Or given a trespass letter and removed from the college because they figured, "I don't have anything to lose."

DONIN: So you could arrest them for just being on campus if they were causing trouble because they were trespassing?

McEWEN: If they were causing trouble, if they were – if you had given them a verbal, you know, warning or ordered some type of request to leave.

I remember a case in the River Cluster...in McLane Hall [Judge Hall]. I was on day shift, and I was patrolling down by Thayer School of Engineering.

And I saw this young man walking headed up to campus, and I knew he wasn't a student. He just didn't fit in. He didn't look like he was old enough.

So I pulled over, and I struck up a conversation with him. And he was very cordial. I asked him where he was from, and he said South Strafford. And I said, "You're not a Dartmouth student?" "Oh, no, no, no. I'm just down here visiting." And I said, "Well, where are you headed?" And he said, "I'm headed to the hospital."

I said, "Are you ill?" He didn't look well. But, you know, he wanted to talk. And I figured, well, the longer I talk with him, I'll find out what's he doin' here, and just, you know – the curiosity of wearing a badge, you know.

So anyway, make a long story short: what happened was, he was going to the hospital to talk to the doctor up there because he had brought a friend in the day before, and his friend died. And so I said, you know, "What is this all about?" He said, "Hepatitis."

And I thought, oh. I knew about hepatitis, being in the military and serving in Korea and stuff.

So at that point I asked him for identification. So he pulled his wallet out, and it was the strangest thing. And, he tried to get this piece of paper out with identification, with his name—I don't even know what the piece of paper was to this day. But it disintegrated. It had been in there for so long and was so – it had been – obviously had been wet or whatever. So I said, "I'm going to have to take your name."

You know, I said, "What do I do with him?" So I put him in the cruiser. I said I've got to deal with this. I took him directly to the hospital. I called Dick's House, Dr. Jackson, I think was—yeah, he was still the director then—and told him what was going on.

Got a hold of the dean's office, reported to my boss – John O'Connor, the college proctor. It turns out he – this young man – had been in a residence hall and handled everything, touched everything, and slept down there.

And, of course, this was hepatitis – highly contagious. So they immediately found out where he was living in South Strafford, sent a team of doctors up, and they had, like six people isolated up there with hepatitis.

DONIN: Oh!

McEWEN: And fortunately they caught this thing before it really got, you know...I mean they lost this young man. I think he was fifteen years old living in this commune that died.

But some of those types of things that occurred that people never really…you never really hear about or know about because it doesn't become a big story in the paper and stuff. But this could have had, I mean, devastating…

I mean we were lucky that the students in that residence hall down there got medical attention right away. And they brought cleaning people in to clean all of the—the bathrooms and all of the door handles and doorknobs and washed everything down. Just sterilized the place.

DONIN: It's not what you think of as part of the job description for Campus Police.

McEWEN: No, no.

DONIN: Incredible.

McEWEN: One other thing that might be of interest—and I don't know how well this is recorded—but when I first came here, weapons were allowed in private residence rooms. You could have shotguns, rifles, whatever you wanted – that was permitted then.

You had to register with Campus Police. And what happened was—there's nothing like sending a message or signal—this registration card had to be visible, applied to your room door on the outside in the hallway, so that anybody walking by would know that, oh, they've got three shotguns in there and whatever.

DONIN: What was the reasoning? What was the thinking behind that – to allow it?

McEWEN: Well, I mean there were a lot of students brought weapons to campus for Bait and Bullet. A lot of the outdoor affairs, you know, programs that they had…They had a firing range down in the basement of the gym back then where you could go and target practice. They had...It was just one of those things.

*In loco parentis…*it covered so many things that you could do all these things, bring them here, and the college will take care of this and oversee these things.

But, yeah it was...What used to happen – I remember on the midnight shift – was that we would get calls from the switchboard that were at two o'clock in the morning and would say—and this is how well trained the switchboard operators were because they... We knew them all and loved them. I mean they were just great folks. I mean they were just part of this whole Dartmouth thing for, you know...

[Frederick James] Freddie McCarthy was one of the switchboard operators and he always called me. He would – when he called me on the radio...again, you have to imagine back then, you had one radio for an entire department.

And whoever came on duty next got the radio and you hoped you had a good battery. And you had one vehicle. So, you know. But that's the way it was then.

And Freddie would call me, and he'd say, "Bobby, get over to the fourth floor of Middle Mass right now." I'd say, "What's going on, Freddie?" And he'd say, "Gunshots."

So I'd go over there. So, there were never any gunshots. But what you would find is that they're making home brew in some room, and they set the bottles out in the hallway after they capped them. The radiators are on full bore, and of course the heat's popping the caps off. I mean those types of things.

Gunshots! You know. [Laughter]

DONIN: My God! [Laughter]

McEWEN: But weapons were allowed in private rooms back then.

DONIN: When was that stopped?

McEWEN: I think that started to change after the shooting in Texas.

DONIN: Ohhh.

McEWEN: People started to look at their rules – you know, regulations about firearms and that type of thing.

DONIN: Mm hmm.

McEWEN: So then the policy became, if you brought a firearm to campus, then it had to be stored in Safety & Security.

But you could get it out—Campus Police, not Safety & Security—anytime during the 24-hour period. You could sign it out, so.

DONIN: And so students would use this for hunting and shooting practice?

McEWEN: Yeah. And, you know, we found during that period of time, that you would have students on campus -- with handguns -- who brought them for personal protection and safety. And we know that because

we had cases where a student who had a handgun would pull it on...

[End of Tape 1, Side B – Beginning of Tape 2, Side A]

McEWEN: I think the first person that was a [proctor]—I can't even remember his name now. Carey…last name was [John F.] Carey, I think – was the first person at Dartmouth that had that title.

But it was – I think it comes from a carryover from the early days where they had, like, one person on campus who took care of buildings and that type of thing, but had the responsibility to oversee student discipline and report things and that. So they took that from the definition of a "proctor" – someone that monitors or exams or that type of thing, but in the form of overseeing or protecting, if you will, reporting, you know – that.

And it started to catch on in the Ivies. I think at one point Princeton had proctors. But their proctors were not—was not head of the department, it was a…Proctors were assigned to residence halls. And they had a more hands-on, immediate role of monitoring rules, regulations. But being helpful, hopefully, you know, giving out good information and stuff.

But, I mean, during this era, too, Campus Police had the responsibility for parking. We wrote all the tickets for the campus – which again, you know, made us very, very popular, because that's one of the – probably the—if there's a tougher job on campus, I don't know what it is in terms of folks that—they try to do this on a daily basis. But we had responsibility for that.

We had to cover the [Dartmouth] Skiway for parking on weekends. That was part of our duties. At four a.m. on a Friday – Saturday morning, Sunday morning, an officer had to go to the Skiway, and he had to park cars. That was part of your job. And everybody switched weekends so you didn't have to do it every weekend.

But, I mean there were a lot of things that we had responsibility for that were just sort of, again, required a generalist and not, you know, the – and not a…

At that point in time, because we were the only vehicle—we had a station wagon, like I said earlier, with a stretcher—we would

respond to the Skiway for every broken bone and injury and bring them back to the hospital. We would respond to Moosilauke to – for injuries up there, to transport some of them back – which was, you know, when you think about it…we were very lucky because during that era it was not a litigious, you know, society at that point. And there were many things done that were probably done—or should have been done better probably—but being the only game in town, you know, we ended up having to do that.

I remember responding to—when I was a lieutenant, I remember responding to Moosilauke for a chainsaw injury. And we got halfway to Moosilauke, and there was a green pickup truck headed back to Hanover. And it was one of the grounds workers. And in the bed of the pickup truck, he had a medical school student who, for whatever reason, had been operating a chainsaw up at Moosilauke alone, and cut his – near his ankle, which…

He was transferred into our vehicle. He was definitely in shock at that point. We did everything we could for him. We got him to the emergency room. And they had amputate his leg, that's how serious that was.

DONIN: Oh!

McEWEN: Now, in this day and age, that whole scenario would be different. He'd still have his leg, I'm sure. But I mean it was the job...

So the things that—a lot of the things that we dealt with were things that…There was little or no training. We were somewhat prepared but never really fully prepared for a lot of things because the – you know, like many of the administration – we were sort of feeling our way through the maze of things that were happening.

DONIN: And you were dealing with a much smaller staff.

McEWEN: Much smaller. We had, like I said, five people full-time.

We had fifty part-time people. And these were people, again, that were not trained to deal with colleges – student-related...I mean we used to bring them on, on big weekends, and put them on the front door of a fraternity, back door of a fraternity. They checked everything to be sure…

But we would have anywhere between forty and fifty people on a big weekend as extra patrols who, again, were not trained. They were eyes and ears, and that was it. And we sent them out with a dime and said, “Anything happens, find a pay phone, call.” But that’s really—that’s the way it was.

DONIN: Did you all wear police uniforms that made you look like policemen?

McEWEN: Yes, we wore the regular police-type. Not the Smokey Bear hat, but the old – what, eight-point type thing, whatever it was called. Almost like a military hat.

But, the traditional police-type hat with a badge that said, “Campus Police,” with a jacket or blazer, shirts with patches that said, “Campus Police.” Badges, whistles. The big garrison-type army belts with whatever kind of junk you wanted to carry on the belt or whatever. And a ring of keys that...

But, yeah, we looked like policemen. We were called "police."

DONIN: But you didn’t carry guns.

McEWEN: We had no weapons at all. We didn’t carry handcuffs, guns, nightsticks – anything like that. Did they even have mace and stuff back then? They probably had some type of chemical stuff. But, no. So we didn’t carry any of that stuff.

DONIN: How ironic – that students had guns but you didn’t.

McEWEN: Oh, yeah!

DONIN: Crazy.

McEWEN: We were definitely outgunned. [Laughter] There’s no two ways about it.

DONIN: [Laughter] Now you mentioned the change from Campus Police to Safety & Security. Can you talk a little bit about that?

I mean, from what you were saying before, it almost sounded like that was a move to improve the relations with the Hanover police department?

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: Or is that overstating it?

McEWEN: No. That was one part of it, and a big part.

And I think it's been over ten years now since we made that change. And discussions that I had with the local police chief, who was Kurt Schimke back then, who unfortunately…He was only the police chief for a very short time; he died suddenly of a heart attack in his early 40s. But he was a wonderful man. He was a great administrator.

And in discussions that we had, he talked about, "Well, it is kind of confusing for a lot of folks, visitors to the campus. Sort of bothersome to the police at times because you still have this name of "Campus Police" and you have no police powers. You don't carry weapons; you don't make arrests, and that type of thing. You're more of a security department." So we talked about that. I spoke with my bosses about it to sort of get a feel on how they felt about it because the Campus Police name had been around for a long time.

But I was willing to make the change because I felt, personally, that it was time for a softening of the image, to go from the policey-type stuff to get down to blazers and that type of thing. You can still do the same job, and you can still conduct your investigations and help students.

You don't have to be called "police." You don't have to be dressed like police. Students are savvy enough to know that if you change your name and your attire from Monday to Tuesday, most of the students on campus are going to know Tuesday that, "Oooh... "

Because they all sit in the dining hall…and they're sitting there, and they say, "It's not the Campus Police. They're not wearing those uniforms. They're wearing green blazers, and watch out," or that type of thing.

But I think it – for me, personally, I think it was a good change for everybody because students didn't see us—they didn't see the badge because the badge was no longer obvious. Like at special events, we wear the real dressy-type badge in the breast pocket of the blazer and stuff. The badge went to the belt. We all wore the

same green uniforms and it said “Department of Safety” – a little logo up here, which was not – it was not threatening.

And I think that – I think that that helped—probably helped more on campus with students. But it also had the desired effect of Hanover no longer having that feeling that there’s two police agencies in town. And I think they were pretty happy with it. I think they’re still happy with it. Well, they were when I retired a year ago.

But I think it was a good move.

DONIN: And this happened then during President [James O. “Jim”] Freedman’s era – was it ten years ago?

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: Uh huh. Now you mentioned your bosses. Once you were promoted to the college proctor, who was your boss?

McEWEN: Ralph [N.] Manuel [’58 TU ‘59]. He was the dean of the college.

DONIN: Dean of the college.

McEWEN: Yes. He promoted me in the fall of ’76, and that was the year we had the premature ignition of one of the bonfires, right after I was promoted. And so I got a call from Ralph, and I said, “Ralph, this promotion isn’t going to last long, is it?”

DONIN: How did that happen?

McEWEN: Well, we think we were duped into being pulled away from our coverage on the bonfire, and there were people that had staged their attack from the front of the Hanover Inn with cans of gasoline and kerosene. And they went over and splashed it, ignited it, and it went.

Of course, we called the fire department and tried to get them to come down and spray it down. But they said, “Nope. It’s not a risk or danger to anybody. And we’re not going to put our people at risk. Just let it burn.”

DONIN: And how many days before homecoming was this?

McEWEN: Was it a day or two? They rebuilt it.

DONIN: Did they really?

McEWEN: Oh, yeah. Yeah, that was amazing.

But, yeah, that was my introduction to becoming a college proctor. Then I said, "Geez, I probably should have read the Peter Principle quotes, or whatever the… " [Laughter]

DONIN: [Laughter] Did you make any changes once you became the proctor?

McEWEN: There were a lot of changes.

One of the first things that we did was we started to...we created a full-time investigative position because we needed an investigator in the department – someone that could focus on and handle all the information that was coming in to make decisions on where we go with this, how do we handle this. Because we had – again, we still had a lot of generalists at that point, and a lot of different people were handling different things.

And we just were not getting the desired effect, if you will, of good quality care and control. And we needed that. So that was one of the things that we did.

DONIN: That clearly was a reflection of how things had changed on campus.

McEWEN: Yeah. Yeah, I mean things were changing, and it was...You go through these – we went through the eras where, you know, administrators would look at Campus Police and say: "Out of sight, out of mind. We know you're here. We know what you do. We don't want you to be in the front of this protest or demonstration, or out in front of it because it's going to be viewed as adding fuel to the fire. So, sort of, out sight, out of mind."

And then as the administrations changed, it was like, "No, no! We want you, and we want you right here. And we want you seen, we want you highly visible." You know, that type of thing.

But that happened nationwide on college campuses. And certainly

different administrators have different ideas on how they want to have things handled.

DONIN: So during the '70s, what was the policy? I mean this was when Carroll Brewster was the dean, and John Kemeny was president. What was the policy in terms of...?

McEWEN: Well, we started to see some changes when John Kemeny came on board because he'd been here for a few years, and well known, highly respected. He started to feel that this whole uniform thing – that there was a need for higher profile, for greater visibility.

I mean I remember getting a call from Ralph Manuel and Ralph saying, "I just got a call from John Kemeny. His license plate is gone again. Get it back!" And so…

You know, I mean because we knew a lot of things back then, because…I mean, like I say, you would talk to students a lot. I mean the students are, for the most part, great young men and women. I mean when alcohol's not a factor, they like to talk to you, they want to – you know. But if you're getting into their stuff, get away!

But…So I got a hold of one of the fraternity presidents that I knew and had a good communication – relationship with, and I said, "I need some help." He said, "What's up?" I said, "Who had pledge raids last night?"

DONIN: Who had what?

McEWEN: Pledge raids.

DONIN: Oh, pledge raids.

McEWEN: They have a list, and they have to go out and do their thing for their scavenger hunts, you know, and all of this. And so he gave me the name of the house, and I called the president of the house and said, "I need the license plate."

He said, "How did you find out we have it?" I said, "Get it over to the proctor's office now." Five minutes, it was there. I got it up to Ralph, and Ralph gave it to John, and that was the end of that. But I mean it was like...

DONIN: I gather it was a common target – the license plate.

McEWEN: Yeah, very common. Yeah, yeah. It was "BASIC." And that was it, off his Thunderbird, you know. But. Yeah, so I mean…there were a lot of things that went on.

But I think John Kemeny started to see the need for—or felt that the presence of the uniforms...But we were still—that wasn't a direct link. That still went through the dean's office.

And sometimes the dean's office would say, "Okay. I'm going to leave it up to you to play it how you think it ought to be played. And if you think we need to have a show of force, then, let's have it. And if you don't, don't." And I never really felt that there was a need for a show of force because if you could sort of mingle with groups – gatherings and that type of thing – and they would see you in uniform, they'd say, "What are you doing here? Well, I don't know. I'm here to hear the speaker, see what they've got to say. Same thing you're doing here" …those types of things.

But…and it didn't always work. I mean there were times when it – you know, it got very difficult for officers and stuff, but…

DONIN: And how did that policy change with the next administration, I mean, when President Kemeny left...

McEWEN: I'm not so sure it was a policy. It was more of a...how would you describe it, of…just the way the president or, you know, a vice president felt about how something should…

It was never really written anywhere, in any written form. It probably was – it was, again, verbal, handed down through the chain of command and stuff.

But I remember being invited to an event at the president's house. And the trustees were there, and there were a whole bunch of folks. And Jean Kemeny—she's the one that actually invited us – invited me, and a captain from the Hanover police. And I was saying, "What do they want the two of us there for?" But anyway, you know, you don't turn those types of invitations down.

So we went. And here's Jean Kemeny, and she was just a lovely

lady. She met us at the front door of the house. And she said, "Now, I know that you two know each other, and you're good friends. Or maybe you're not good friends." She said, "But I don't want to see you two talking together at all tonight. You go to one end of the house, and you go to the other end. And if you happen to meet in the middle, you just keep—you pass each other – because I don't want you people congregating and talking to yourselves. You get out there and mix with folks."

So it was great. And every once in a while we'd see her, and she'd say, "Now, you're doing a pretty good job."

She was just wonderful. She…I mean, students used to go to the house at three o'clock in the morning, pounding on the door. She would come to the door, and it would be – you know, I mean after coeducation it would be a woman or it'd be a male with a *Playboy* magazine, and they would unfurl the centerfold and ask her to sign her name. She'd sign it. She'd say, "No, this is great!" There are a lot of those stories, with…

DONIN: She had a special way about her, I guess.

McEWEN: Yes. I mean folks...I mean most of the—I think all of the first ladies have been – have just been great, delightful. I mean everybody's different in terms of personality and stuff. But it's…a lot of fun stories, that's for sure.

DONIN: Well, we want to hear them all. [Laughter]

McEWEN: [Laughter] I don't know if I have them all.

I was just trying to get back to the '60s, just to see – '67 is when I came. But I think the...

Oh, one of the other interesting things that was part of our responsibility when I first came here was that late night, after the fraternity parties were over, it was our responsibility to physically go to the basement of every house that had taps on, and we would shut the taps off and lock them up secure.

DONIN: This was before the days of the kegs, then.

McEWEN: Well, they had kegs...

DONIN: Attached to the taps?

McEWEN: Yeah. They had the – yeah. Because, I mean kegs were very common because we gave kegs away for every—we gave kegs away, the college gave kegs away to award for, you know, snow sculptures…if you won a certain event or this or that, a keg was a — you know, that silver cask was, you know – that was it. It was like the Oscars, I guess. Whatever it was.

DONIN: And this was obviously when the drinking age was eighteen.

McEWEN: Yes. You know I would have to...I'm trying to remember now. Was the drinking age eighteen when I first came here? I think it was. But that's recorded somewhere, too, in terms of that...

DONIN: Sure.

McEWEN: The chronological changes and stuff. I'm just not...there are some things that just kind of slip out, and I…

DONIN: Oh, of course.

McEWEN: And I want to be accurate, but...

But, yeah, so we used to do that. But what would happen is that because the students, you know, being college students – they would know that the event's over at this time, and Campus Police are going to come and shut the taps off. So what they would do is pull up their forty-gallon trash barrel with one of those plastic liners, and set it up to the – and, you know, drain off as much beer as they could get. And then they would hide it somewhere. And, of course, I mean everybody knew that was happening and going on.

DONIN: [Pause] Very creative.

McEWEN: Well, I always said, you know, if you want to be in this game, a couple of things: you have to get up very early in the morning to beat students at the things that they do. And just when you think you have it figured out, forget it. They've got another step on you, I guess. [Laughter]

DONIN: It's true. You feel like you've covered your notes from the early

days?

McEWEN: Yes. Sorry if I've rambled on.

DONIN: No, it's wonderful.

[Pause] Let's see here. I'm just going down my notes, too. Now in terms of the changes that you were touching on before – in '75 when you became the college proctor – what were some of the other changes you said you undertook?

McEWEN: Okay. I hired the first woman in the department, and we immediately trained her to do sexual assault awareness programs and investigations on – because the college at that point…we just really didn't have women's resources in terms of, you know, dealing with the real – you know, some of these real sensitive issues and concerns.

And so we started that. And that position stayed in our department until the late eighties. And then it made sense at that point, because of the need for advanced training and education, that that person should be aligned with Dick's House. So, we transferred that position out of Safety & Security to Dick's House, and that person became a full-time position with them.

But during the first couple of years, I hired a couple of women, and we started, you know, bringing women into the...[inaudible] I mean, I felt – you know, we had these women on campus now, and if they want to talk to someone in the department, we didn't have a female officer that they could talk to. And because we're here twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, that you know, we should find a way to make that – those requests available because it was just – just – it was reasonable.

And we started doing a lot of—hired our first crime prevention specialist during that period. And again, what you could see is that—and not because when I took over as college proctor that I started to do all these wonderful things—these were things that as the time permitted and budgets permitted and this type of thing, it made sense to start to look at these things and request through the dean's office that – for approvals for these things.

And, you know, if it hadn't been for the dean's office, then these

things never would have happened. So, I mean, they recognized these needs, too.

But, we started a crime prevention specialist. And we now have two full-time investigators in the department. We do rape aggression-defense training. We make residence hall visits to talk about alcohol and registration process dos and don'ts.

DONIN: Well, there's…I noticed, going through the files preparing for this interview, that your efforts at education and being sort of proactive were increasing. And there were flyers that you would pass out in the dormitories on various subjects.

McEWEN: Yeah. We started what we called A-TIP, Anti-Theft Identification Program. And that was an engraving program.

Officers in the department said, you know, "Students aren't going to come and sign out the engraver. They're just not going to do that. They won't engrave their computers and all this stuff." And I said, "Alright. Well, then, let's take it to them."

So we started to do this in the residence halls. It kind of lost its momentum in the – I don't know, eighties, late '80s, early '90s.

But we still have the engravers available, and students can sign them out. Or we'll take them to their room if they want. We'll go if they request, but we used to go and set up in a residence hall, you know – study room or common room, and be there for them. Do their bicycles, and, you know – that type of thing.

DONIN: Uh huh. So you were becoming much more specialized as well.

McEWEN: Yes, that's what I was going to say. As we sort of – into the '70s and headed towards the '80s, the generalists, although there's – I've always felt there's a need for generalists – but they started to kind of move into the background and the specialties started to come—surface.

And with that, you know, came the difficulty in finding people that had the types of backgrounds that you were looking for and the training and that type of thing. And the biggest thing was where does the money come from?

DONIN: Right.

McEWEN: You know? That's always the…

DONIN: Always the problem.

McEWEN: Always an issue or a concern.

DONIN: Where did you hire most of your people from? Were they from the military, or…

McEWEN: Well, we have some folks that are ex-military. We have a lot of law enforcement folks, ex-state police. We have one guy who was a retired police chief.

Well, part of the dilemma with finding the people that you really want and you really need in an organization like this – in this type of setting – is that we don't have a diverse pool to choose from.

And what we did was we started to advertise outside the area and spending a lot of money, you know, going to Portland, Maine, and Massachusetts, and New York State, and, you know, Connecticut. And we got no nibbles. And the reason is because for someone to relocate for the pay and the benefits that we're offering, you're probably going to lose money.

So it's hard to—it's just hard to get people. So what happens is you actually end up hiring people that live in the Upper Valley, like me, that know a little bit about Dartmouth or have been around here for a long time or have some experience in different things.

DONIN: And who don't have to buy a house here – who already have housing.

McEWEN: Absolutely. I mean there are a lot of factors there. And so, you know, I would love to have a more diverse, you know, department when I was there. I mean it was just very difficult. I'm trying to think of...

One thing that we did start was in 1977, I think – I was not chosen or voted in as the president of the New Hampshire Security [Campus Security Directors of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine]—the name has changed I don't know how many times, but

what we started to look at back then was the real need for training.

And it took us nine years, but in 1986 we actually developed the first security training academy maybe in the country [Northeast Security Officers Academy], I'm not sure, but certainly in the Northeast. And so we started sending people to this academy in 1986, and now that's a requirement anyway. Any new person that we hire, they have to go to this academy for a week.

And they have to do – and there's other training that they have to go through – the hepatitis – I mean, all the blood-borne pathogens stuff, first aid, CPR. They have to be trained on the defib.

So we've – again, we've done a lot of that, which is good. I'm glad that the college has acknowledged the fact that those are much-needed things. Because it's good for everybody.

DONIN: When did the first ambulance get purchased?

McEWEN: Let's see, when did the...You know I'm not even sure when Hanover – when they started that.

But during that – when I first came here, the only other vehicle available in town was from Rand's Funeral Home. And – you know, and of course that couldn't respond to everything, but I guess it responded to some things. But…yeah, so I mean it was a...

[End of Tape 2, Side A – Beginning of Tape 2, Side B]

DONIN: Okay. Yeah, so it was a time...

McEWEN: It was a time and era when you really had to have imagination in terms of making these adjustments constantly. And for the folks that were running the institution then – the president, the trustees making decisions, and deans and stuff – I mean I can't imagine it.

I mean it must have been a very, very difficult, trying time for them to have that sense or feel that what they were doing was the right thing. I know they wanted to do the right thing, but was it? I mean because everything was just so...It was coming at you from so many different directions with the SDS on campus, with…

I mean at that time Tucker Foundation was doing a lot of bridge

programs, bringing in inner-city folks. And this was a time when I met a guy by the name of Ed Perry, who was from Chicago. He wasn't here to matriculate. He was here to take some courses with a special program with the Tucker Foundation at that time [Foundation Years Program] and he needed some employment while he was here.

So the dean of the Tucker Foundation contacted John O'Connor and said, you know, "Can you find some part-time work for this guy?" And John says, "Yeah, send him down." So John said to me, he said, "This guy's coming in. I want you to meet him and find out if we can find some work for him."

So he came in – and he's this guy that – you know, he's African-American, he's from Chicago. He's probably bigger than this trooper that I saw with George Wallace. Very soft-spoken, very gentle guy. Got to know him. Assigned him to the gymnasium area because we were having a lot of problems with thefts down there in lockers and that type of thing. And thought, you know, actually – another set of eyes and ears, put him down there, wander around.

What I didn't know at the time—and that's one of the greatest things about my career and I think a lot of people here—sometimes you just don't know who you're talking to or who the person is. This guy was the chairman of the board of the Vice Lords, the largest black gang in Chicago – 10,000 strong. Worked with Mayor Daley during all of the Chicago riots, you know, when they had the debates and everything there and all this.

And I didn't realize – and he was never really forthcoming; he really didn't want to talk much about his background. I didn't – he was married at the time. He was twenty-six years old, had one or two children and a delightful guy. And the program ended, he left, went back to Chicago. And I later learned that he was killed in a gang-related thing, where –

DONIN: Oh!

McEWEN: But a book was written – an autobiography of the – it's titled *A Nation of Lords*, and it's written by a Dartmouth alum, David Dawley, D-A-W-L-E-Y [David Dawley '63]. And I think David might have graduated in the mid-'60s or whatever.

But he was the first—David was the only white guy that was ever invited into the gang to spend time with them to record their – what their whole story…And the book is incredible. I've probably read it fifty times. Ed Perry is in the book. And there are several others who are in the book that actually came here to Dartmouth for that program, too.

DONIN: This was the Bridge Program.

McEWEN: Yeah. It was in…yeah. And, like I say, sometimes you just – you never know. But I mean this guy had so much power. I mean it was like...And, as it's written in the book, I mean he could put 10,000 people on the street like that at the request of—if the mayor needed them for this or that, or if they had some other stuff that was going on that might not be all legal or whatever. But…I mean –

DONIN: Oh gee. Right. Right. Life at Dartmouth must have seemed tame to him.

McEWEN: I suspect that he was bored real – you know, doing this patrol down at the gym. It was probably, yeah, okay...But – a nice guy. I was so sad when I read about his murder. He was actually murdered.

DONIN: Now did you normally hire students?

McEWEN: We have…when I first came, we didn't have any students then. Things started to change again when *in loco parentis* sort of went out, the parietals went out, that type of thing. Then we started to cut back in terms of some of the things that we were providing.

But we've hired students for a long time. And when we first hired students, we hired them to help—to augment our force during the reunion period because of all the tents and that type of stuff that went up and alcohol, stuff that...we needed students to assign them to – you know, to different posts. We started out originally with…I don't know, we had seventy or eighty students during that ten-day period for reunions. I think we're down to forty-five or fifty now that cover different events.

But I hired students when we had the Campus Police uniform; they were dressed in Campus Police uniform. They, again, served in a role of part-time folk. Did a wonderful job. I still have contact with quite a few of them. But I mean they loved it. I mean they just loved

doing it – the job. So we've – yeah, we've had students, you know, for quite a while.

DONIN: Other incidents back there—back before, we're really talking before coeducation came along—that you have memories of. For instance, the Shockley incident. Do you remember the National Science Foundation...?

McEWEN: Yes, I do. Was it William, Dr. Shockley?

DONIN: Yeah.

McEWEN: Yeah. He – that was one of those cases where, when he was in the—he was speaking in the classroom...where was he, Wilder Hall? Or, no…

All I remember is that I was on duty, and the call came in – when the call came in for me to respond, it was to wait in the parking lot by the white church. And this was one of those cases of not – we didn't want any scene. We didn't want the uniforms. We didn't want the presence of whatever.

But that there was a disruption in the classroom. But they weren't ready – they didn't need us at the site at that point. If they did: just stand by, and they would call us. I don't know if the professor resolved it that was there, or other folks, but maybe a dean or whatever.

But we never really had to go and confront students or be part of that. I remember the day – that day, sitting in the parking lot and saying, "I wonder what's going on over there."

DONIN: Waiting for something to happen.

McEWEN: "I wonder if it's a mess and we're going to have to go clean it up," you know.

DONIN: Right. And then, of course, there's the Parkhurst incident.

McEWEN: Right.

DONIN: Were you on duty for that?

McEWEN: Yes, I was. I was assigned to the outside of the building that night.

DONIN: Uh huh. And can you give us your recollections?

McEWEN: Soon after the building was taken, the college proctor made a couple of calls. I was off duty. I think it was my day off. And so they said, you know, "We need you up here right away." And so, I said, "Okay!" I didn't bother to ask because, you know, back then you just never knew, you know, what to expect.

So, I got here probably an hour, hour and a half, after the takeover. They assigned me to the Mass Row side of Parkhurst where they used to have the old steps that went up the side. And they've since removed those. So that was my assignment, to stay there on the steps, and no one was to go in, and no one was to come out. That, so…we called in, I think, one or two other people. And again, we only had a staff of like five, and generally we had a vacancy. So there was always—we were always missing somebody, so you worked a lot of extra hours, but…

So anyway, we got people around the building. The college proctor, John, was there. Deans were there. Thad Seymour was already out of the building. [Albert Inskip, Sr.] Al Dickerson ['30], who was the first year—he was out. Everybody was out of the building by the time I got there. But I think…I think Al Dickerson might have been carried out in his chair or whatever. But I don't remember that story exactly.

And there was another—was he assistant dean? Waldo Chamberlin [Waldo "Spike" Chamberlin '27A]?

DONIN: Chamberlin, right.

McEWEN: And I think he—they couldn't get him out right away. He was rather stubborn and obstinate – like: "When I go, I'm going out on my own. You're not taking me out of here."

So I'm not sure that at the initial takeover that the numbers were the total number of fifty-five. I think fifty-five people were taken out. And I might be off one or two. But there were quite a few people in the building when I got there. And you could hear a lot of noise.

I mean they were – obviously they came in with hammers and nails

and planks, and they were trying to – they were boarding up those big doors in front of Parkhurst and whatever. And it sounded like a lot of metal being moved. They were tipping over file cabinets probably. Maybe propping them up against stuff, or – you know, I don't know.

But then, every once in a while you'd see somebody at a window, and then somebody would come out on that sort of deck outside of Parkhurst. And I think – it was – the two folks that I remember the most were – I think it was [David H.] Bill Green ['71] and William Geller [William "Billy" Geller '71] were the two undergraduates. I think Geller is since deceased.

Bill Green is still around. He's in the Upper Valley. I think he spoke here a year ago during the anniversary of the Kent State shooting stuff. But…

So as the evening progressed, there was a lot of chatter. There were professors that were outside the building that were either anti-war, pro-supporters of SDS, and, you know, and so on.

I would have been...I mean I was a little nervous. I didn't really know what to expect because of the – I had heard they'd forced people out of the building, carried people out. They carried stuff in. So, what do they have in the building? You know, do they have weapons? Or…you know, what kinds of things would we be looking for? So I just kept watching the windows and stuff.

And within three or four hours, we had—if we didn't have the whole student body out there, we had close to it – and the building was completely circled by onlookers – people that were getting off work would pull up, you know, what's going on? What's all this noise? A lot of people out there. So the numbers really – really grew.

Word was that state police had been called, but nobody knew if they were going to show up or not. But they'd been notified.

The president had been in touch with the governor, and I think the governor then was a Dartmouth alum, Walter Peterson [Jr. '47]. So what we were starting to hear then was that they're waiting for the governor to contact the county sheriff to issue an injunction. And that the sheriff would have to show up and announce to the people inside – give them their warning that they had to leave – and that

the building had to be posted with the injunction. So. So a lot of those things were happening.

On the side, we had what we called the SBD's – Students Backing or Behind Dartmouth. Now this was a group of students that were pro-Dartmouth. They may not have agreed with the war. But they certainly didn't agree with their administration building being taken. So this was a group probably comprised more of students from fraternities – athletes and so on.

So they started to move on the Mass Row and started to position themselves between the residence halls—we had the little walkways and stuff.

So I'm looking over there, and I'm watching. Now, not only do we have this group around the building; now they've started—they're behind me. And from my military training I [inaudible]—the one thing I was [inaudible]—you don't ever let anybody behind you unless it's your partner – the person that's watching your back.

So I was saying, well, there's probably nothing to worry about, but I'll watch it, and I notified the college proctor and let him know. And so we were kind of watching that.

But, then a keg shows up, and I said, "That's it! Alcohol in this thing, it's not going to..." So we went over, we got rid of the keg. A lot of screaming out the windows now to people outside that are sympathizers to the folks that took the building.

Because when they went in the building – and what didn't they take with them? They forgot to take food. They had no food. And then they started saying, "Well, they're probably going to turn the power and the water off and stuff," which – that eventually happened.

But. So now you've got sort of the supporters. They're jumping into vehicles that they'd parked in Mass lot, and they're headed to the local grocery stores to get food. And they hadn't figured out, "Well, how are we going to get the food in the building?" You know that type of thing. So this went on for—until we started to get...

It's just – it's about dark now, and we end up with students trying to bring food in. And they're being engaged by the Students Backing Dartmouth in the parking lot. Fights are breaking out. So now we've

got this going on away from the building and what's happening there. They tipped one vehicle up on its side to prevent people from...Told them, "You're not taking – you're not even gonna get these bags of groceries out of the vehicles." So we had little skirmishes going on all over the place.

And then we've got students in a panic trying to set up first-aid stations because they're thinking, worst case scenario and the police arrive – if they arrive – there's going to be bloodshed, and we're going to have injured people and so on. So we've got three or four little first-aid stations set up. And for onlookers, they're saying, oh, my God! This thing is really going to get ugly. It's just going to be terrible, you know.

So the next thing I know, I'm joined by a state trooper. His name is Henry Byrd, and he has his dog with him – his canine. So he's assigned to the steps next to me. And Henry is about six foot six or seven or eight or ten feet tall. I don't know. He's a – he was a big guy. And his dog – when his dog sat on his haunches—this is this German shepherd—honest, I mean, this dog's head was...

DONIN: [Gasp.]

McEWEN: And there were professors and students, and they said: "You can bring in guns, and you can bring in this and that; but when the dogs come, I'm gone." And so people started to leave and more troopers started to show up. But they were pretty – fairly low profile.

And I think there were a lot of meetings going on at that point in Blunt with the president and with John O'Connor, the dean. I mean I think, you know, everybody was over there trying to figure out, you know, "Well, what do we next?" Or, "How… Are we waiting for the..."

But a couple of people actually got out of the building after dark. And I can't absolutely say that...One of the people, I was told by some of the sympathizers, was a Dartmouth alum who was actually a Weatherman. And he became—I think he ended up on an FBI list eventually. Not for Dartmouth but for other things that he was involved in, in the country.

But they said he was in the building, so I – you know. Did he initiate part of this? Was he responsible? I guess we'll – for part of it, we'll

never know.

But it just seemed strange from the SDS, which we knew about, and then you start to hear about Weathermen who are really hard-core in terms of violence, you know, and some of the things that they were doing back then with blowing up buildings and all that. But…

So throughout the night, onlookers, students coming and going, a lot of arguments, a lot of debate, a lot of people sobbing, crying because they were – it was like, you know, "This is terrible."

So then the word comes down – then the sheriff shows up, he makes his announcement, and it's obvious they're not going to move. I think he announced it two or three times to them with a bullhorn, posted the building. And then I got information that New Hampshire and Vermont State Police were gathering at the armory in Lebanon. And they were bringing in buses and state body trucks and all that. And that when they decided that they were ready and they knew what they were doing, they were going to head to Hanover. So everybody's waiting, waiting, waiting.

Some students actually drove down by the high school, and they were watching down there because they were going to try to get the word back when they started to come in, I guess, to tip everybody off.

But they showed up, and I think it was three a.m. in the morning, right around three a.m. They got into the building and took – there were a lot of stories about injuries and police abuse and this and that. I never saw one case at all. It was like some people wouldn't leave, and they had to be pulled down the stairs and steps. But they – fortunately they came with enough staff – officers – so that if you needed two people to deal with one person that didn't want to go, then there was no risk of dragging somebody. You could grab them under the arms, and somebody could grab them by the feet, and they'd carry them. And they loaded them on the buses and stuff, one by one, and took them away. Once that ended – once they were out of town – we were still breaking up fights outside Parkhurst in front.

Oh, but the other thing that I forgot about this was that somebody somehow cut the lock at Rollins Chapel – the bells – so that they

started to ring the bells just before the three a.m. thing.

I don't know how they knew or how they—but they did.

DONIN: As a warning?

McEWEN: Yeah. To try to rally folks to, you know, get out there and see what was going on for – 'cause a lot of – I think a lot of folks became sort of disinterested in it because nothing was happening. They didn't see any show of force or police. They said, "Aw, they're not going to come. They're going to let them have the building for, you know, a few days or whatever." But, yeah, that was it! It was an interesting night.

DONIN: And then the students were taken to jail.

McEWEN: Yeah. They took them all...They processed them—I'm not sure how accurate my information is on this because that part of it was stuff that I think I might have read about.

But I think they took them all to the armory. They processed them. And then they split them up and sent them to different jails throughout the state, shaved their heads, and kept them there for thirty days or something. And, of course, that created quite a ruckus on campus.

And then that's when the word was out that William Kunstler was going to be defending them – some of them – and then he showed up on campus, and that was a big deal when they had the hearings over in…they had some in the library and then…did they have some at the medical school? I can't remember.

But I'm sure the recordings must be in the archives somewhere because they taped all those.

DONIN: Right.

McEWEN: That was William Kunstler. I'm not even really sure how big he was at that point in time in terms of being renowned and the whole thing. I know, later on he became a superstar.

But it was a big deal. I mean, it's William Kunstler. I mean, again, we got to see him. Oh, I actually shook hands with him because I

was assigned to some of the hearings over there. We had to switch people around just to sort of be sure the right people were getting in through identification and that type of thing.

DONIN: So you must have had to provide a lot more security than normal even following all these incidents.

McEWEN: Well, yeah. What we did is we had to rely on some of our part-time people, ones that we could get that were more savvy about campus issues and that type of thing, which was always the danger, it was always a risk that…You know, you didn't want to put somebody in the wrong location or post and then have them make some kind of a remark that could just blow the lid off something else. So you really had to do your...you know. But…

DONIN: Did you have, sort of, standard training that you gave these part-timers?

McEWEN: Most of it was verbal. It was on the job. And it was like: "This is your assignment; you're not to go beyond this. If anything happens, pull that dime out of your pocket, go to a pay phone, and call us." That was pretty much it.

We tried to keep part-timers from getting involved in anything physical, anything verbal, anything with…you know, that…I mean, with the whole civil rights movement, you know, and with issues of race and concern about things that—you know, it only takes one word.

DONIN: Right. Right.

And what did the campus feel like after the takeover and during this prolonged period when these kids were going to be—were waiting for trial, and then finally went to trial, and…it must have been difficult keeping calm on campus.

McEWEN: I think there was great apathy. I think what we saw was that a lot of discussions in residence halls – meetings – people were talking about this whole issue, about the Vietnam War, about what was going on, you know.

I think at that...This was something I never recorded, I never kept track of this. But it – was it—I think it was painful. But after the

Parkhurst takeover…and it might have been in the fall because I think that Parkhurst was in May, wasn't it?

DONIN: Mm hmm.

McEWEN: Yeah. The dean decided that—and I think it was pressure from students—that kegs could be allowed in residence halls because it would be a way for people to come together to discuss things, and to have a beer, and that type of thing. So kegs were...There was no formal registration process. It was sort of that you were on your honor and so on and best behavior if you had a keg.

DONIN: So this – the dean at this point was Carroll Brewster?

McEWEN: Yeah.

DONIN: Uh huh. So the kegs were not normally allowed in the residence halls.

McEWEN: Oh, absolutely not.

DONIN: I see. And this was just a special exception.

McEWEN: Yeah.

DONIN: Uh huh.

McEWEN: And again, you know, because, I mean, who could see – or, you know, the writing on the wall in terms of what the dangers would be – you know, the risk, with that type of thing. Because it's well known with the keg community – the drinking community – that when you tap a keg, if it's not refrigerated, you kick it.

And kicking a keg means you drink every ounce of beer that's in it because it's not any good the next day. It's dead because you can't cool it down. There's nothing you can do.

DONIN: I'm sorry. Say that…what about keeping it refrigerated? What does that mean?

McEWEN: The only way that a keg will last is if it has some form of refrigeration.

DONIN: Oh, I see.

McEWEN: So once you tap a keg, you need to finish it.

DONIN: Oh, I see.

McEWEN: If you don't finish it, it dies, and it's no good. That's why whenever we picked kegs up we'd take them back to our office. And we used to – before we lost our keg storage room, you know – we would put them in the hottest room we could find because overnight they were dead, and there was no argument.

DONIN: I see. I see.

McEWEN: But, you know, what happened, I think, during that period of time was the…there probably became less interest in talking about Vietnam and ROTC and all of the world problems, and the keg became the focus or the – you know, for abusive drinking, if you will.

So, I mean that didn't last long – maybe…a year or so? And, you know, because of the problems that were symptomatic with the kegs and stuff – vandalism.

I mean, vandalism in residence halls on this campus used to be huge. The rivalries between dormitories, because they were dorms then – residence halls – was phenomenal. I mean there would be – the two largest residence halls we had on campus, New Hampshire Hall and Topliff Hall, almost once a term would have – would announce open warfare on each other, and they would smash every window in the building.

They would – they had slingshots shooting shards of glass back and forth, throwing any type of missile that they could find, bricks or whatever. This was a case with...talk about stories, we had a—and this was one of the big outbursts between Topliff and New Hamp. And we were trying to deal with it. And Thad Seymour was called because of the amount of damage that was occurring.

And…so Thad came down, and the police were there. We had the street blocked off so no cars could go either way on East Wheelock. We were diverting them down towards the gym and up past the green.

So Thad came down, and he said, “What’s going on?” We said, “Well, they’re at it.” He said, “I want the police out of here. I want security out of here. I’m going to handle it.” So he goes over to one of the residence halls. They’ve got the doors locked, barricaded. He can’t get in. So he’s standing down there, hollering to the students up on the second or third level, and he’s saying, “You get a hold of somebody, and you get down!” I don’t know if those were his words exactly, but that’s what I remember. “You get this door open! I want to talk to people in this residence hall!” The next thing you know, somebody dumped water on him.

DONIN: Oh! So this was...

McEWEN: So we got the door open. We finally got the door open. He saw the kid who did it. He went in the building. The next thing I know, the kid comes out one door, Thad comes out. Here’s this six foot six guy chasing this student up towards the Fayerweathers. “You better stop!” you know. He couldn’t catch him, but...

DONIN: Now – so this was before 1970. This was about ’69.

McEWEN: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. No, this was right after...I mean the dorm rivalries have always been huge in terms of…back in that era they were...as I say, the vandalism was just off the wall!

DONIN: And this was all due to, sort of, loyalty to your dorm?

McEWEN: Yeah. Well, somebody would do something – they’d break a window or come in and vandalize something in the dorm, and then they’d say, okay, that’s it. It’s war. And they’d go after each other.

Richardson Hall and Wheeler used to be two that, because they had central vacuum cleaner systems hooked up, and they used to put all kinds of weird stuff in them. I mean, you can just imagine.

And these kids are the best and the brightest. They know how to do crazy stuff – now I don’t think they learn when they arrive here. I think they know about some of it from prep school.

DONIN: Right. Where they get…

McEWEN: But. I mean, and those things were dangerous. I mean we had

cases where—I mean there were injuries. Luckily, at least when I came, to the best of my recollection, no one lost his sight – an eye or whatever. But I mean, they could have. Shooting shards of *glass* with slingshots?!

DONIN: Oh! I'm going to stop you and turn over here.

[End of Tape 2, Side B – Beginning of Tape 3, Side A]

DONIN: Okay. So we were talking about these dorm loyalties. This was... So this was before coeducation. This was when the dorms were still all men.

McEWEN: Yes. Oh, yeah.

DONIN: Did this loyalty to these dorms – and this sort of gang warfare between the dorms – did this carry on after coeducation – after there were women in the dorms?

McEWEN: I think it was in different forms. It wasn't quite as pronounced or obvious. But I think a lot of male students acted up, you know, right after coeducation was announced. And I think that, you know, when the first – what was it, 250 or 260 women came – that, you know, there was a lot of – a lot of craziness with…I don't know if it was to show off or thinking that they were doing something great by ripping sinks off in, you know, in bathrooms and, you know, damaging stuff. But…

DONIN: Well, some of that I gather was a reaction to—some of the dorms did not want to go coed. I mean, they wanted to just stay men, I assume.

McEWEN: Yes. Oh, yeah. I mean, there was this – I think there was this tremendous fear on the part of a lot of men that, you know, these women were just going to take over their, you know...And because they did so many things in residence halls, with…

I mean the Masses during winter...Mass – I think it was Middle Mass had a tradition – whatever a tradition is because I always have a problem with that word because if it happened three minutes ago in the minds of students, it's now a tradition. But Middle Mass, for example, used to have – at Winter Carnival – had these slalom races, downhill skiing in the residence hall from the fourth floor. And

they would post people to – lookouts and whatever.

But then they would come down—and this is after drinking and, you know—but they – and they would test – they would have time trials. And if you had the best time, then you were the champ. And whatever. But I mean it was so dangerous.

DONIN: What were they going down on?

McEWEN: Skis!

DONIN: Downstairs on skis?

McEWEN: Yeah. Right down the...I mean, you can imagine a flight of stairs with the metal edges on the stairs and stuff and the skis. I mean you pick up pretty good speed. They'd hit the landing, turn, and back down the – you know...

DONIN: They must have had a lot of business at the hospital after these events.

McEWEN: Quite a…well, yeah, I mean, injuries occasionally. I mean there were many cases of – with the drinking games that they had with – in the residence halls, where…

And some of this is rather gross. I mean and they would have judges to record trajectory, viscosity, distance, and the whole thing after they had consumed large quantities of these different punches with fruit and stuff, you know. I mean that was a big deal. And if you could win that, it was like – you were a superstar.

DONIN: This was all pre-coed.

McEWEN: Yep. Yeah, I mean some of these things might have gone on after coeducation. But if they did occur, I think there was some dissipation.

I think they were – you know, these things were kind of dying out.

DONIN: Uh huh. Do you think the women were the cause for, sort of, calming down some of the pranks?

McEWEN: It's hard to say, you know, because I think the women were in such

a difficult, difficult situation and position. Because it was like, they needed to and probably wanted to fit in, in the residence halls, without being labeled as this and that, which…some of the labels, as we know from the song, was “Our Cohogs” and that type of stuff – which was just absolutely horrible.

I think they were really walking on eggshells in terms of—you know, at the outset because it was like, well, if somebody even thinks that I might have reported somebody or said something about this or whatever, you know, I’ll get in a lot of...

And…But I also think on the other hand, that because Dartmouth has such a huge social setting – especially on weekends – that there was that desire to fit in and be invited to events, you know, whether it’s in fraternities or that type of thing. So I think that, you know, the pushing and the pulling was one that was, you know, very, very difficult for those first numbers of women that came.

Even the year before, I think—was it sixty or seventy exchange students that we brought to campus and sort of—a lot of them were stuck down in the Choates. I don’t think all of them were down there; but quite a few of them were down in the Choates.

And I thought, well, this is really peculiar when you think about it, because they’ve stuck them in these residence halls that are parallel to Frat Row – Webster Avenue.

And to get to campus to go to class, they’ve got to walk up there, you know, what kind of things? And some of the things that happened were just ugly.

It was like—I mean every time that I heard about another case of – where a male had dumped urine out of a plastic beer cup on a woman or thrown it at her or make some...

You know, it was like…this just isn’t Dartmouth as I, you know, as I hope it’s going to be and, you know, and I think it is. I think we still have a long way to go. But I think we’ve made a lot of progress through the presidents that have, you know, stood to – this difficult...

Not just what goes on, on campus, but with alumni and alumnae. You know, with – there’s all kinds of things, that – as you know, that

factor into this. But. Oh, yeah, it was a tough time.

DONIN: Can you take us back to the, you know, the time in 1971 when it...It sounds like a band going on down there [reference to background noise]…to the time in 1971, when you – you know, when the vote was approved by the—the trustees approved the plan, and you realized that life was going to change dramatically here on campus?

I mean, even though that exchange program was already taking place, that this was going to really institutionalize the women on campus. What that was going to mean to you and your work on campus?

McEWEN: No, you know, I can honestly say that I was probably totally ignorant to that and what the impact might be and what to look – I knew that there would be some—I guessed that there would be some issues, and there would be – you know, but I had no idea how big they would be and how ugly some of them would be in terms of things that were said…things that were done in the way that women were treated.

And in all fairness to the department – John O'Connor was the college proctor there – but nobody ever really pulled us aside, and we never really had any meetings to discuss, well, because this is a major decision and so on and so forth, that we know that it's going to have a big impact here because, you know, we've been all male for a couple hundred years, what – you know, what's this going to do? Not just – you know, not just short range but long range; but also, not just locally but globally.

We didn't – we really never had any discussion, I think that—at least that I was part of. Probably discussions at other levels within the chain of command, which I understand. And if the feeling or sense was that there was no need for that information to filter down to the…

You know, I've always been a strong supporter of leadership and the people that are in charge, they're in charge. And I will follow whatever they want or whatever they say – as long as it's not jumping off Ledyard Bridge.

So, I think we were ill-prepared as a staff in terms of how we would

deal with these things. I mean, like I said earlier – mentioned earlier – we knew a lot of students on campus, a lot of males by first name. And some of the folks that I knew, that I came to trust and had, you know, really good feelings about in terms of their being at Dartmouth and what they were looking for…

Medical school, law school, you know, that type of thing – meeting families and that type of thing – I really had difficulty with a lot of them when this announcement was made, and I would see them, and they would just start in on a tirade about, you know: "This place! I'm going to transfer! I am not going to stay here! This is unbelievable that, you know, this college is going to go to – it's going to go to hell in a hand basket!" I mean, and I mean this is putting it kindly and mildly, without…you know.

But I would just say…you know those were difficult – difficult discussions beyond, you know, trying to – you know, offer some type of rationale about, you know, it's not going to be the end of the world.

And that – you know, I don't know what the impact is going to be; like, you know, and what it's going to do to folks. But I see it as a good thing. It's a positive thing. You know. It's sort of like when we went through the thing with the Indian symbol, number one. A lot of these things that folks just get all this stuff in their head, and it's like, "I can't deal with this," you know? It's like…you know.

DONIN: The students that were here must have seen this coming down the road. I mean Dartmouth was going to be the last Ivy to finally go co-ed. What is it about a Dartmouth student that made it so difficult for them to swallow this?

McEWEN: I'm probably going out on a limb here…but I think part of it is the fact that during that period of time, the legacy was so prominent, prevalent – the impact of dads that went here, you know, because there were a lot of the undergrads that – I mean, males that I knew that their fathers, you know, went to Dartmouth. And their grandfathers went to Dartmouth, and *their* grandfathers. So, you know, whatever. But I think that had something to do with it.

I think the Dartmouth students had been — you know, the males who were here had always been pretty much independent in their thinking in what they want to do and how they want to do it. And

they didn't want to have other information, or people saying things that might twist or turn or change things in their minds.

I mean, I said forever to male students who…I remember one student who – he actually ended up marrying...he was one of the worst. He just said: "I'm never going to survive this – bringing women here." He ended up marrying one of the women that matriculated here.

But it was like…you know, I said, "It's a process." And, I said, "You may be too young at this stage of your life to realize what process is all about and so on." I said, "But it's not going to be the end of the world." I said, "But you've got to give it some time."

And I said, "You're not even going to realize this before you're out of here. You will realize it, hopefully, twenty, twenty-five years down the road." And I think that that's probably – with some of them – that's what's happened.

But, you know, it's – I can't put into words how I felt and how other friends of mine felt when women first came here…[inaudible] the difficult, *difficult* time that they had. I mean, unless you were part of...

And I'm sure that there were probably a fair number of women in that first class who said, "Oh, I didn't have any problems at all, you know. It was fine." But I think for the most part it was – you know, "Here you are, and…250 plus or whatever, and – fit in."

DONIN: I've heard they had to be pretty thick-skinned in many ways. They were pioneers because of that.

McEWEN: Oh, yeah, I would agree with that. I think so, yeah.

DONIN: The other piece of it was the fact that they were going to go to this year-round operation. That must have also impacted your work, because I assume before that your summers were very different than the regular school term.

McEWEN: Yeah, summers for our staff were...what we did was we were – we actually were baby-sitters for all of these little junior high school and high school programs where they put them all down in the River Cluster – French, McLane, and Hinman.

And we had officers assigned down there in the evenings, and we were there all night until…we locked the residence halls, and so they couldn't get out. And if they were out, then they couldn't get back in without us identifying them. And we patrolled the hallways and stuff and worked with the—I don't know what they were called at that point, counselors, I don't know.

DONIN: Chaperones.

McEWEN: Chaperones, yeah, I guess so. And we worked with them, yeah.

But that's – and summers were...We went through residence halls; we went through Greeks and stuff recovering all of our stolen property off-campus and stuff.

That was back before you had to have a search warrant or Miranda rights to – for everything, and…I mean, not that we ever issued a Miranda, but – but, you know, the college just did a lot of things back then that obviously you can't do today. Privacy and…was...that really didn't exist.

DONIN: Mm hmm. So you were able to go into the frats and just retrieve stuff that belonged to other people.

McEWEN: We used to go room to room. And this…what happened was the fraternities were always negligent when they left because a fraternity would be closed all summer.

So we would go in with our bucket of nails – biggest nails we could find…I shouldn't say that…but big nails, hammers, and we would have to secure windows, doors, and everything, because they – their physical plant they just didn't secure stuff. So we'd have to go in and secure everything for them. Lock it up and shut it down, post it, put signs…"No Trespassing" signs on them, you know.

DONIN: Oh, I see.

McEWEN: Yep. That was just another one of the many things that…Let's see, what else did we do during the summer? Well, most officers were encouraged to take vacations during the summer because we didn't have – you know, we had a small staff. And back then we had a bonfire for every home football game. It wasn't just one, it was

every home football game there was a bonfire built, so…

DONIN: In the middle of the green?

McEWEN: Yeah, yeah. It was a – structure.

DONIN: Good grief.

McEWEN: I mean, it wasn't like homecoming – you didn't have 10,000 people out there. But you had the student body. You had, you know, the visiting team or guests or, you know, spectators, and people from the Upper Valley. Yeah, it used to be every home football game.

DONIN: Who was in charge of building the fire?

McEWEN: It was mostly...There were some fraternities and outdoor affairs that – they were involved in it. And athletics. Athletics is always part of the big party.

DONIN: So this was like a pep rally. Was it like a pep rally? Or…

McEWEN: Yeah. Yeah, it was like a pep rally. But they would have a bonfire.

DONIN: Ah hah.

McEWEN: So there are a lot of things that have changed.

We used to have the chariot races, which were—talk about make you cringe on a Saturday morning when two thirds or better of the folks that were out there were still, you know, under the influence. We finally got to the point of where, after we had a couple of fairly serious injuries, said, "Somebody's got to inspect these things." Because they were building these things and they would have spikes hanging down. You know, if somebody fell, and you ran over them, you know, you can just imagine!

And…but…I mean the chariot races were—that was a wild time. The raft races – we used to have raft races on the river, which the college sanctioned, we – you know. It was okay to have them. And we would inspect the rafts and stuff. But we didn't have Alco-Sensors so we couldn't test alcohol levels, so, you know.

So we'd have people getting on these rafts that were, you

know…So they finally said, "It's too dangerous," I mean. And as society has…I mean, things have changed in terms of, you know, risk and this whole issue of foreseeability and everything, you know. We've had to – you know, do what I think is the right thing in terms of preventing somebody from being killed in some of these things.

DONIN: They've still got Tubestock in the summer, though, don't they? But, that – that's not sanctioned by the college.

McEWEN: They have Tubestock, but that's not – has nothing to do with Dartmouth.

DONIN: Supposedly.

McEWEN: Until something happens and we get sued. But the great thing about Tubestock was that last year before I retired, meeting with all of these people from Vermont – these officials and people from the New Hampshire Fish and Game and Marine Patrol, you know – the first meeting that we had, and I just said, "There's something missing here, and it's pretty obvious."

And they said, "Well, what's that?" And I said, "We don't have any Dartmouth students at this meeting." And I said, "And, you know, this is, in part, their event. It was started by a Dartmouth alum." "Well, do you think they would come?"

And I said, "I'll invite some." So we – I contacted [Katherine P.] Kate Burke ['99A] and a couple of other folks, and we got the students there. And I'll tell you what – this group of all of these law enforcement officials – they were amazed.

They said, "These students representing Dartmouth..." – in different, you know, fraternities and from all these other groups and stuff – they said "...they're tougher than we are." And they had a lot of good ideas.

And, I guess, this year the Tubestock was better than it's ever been. Because of getting students involved. It's like, you know – because they know. And they know the limits. And they know how far – it's like, okay, we don't want this, and we...And the biggest thing was they didn't want to be targeted as the people that are ruining the environment, which is great.

DONIN: Right. So that used to – so the raft races used to go on sanctioned by the college, though, back in the '70s?

McEWEN: Yeah. Yep.

DONIN: So in the – was that another – was that an activity that took place in the spring or the fall?

McEWEN: It was…it was in the spring, yeah.

I mean, the river's dangerous, I mean…and it's like…you know, when we lost...When Carroll Brewster was here, we had a student who drowned, and I think it was Ignacio [G.] Fierro [Jr. '74] from Spain, and that was—that was a…

You know, the family came from Spain. They rented a couple of floors in the Hanover Inn; they took over the inn, they…you know, wonderful people. Couldn't find the body.

And it was such a sad thing to us – I mean every day they would—every morning they would get their lawn chairs, folding chairs, load them in the vehicles and drive down to the landing by the sewage treatment plant and set up down there and wait for the dozens of boats that'd go out, hoping that one of them was going to come back and say, "We found the body."

It took a long time before they finally recovered the body. And I guess it was something to do with the family inheritance or whatever that they actually had to produce the body.

But this was a family that had so much influence in this country that in Washington, through different contacts with congressmen and senators or whatever, they ended up sending Navy Seals up to dive. They had expert divers.

They had – brought a military helicopter, which in fact crashed in Mink Brook because they flew too low, and the blades got hung up in the...

DONIN: In the trees?

McEWEN: Wires and stuff. No one was – no one died from that, but I mean they could've. I mean all of these things are…I mean part of

Dartmouth's...

But I think that his drowning was just so, so sad. I mean, any time you have someone – like Michael [S.] Malone ['93], when he died – he was the class of '95, I think, when Lee Pelton had just come on board. That was one of the things that he had to deal with – that, you know this young man's father graduated from Dartmouth.

And, you know, he'd been missing for five days. I don't know if you know the story on that. But he…the way we learned that we couldn't account for him was he didn't show up for his Wednesday night fraternity meeting, which he never missed.

And so some of his fraternity brothers contacted us, and we started to do the – what we do to initiate the first part of a search: go through all the simple things – the basics, until we get up to, you know – the more serious part. And then…nobody had seen him; his car was still here. Good student. He…no contact with his parents; hadn't had any for a while.

So we checked further and checked further and found out that he, in fact, had been at a – he had been at a party in a residence hall in the early evening with some graduate students and…on a – it was like, a Friday night. And he'd had a – he'd had a few drinks, but no one was really paying attention.

And when he got ready to leave the party, he actually walked into a closet – thought he was exiting the building – and nobody cued in on that, that there was – that there might be something wrong in terms of his level of – you know, of alcohol.

So he left – he was in the Choates – he walked parallel to the – Webster Ave, thinking that he was going to his fraternity when, in fact, he ended up at a private residence over on Occom Ridge. And he knocked on the door and said, "Well, what've you got the door locked for?" And they said, "Well, what do you want?" "This is my fraternity. Let me in." And they said, "No, this isn't your house. You – you have to leave." So he left.

They called the police. The police came down, and couldn't find him, so that was the end of that.

But what happened was he never went to Webster Avenue. He, in

fact, wandered over the embankment of Occom Ridge and went all the way down through the woods, down to that trail where people bike and—wasn't that true? I probably can't remember now, but…and he just slid into the river.

And when the Fish and Game came and did the...because we found some of his personal items on the – in the woods when we did our search down there…Fish and Game came – they were in the water about an hour, and they recovered the body. And it'd just – slipped in and drifted down into, like a twelve-foot pocket by some ledges and stuff, but.

And, you know, it's sad – the whole thing with alcohol, and this and that, and, you know, how do you know?

I mean, it's – you can call the parents, or – the parents were already here. Plus the police chief and myself, and you know – he had to tell them that they've recovered a body. We didn't know if it was his body. So they had to come and make identification down at the docks and stuff. But I mean that was like...

DONIN: Horrible.

McEWEN: That is. It's just absolutely...I mean every time you deal...

And there have been a number of deaths over the years that we dealt with, you know, in our office, and it's like…I just don't know how the – I don't know how the parents or the siblings and the – you know, how they get through some of this stuff when there's no…you know if you die of a disease or you've got something like…but, when it's because your blood alcohol is a .23 or something, you know, it's…it's really sad.

DONIN: Is that the most common cause of the students' deaths since you've been here?

McEWEN: Yeah. Automobile...I mean, accidents – swimming, drowning. The…you know, let's see, have we lost anybody falling out of...? No, there were some serious injuries falling out of windows in fraternities and sororities, but…yeah.

DONIN: And those could be alcohol-related.

McEWEN: A lot of them are.

DONIN: If you're falling out of a window.

McEWEN: Yeah, most of them are. And if you track the times of the day as to when they happen, the times of the week, it's generally sometime after two o'clock, three o'clock in the morning, and it's usually on the weekend.

DONIN: Uh huh. Although I gather weekends here start on Thursday, is that right?

McEWEN: It's changed. It's changing. Yeah.

I just – before I retired – I mean in one of the reports that I submitted to the dean's office was that, you know, that we know – Friday and Saturday, is no – they're – it's no longer the – it's no longer the weekend that's the issue.

Now we're getting into Sundays, and we're getting into Wednesday nights, into Thursday. Which…again, there are only seven nights in the week, and if there's four nights that…you know, we're...

DONIN: Did you automatically increase your staff for the weekend nights?

McEWEN: Yeah, we would put on more staff, yeah. Yeah, big weekends we would always beef up, yeah.

DONIN: Oh. I'm sure.

McEWEN: But we were lucky because when David [T.] McLaughlin ['54 TU '55] came on as president, I'm sure my office wasn't one of the first offices he visited, but he came down to talk to me about...And I remember the question: he walked in, and I said, "Oh, it's the president," you know...

DONIN: Had he announced himself – that he was coming?

McEWEN: No, he just came in to the office, the dispatch, and said he wanted to meet with me – speak to me. And so…came in, and he said, "I'm not fully familiar with your operation yet." He said, "But what do you need? Put together a list and send it to me – things that you need" – like, you know, radios, staff, you know, the whole thing. So I said,

"Fine." He said, "Send it to me."

And…so I put this whole thing together and sent it to my boss first, the dean, and said, you know, because the president had asked for this, I want you to know. So we talked about it and sent it up to the president. And he approved everything. We spent $40,000 on a new radio equipment dispatch center. Added six more full-time people. And it was...

DONIN: Terrific. That sends a pretty clear message.

McEWEN: Well, you know, I mean Dave McLaughlin was a hands-on guy who was probably from his previous job as CEO of what was it—Toro, or…

DONIN: Uh huh.

McEWEN: Whatever. But occasionally I'd get a call at home at night from him. And he'd say, "I was just reading the log, says that..." – because he had requested copies of our logs, too, which no one had done that in the past, I mean no president in the past. But he wanted to know what was going on. And he said, "I..."

DONIN: I'm gonna stop you here and turn over so we don't miss any of that. Hold on...

[End of Tape 3, Side A – Beginning of Tape 3, Side B]

DONIN: Okay. So you were saying David McLaughlin was the first president since a long time to request your logs? This is your daily…

McEWEN: Right.

DONIN: …log of everything.

McEWEN: Yeah. He wanted to know about whatever...I think he had an interest in entries connected with Webster Avenue, with fraternities and stuff. There might have been other things. But that was...

And he would call me and just say, "Well, I saw this log entry – somewhat vague. It really doesn't give any detail," which our log entries never do because we write a report to follow up. And…so I learned real quick after he took over that whatever's on those logs,

on those entries, that I better know what they are because if he's going to call me at home I want to be able to explain it.

But that's just...I mean that was his style, which was fine.

I mean I didn't have a problem with that because I mean I was on call twenty-four hours a day. You know, if he called me, then if I knew what it was, I mean I certainly would share it with him.

DONIN: And what was his intention for reading the logs? I mean did he—was he just trying to educate himself about the fraternities, or…

McEWEN: I think it was – well, I think he was just trying to, you know, learn more about what goes on on the campus in general. But he did...I think he put a lot of money into Webster Avenue to improve sidewalks and lighting and maybe some trees and shrubbery and to kind of spruce up the – that street a little bit and stuff, so.

Yeah, I mean I'm not sure. I just think he wanted to know more about what was happening on campus.

DONIN: Mm hmm. And the increase in staff – had you been planning that anyway – the extra six people that he'd authorized?

McEWEN: Well, I mean the increase in staff was something that was always being talked about at different meetings, budget meetings and that type of thing.

And I can say—and I may be the only administrator, maybe I shouldn't say it, that – at least that I know of—but I've never been denied anything I've ever requested through the dean's office or the budget office. It's always been approved.

DONIN: Wow. You are the first.

McEWEN: Which makes me feel, you know...I mean we went from a staff of five people when I came in '67, and we're up to thirty-six or thirty-seven now. But this has been a progression of...you know, I never asked for more than I needed. I certainly do not and have never looked at anything to be fluff. It's exactly what we needed. And some were – some things were projections because you could anticipate the next year or two out if there was – you know, changes that might be coming.

DONIN: Now, in terms of the technology that's improved since you started here – computers and all that – how has that impacted your work?

McEWEN: Well, I think – you know, because Dartmouth is such a—I mean this institution is so well renowned for – worldwide for computers and technology and research and stuff, that, well, it's benefited us in many ways. And in many other ways it's – I personally view it as a – as a sort of a weighted anchor that I'd like to – have wanted to rid myself of on occasion because it has prevented people from the people contact.

I think that there was only one other administrator that, I think, that was a holdout in terms of being on the computer constantly, and that was [Richard G.] Dick Jaeger ['59] when he retired.

But I just think that we don't speak to each other enough, you know, one on one. And I know people are very busy, and sometimes it's very difficult. But three quarters of the messages that I got on email or blitz mail that my administrative assistant screened for me – a lot of it I never understood. I would still have to pick up the phone and say, "I need to talk to you," or "We need to get together."

But I think that – but…but I mean certainly the improvements have been immense in terms of getting information a lot faster, to be able to pass information on to people when you really have a crisis.

The only times that I haven't enjoyed the information getting passed on during a crisis would be if students pass it on when they've got it wrong and they send it out to 2,000 other people. And then – and everybody says, oh! Well, I know this student, and he or she, they're, you know, they're the president of this or, you know, whatever. And they wouldn't lie about this, or…and chances are they didn't lie. They just misunderstood what was going on, and that can be pretty hurtful to a lot of people, but damaging to investigations and follow-ups and stuff.

But we have – yeah, we now have a portable radio for every officer; every part-time person that comes on duty to go out to an assignment has a portable radio.

They're all trained. They're all trained in first aid, CPR, defib. They're all, you know...I think the new director is going to make

some changes in terms of cell phones and other communications for folks which would be great.

DONIN: And in terms of your computer use – when did that start?

McEWEN: We — well, we've been…well, in the department we've had computers since the '70s.

DONIN: Uh huh.

McEWEN: But, probably one computer for the administrative assistant. But now everybody has—every – not every – almost every person in our department or within a shift has access to a computer with email and the whole thing.

DONIN: So all your report keeping and statistics and that kind of thing is all computerized.

McEWEN: It's all computerized, yep. It's very—retrievable in seconds. It's helped us with, you know, filing our annual crime report for the Clery Act and that type of thing. And…so, yeah, there are many things that—many more things that are positive about it. It's just that I just have this hang-up about it. I'd just rather have people talk to people, but…you know.

DONIN: Well, I don't think you're alone. I don't think you're alone. Well, why don't we give your voice a rest, and call it a day for today, and choose another day to keep going?

McEWEN: Okay. And…yeah, because I wanted to – at some point, mention the debates and get into that with some of the things that happened.

DONIN: Oh, yeah. We've got a long way to go. That's why I don't want to wear you out today.

McEWEN: Is there anything else that you had of any interest...

[End of Tape 3, Side B – End of Interview]

[Beginning of Tape 4, Side A]

INTERVIEW: Robert McEwen

INTERVIEWER: Mary Donin

PLACE: Hanover, New Hampshire

DATE: March 9, 2004

DONIN: Okay. Today is Tuesday, March 9, 2004. I am Mary Donin, and we are here today in Rauner Library for session two with Proctor Robert McEwen.

Okay, Proctor McEwen, the first thing I'd like to hear you talk about is this wonderful black-and-white photo that you've brought to us today that says on the back it was taken in 1975, and it shows President John Dickey with Proctor O'Connor and Dean of the College Carroll Brewster. Now just explain what the circumstances were of this photograph?

McEWEN: Yes. At an event in the college proctor's office, which was located then in the basement of College Hall, Carroll Brewster was present and John Dickey. And Carroll Brewster was leaving the college, and John O'Connor, who was a very good friend of Carroll's and of John Dickey, wanted to have a going-away party – an event. So he invited members of the Campus Police department and students that worked for the department at that point in time and friends of Carroll Brewster.

And at this event—it was a very informal gathering with lots of food. One of the undergraduates, a young man by the name of Chuck – Charles [W.] Kaufman [Jr. '74] – I think he was '74, class of '75 – decided that he would play a prank. And he went into the lost and found area in the department and found a ski mask and put it on. And Chuck was – he was about five foot eleven, about 250, 260, somewhere in that range, and the only person there that fit that physical description at the time.

And he picked up a chocolate cream pie and came running into the event where John Dickey, Carroll, John O'Connor, and other folks were sitting, and he rushed the dean of the college and stopped within probably an inch or less of his face from hitting him with the pie.

And at that point in time John Dickey just roared. The laughter was—it just – it shook the walls. At least it felt that way in that room.

But it was very funny, and it was a great – it was just a great gathering. And as I said, it was Carroll Brewster's—I think he was departing at that point from the college.

DONIN: Now you were saying before the tape was on that you didn't recollect that President Kemeny was there because you thought there was a special relationship between Carroll Brewster and President Dickey?

McEWEN: Yes. I believe that Carroll Brewster and President Dickey spent a lot of time at the college grant fishing and hunting. And I'm not sure that John Kemeny – President Kemeny – was active in that way. I'm not sure that he fished or hunted.

And so I think there was a special relationship there. Plus the fact that they had gone through a lot of issues on campus with Carroll here and President Dickey, and they were – I believe they were very close.

DONIN: That's great. Now this was taken in 1975, which I believe is the year that Proctor O'Connor got ill and passed away. Can you tell us a little bit about the circumstances there and how he was cared for?

McEWEN: Yes. When John O'Connor was first ill, he had sought medical attention at two different locations, as far as I know, and he didn't find out right away what the illness was. And when he later found out that he had cancer, it was apparently in an advanced stage, and he went for the usual types of treatment that you'd get at Hitchcock.

But during this period of time he spent some time in a bed at Dick's House and was cared for there on a part-time basis.

So I spent time with John at his request to—he still – as ill as he was, he still wanted to know what was going on. He wanted to have his finger on the pulse of activities on campus.

So he asked that I come up on a daily basis and bring reports and read the Campus Police logs to him, which I did. On several occasions, you know, he would ask me to be sure to follow up and get back to him on what we were doing on different cases.

And one morning when I was there, he asked me to shave him; he had an electric razor. And I'd never used an electric razor before, but as I was shaving him, the thing came open – the razor came open – and the stubble from shaving him went all over the gown that he had on in bed.

And he said to me, "I hope that you're doing a better job on campus handling the department than the way that you've shaved me this morning." But that was typical of John, with his sense of humor and that, you know…He just never lost his sense of humor throughout his illness.

DONIN: I see he's still smoking a cigarette there even though he's probably ill at that point.

McEWEN: Yeah, he was a – John was a heavy smoker. When we would go away on trips to...During the era when he was here as the college proctor, different departments in the Ivies would send security or police to football games. If Princeton came to town, they would send a couple of their folks. When we played at Harvard, we would send two people down to keep an eye on our students to be sure that if they did get in trouble, there would be someone there that could, at least, provide them with some type of assistance or whatever.

But we were there mainly to keep them out of trouble to – if we could – to be as visible as possible at football games and at social events. I remember one of them with John when we were standing in what they call the cage at Harvard. And at the bar that they had set up—and the place was – the location was packed—and John said, "You've really got to keep an eye out for Dartmouth students trying to crawl through the crowd to get under the table to grab a bottle out of one of the cardboard boxes and stuff." And I just thought, no, this has got to be a joke – this can't…

So I'm looking, looking. And sure enough, he called it exactly right. We caught this Dartmouth student as he was crawling under the table, reaching for a fifth of whiskey. And we pulled him back and identified him, and told him to be on his way and that he would be talking to someone when he returned to Dartmouth on Monday.

But when we traveled on these trips, John always carried at least

two boxes of baking soda, and this was his...and everybody kind of thought this was peculiar but kind of laughed at it during this period of time, that he would take this baking soda. I remember mixing the baking soda up with a thermos of water that he would always bring, and he would drink this on the way to the game and on the way back. And apparently this was, you know, for many years he probably had this problem of his illness.

DONIN: So the baking soda was meant to settle his stomach?

McEWEN: Yeah. Some form of relief, yes. Yeah.

DONIN: Oh, my.

McEWEN: And this went on for a long time. And even his son Christopher – one of his sons, Christopher, who is a police officer in Hanover and is now, works for the Canaan & Enfield School System as a—I think he's an officer that works out there—he often talks about this. He doesn't – I mean it's not something that's a secret; I mean folks knew about it and often laughed about it, that, you know...

I think John was given, at one event—it might have been a birthday party—he was given a case of baking soda by folks not realizing that he had this problem.

DONIN: Now you said they were serving alcohol at sporting events in those days?

McEWEN: This was in the cage at Harvard where they...It was a bar that was set up. You had to be twenty-one, but you could get a drink. I think you had to pay for it, but it was right next to the...I think it's located right next to the—not far from the football field at Harvard. It's an indoor track, and they call it the cage.

And you would find, you know, Dartmouth alumni and alumnae there and Harvard folks, and, you know – and always have undergraduates trying to, you know, sneak a drink or get someone to buy them a drink or to – you know, that type of thing. It was pretty common.

DONIN: I see. Okay.

You also mentioned that you didn't think there was the same

relationship with President Kemeny and Carroll Brewster as there was with President Dickey and Carroll Brewster. Can you elaborate a little on that? Are you aware of circumstances that…

McEWEN: I'm really not...No, I really – there's not much that I can say about that because I'm really not familiar with, you know, whatever the contacts Carroll Brewster had with John Kemeny or vice versa.

I don't...I mean there probably were other venues or areas where they had contact and relationships. So I don't...you know, I just don't know.

DONIN: Uh huh. Okay.

Well, staying back in this time frame, I just wanted to pick up on some of the comments you made last week and ask you to fill in a little bit. And these are details, but they're interesting details. You were saying that at the time when you started here, that the college didn't actually have their own telephone operators, but that the phone was run out of the Hanover Inn?

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: Is that accurate?

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: And these people functioned, then, as the phone operators for the college and the Inn together?

McEWEN: Yes, they were like what you would call desk or night clerks.

DONIN: Ah hah. And they answered all the phones for the college?

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: Amazing.

McEWEN: Oh, after hours and on weekends, yes.

DONIN: And do you know when that operation moved into its own place rather than having it part of the Inn?

McEWEN: I'm not sure about dates. I know that when Carroll Brewster was the dean, there was an incident that occurred in the White Mountains – a climbing incident – involving a student who died.

And at that point in time, because the communications were probably similar to a lot of places nationwide but not really good at the college in terms of people being on call or people you could contact? That there was a – there was a considerable discussion and investigation about why or how the message didn't get passed on about the student so that the family being...

So I think that things started to move in a more positive direction at that point in terms of at least looking at or trying to improve communications on campus.

DONIN: Mm hmm. Okay.

The other thing I wanted to ask you was…We talked about your hiring briefly last week, but I wonder if you can tell us a little bit more about your job interview, and…Do you have memories of coming here to be interviewed?

McEWEN: When I first came, my interview was with John O'Connor. It was in his office on a Saturday morning – that was the first interview. And he was the only person that I met with.

And I had filled out an application, and we talked about – a little bit about my career in the military, and he was an ex-Navy person, so he talked about his career.

And all he…really what he said to me was that beyond the limited job description, which was pretty limited and vague at that point, his hope was to find someone that could interact with young people and understand, you know, things that they were going through, and to be of, you know, sort of the *in loco parentis*, the parent figure, you know, and…that was basically it.

The second interview was to say that he had talked with the lieutenant in the department, who was Fred Spencer at that point. And he wanted me to meet Fred; but he was – wanted to offer me the job. So I didn't hesitate. I said, sure.

And I think the starting pay at that point was 2.01 an hour, and

there was no overtime or double time or that type of thing. And I had no idea how much overtime there would be because it...you know things weren't discussed in any great detail in the interview. It was that – "We're interested in you; if you're interested in the job, it's yours. And we'd love to have you come to work for Dartmouth," and that was it.

DONIN: None of the levels of bureaucracy that there is now in terms of hiring.

McEWEN: Oh, it's changed a lot, yes, yes. Well, I know when I interviewed for the proctor's position...because I didn't interview for the lieutenant's position because that was an internal advancement. But they did a national search for the proctor's position, and I remember that – it was an entire day of interviews starting at seven-thirty or eight in the morning until five or six in the afternoon.

DONIN: So even in that time period things had changed.

McEWEN: Yeah, that was in '76. Yeah, right.

DONIN: Uh huh. And in terms of your understanding of the job, was it more – was there more of an orientation towards enforcing the regulations of the campus? Or was it more an orientation towards, you know, crime prevention?

McEWEN: It was directed more to prevention and being as helpful as you could be, and be as positive as you could be. And I mean when I first came here, we didn't always write a report on every incident that we dealt with. Or that, oftentimes it could be a verbal understanding with a young man that you were dealing with at that point when I first came because it was all men.

But…And you would just say, look, this is isn't the most serious thing that you probably could do or would want to do, but I hope that this doesn't happen again. And I wouldn't want to see your name come across any other reports or that type of thing.

So there were a lot of things that were handled back then that were just given a verbal warning or a caution to a young man on campus.

DONIN: So there was no written record of a lot of these interactions?

McEWEN: A lot, no. No. A lot of it was just handled with...I…

As a patrol officer, I might say to the student, "Okay. This is...you know, I'm going to make a notation – nothing official at this point; but I'm going to make a notation of what I observed and so on and so forth.

And you need to be in the proctor's office tomorrow morning and meet with the college proctor. And I would leave the information for John. Then the student would come in, and John would just have a sit-down with him, a heart-to-heart. And generally that was the end of it. I mean you didn't deal with...you know, I mean if it was a *major* incident, then that was different.

DONIN: So for the more minor incidents, it didn't even go up to the dean of the college.

McEWEN: In a lot of cases – other than the fact that there would be a log entry, a notation, and then if a dean read that, saw that, had an interest in it, might call the proctor and say, all right, what's this all about? What's going on with this? And might say, look, you should know that, you know, we've had—that the dean's office has had contact with this young man on multiple things that your office is not aware of. So we really need to talk about this.

DONIN: Mm hmm. Did that change with the change in deans? Did that reporting structure…

McEWEN: That started to change when, you know, the whole *in loco parentis* thing started to go out – Buckley Amendment – when all of this stuff started to come in about you need to—there has to be, you know... you have to provide information on different incidents that could create problems on campus – that this person could be a danger, could be a threat.

And as things started to change, I think, nationwide and certainly in the higher courts and stuff, the, you know, the institution said, okay, well we have to get on board with this stuff and start really paying attention to it.

DONIN: Did you sense with the change in each administration—we did talk about this briefly last week, pertaining to David McLaughlin—but did you sense a change with each administration in terms of the level of

reporting for student activities?

McEWEN: No, I don't think there was a change. I think that what we started to see was sort of these little…as things started to creep in, it was – it just sort of got passed on from one administration – or passed up to the next administrator that came on board. But we certainly—you know, went from a period when I first came here where we might have a couple of hundred reports written annually to a few thousand now, I mean annually it…

But as – like I said, with the Buckley Amendment and then the Clery Act in 1990, what we started to see with…institutions were being sort of pushed or forced into this more reporting, and to be more vigilant, and to have more programs, and to be come less general – with fewer generalists and start to get more specialized in your training and staff.

DONIN: How about the participation of your department with other committees on campus? Did you have to interact with a lot of either student or administrative committees?

McEWEN: When I first came here, because I was a patrol officer on the midnight shift, I mean I wasn't privy to a lot of that stuff. But I know that John would go—John O'Connor would go out and meet with, you know, with student groups and talk about different things – could be alcohol, could be—before hazing was understood to be hazing, that – because it was very commonplace – the risks associated with some of these things, things that students were doing. And probably drugs a little bit.

But I think it was fairly limited. I don't think it was a—it was sort of a – kind of a hit and miss. It wasn't a—we didn't have any established programming or, you know, regular meetings or that type of thing.

I – officers, if they were involved in a serious incident, would be required to appear before whatever—and I don't remember the name of the judicial board back then—but they might be asked to appear to just give, you know, their testimony in terms of what they witnessed if a student was contesting something. As it is now – it's the same thing.

DONIN: That's the CCSC—the Committee on Standing and Conduct or something, I think.

McEWEN: I can't remember now. I know that there were a number of changes over the years from Undergraduate Judicial Board to…it was...

DONIN: Okay. Now when you became proctor, were you required to sit on any committees – again, either student or administrative?

McEWEN: Yes. Quite a few different committees or groups, yes. From committees...I think probably the longest one was the one on alcohol, which was – alcohol and other drugs, which started back in—it was actually before I became the college proctor.

And I remember some conferences at Top Notch [Resort], in Stowe, Vermont, where they brought in folks from all over the country. And I was part of that.

But it's…it had been, you know, different committees to look at, I mean vandalism, to look at drugs on campus, to…you know, what kinds of – different kinds of programming to, you know, sexual assault awareness programs, to...you know, just a lot of committees.

I think at one point – between committees and just groups that I was meeting with, a couple of years before my retirement, I think… I counted somewhere twenty-two or twenty-three different groups I met with. You know, not every week, but part of.

DONIN: Uh huh. Most of them were with administrators rather than with students.

McEWEN: Both. It was a mix, yeah.

DONIN: How about with faculty – did you spend much time interacting with faculty?

McEWEN: The contact with faculty and my office was pretty limited back then. I mean we just didn't – unless there was a need, if a faculty member had an issue or concern or, you know, felt that they had a concern with a student or whatever, they might call us if they thought that they were being stalked or something might be happening that might be a little peculiar.

I think there was more contact with faculty when I first came here

with the administration because there were more events happening where faculty were invited to what they called—and this is just one example—weekly, the Greeks would have what they called “tails,” and these would be cocktail parties in the afternoon.

DONIN: Tails, T-A-I-L-S?

McEWEN: Yes. But they were short for cocktails.

DONIN: I see.

McEWEN: And so they would invite...I remember going to many of these in the afternoons with—you know, there would be football coaches, there would be deans, there would be a lot of faculty members that—not when I first came as a patrol officer, but after I was promoted to lieutenant—that I received invitations to go to these events.

But they were very smooth events, very well handled. Nothing ever got out of control in terms of alcohol use or abuse. The leadership in the houses monitored all of the drinking, the flow of alcohol, and encouraged faculty, administration, and students to interact. And it was…these were very smooth events.

DONIN: This must have been when the drinking age was still eighteen.

McEWEN: Yeah. I remember being in one house where two brothers of the house came down the stairs from the second floor wearing jeans and t-shirt, and the house president jumped into their stuff and just said, “You get back upstairs, and you dress appropriately for this. And if you don’t, then don’t come back down until the event’s over.” But I mean those were some of the things that...

But they started to die out, and I think we saw – we had a couple of events at houses where there were some very ugly things that had happened when President Kemeny was president – when he was president and was present.

And so these things started to fizzle out, with…Because I…I don’t know exactly why, but – but…The houses kind of lost control of what was happening at some of these events.

DONIN: Ugly in what sense?

McEWEN: Well, I think – I remember one event at a house where the president was called all kinds of names, and people tried to...they threw – I think they threw beer or water or something on him or in his direction and were very – were verbally abusive.

I know the name of the house; I don't think I should probably give it out. But…And I know the name of the student that was identified as doing this. But there were others that sort of, you know, joined in, in this situation or this incident.

DONIN: And this was – so this was during Kemeny's time that it happened?

McEWEN: Yes. Right.

DONIN: Ah hah. Well, now that we've got onto the subject of fraternities… That was one of the topics, obviously, that I wanted to talk about and cover.

McEWEN: Right.

DONIN: You've seen them from the beginning – when they were having civilized cocktail parties, and, I assume, the students, the men, were all wearing coat and tie.

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: To – all the way to the "Animal House" level.

McEWEN: Right. Right.

DONIN: Can you talk about that – the changes in the life of the fraternities here?

McEWEN: Well, when I first came here—and I had heard a lot about fraternities, you know, prior to coming to Dartmouth because I grew up four miles from here. And they always had a reputation of being wild and those Dartmouth guys are, you know, they're just—probably for lack of a tasteful term, I guess, animals!

And I don't know if [J. Christian, Jr.] Chris Miller ['63, TU '64] when he wrote *Animal House*, if this was something that...

But when I first came here, I thought—and I was on the night shift,

so I got to see the houses a lot, I got to see them at night, got to – went into the houses a lot—and I felt that the physical plant of the houses was in pretty good shape at that point. That most of them, you know, they were not in bad condition. There was a lot of alcohol, a lot of drugs.

During that period of time, of course, you know – before coeducation – women guests would come up on weekends and stuff. But, you know, they would try to sneak them into the houses and stuff. And, you know, on major weekends they would have housemothers because women would be bussed in from other campuses and stuff, which was another whole – which was another whole issue in terms of the arrival of women and busses in front of Hopkins Center.

And then…And after a while, unloaded in the back of Hopkins Center, because it became a parade of women getting off the busses and males standing there making, you know, all kinds of comments. "I want that one," you know, and this type of thing. And it was sort of beyond embarrassing, it was—I think that it made a lot of people feel that these men are, you know, sort of out of control in terms of their respect for women, you know, and that type of thing.

So busses started…so eventually busses were unloaded in the back of Hopkins Center, and we would – Campus Police were always there to help unload the busses, to – I mean to get women off the busses and get them into the Top of the Hop.

And they would meet with the folks that they – that they – would direct them to different locations on campus and tell them where Webster Avenue was, and the other fraternities, and the residence halls, you know, and that type of thing.

DONIN: Were they generally coming here as – each one as a guest of a specific student? Or were they just bussed in?

McEWEN: Not in every case – some of them just came, and then they were sort of with a friend, and they would, you know, head out in different...But it wasn't always that they had a date.

And I think at one point in time we had an issue with a bus or two that never made it to campus because some Dartmouth students—and, you know, they were always thinking and planning, college

students—that they actually stopped the busses before they got into town and escorted them directly to Webster Avenue so that they would unload and head into the fraternities and stuff. So that they'd have, you know, a number of women around for the – you know, for the weekend.

DONIN: Let me just stop you and turn over the tape here.

McEWEN: Okay. Sure.

[End of Tape 4, Side A – Beginning of Tape 4, Side B]

DONIN: Okay, so these busloads of women would arrive on campus. At this point, they were allowed in these fraternities anywhere? Or were they only allowed downstairs?

I mean, weren't we still in the age of parietals at this point?

McEWEN: Right. Yes, we were.

DONIN: So where were they allowed to be?

McEWEN: I'm – I'm – well, what happened on major weekends is that men would leave the fraternities for the weekend. Women would move in, and they would occupy the weekend – the fraternities for the weekend. And there would be a housemother present, and that's what the person was called. And that person would check to be sure that no males got above the first floor where women were staying on a major – on a big weekend.

DONIN: I see. And I've heard stories that they were farmed out to faculty houses as well.

McEWEN: Oh, yeah. I mean they – women were...they went to different – well, you know, what might be called bed and breakfasts, nowadays, but different places in town – boarding rooms or houses or that type of thing. Or if they knew someone, then they might stay with a faculty member, an administrator, you know. Yeah, that was pretty common.

DONIN: Did the college actually plan forms of entertainment for when these busloads of women arrived here? Or were they just sort of let off and allowed to wander?

McEWEN: Well, I think the – you know, the Greeks had their events with—you know, and during that time they always had bands playing. They would have a band on a Friday or Saturday night. So there was always activity on a big weekend.

The college would have different concerts. Leverone Field House, for example, was used as the—that was the major location for concerts on campus because you could put 5,000 people in there. That was before the fire codes, the changes in the AstroTurf and those regulations.

But I remember covering events down there when Linda Ronstadt was here, Sly and the Family Stone, Ray Charles – big names that were here. All the tickets were sold, and I mean there would be 5,000 people in Leverone sitting in chairs, or standing and dancing. So there were other venues.

And there would be...like for – on Winter Carnival there would be the ski events, and there would be the carnival queen contest, and things in the Top of the Hop – dances in different locations on campus. There were a lot of events. I mean there were a lot of things going on.

But obviously, you know, the biggest attraction was the fraternities because that's where the alcohol flowed the most, and that's where the big events, you know, happened.

DONIN: Who were the housemothers that were hired to sit in these houses?

McEWEN: You know, I'm not sure if some of them were—may have been administrators, folks from, in the community, known by the college that they would hire – that the houses would have to hire.

DONIN: Uh huh.

McEWEN: But I know they did a good job because whenever they had a problem, they would call us.

And they would say, you know, "We just had a male get in and got up to the second floor after we told him he couldn't." And we would go over and remove him.

DONIN: Uh huh. But those are the sorts of incidents you were talking about before – where, perhaps, there was never a permanent record made.

McEWEN: Yeah. It could be a verbal warning. If the individual refused to leave or gave us a hard time or was under the influence, then we would write—something would be written. There would be a notation.

DONIN: Now, you said earlier that at this point the physical condition of the fraternities was pretty good.

McEWEN: I thought it was, yeah, when I first came. Because I had, sort of, envisioned—well, what I knew about – little I knew about fraternities was that, you know, that the places would be a shambles. But they seemed to be, I thought, in pretty good condition.

DONIN: And then what happened?

McEWEN: Well, I think, you know, we went through that whole bit – that whole change of, where I think the administration…changes in drinking age.

I mean there were a lot of things I think that happened—changes in drinking, the Vietnam War, the drug culture – there were just a lot of things going on that I think occupied college administrations across the country in terms of well, dealing with other things, and you sort of…Not that anybody looked the other way or didn't want to deal with these things, but I think they just didn't get probably the attention that they should have.

And as we started to see the fraternities start to—I think there was a decline in efforts in a lot of the houses in terms of wanting to keep them up to snuff. We went through the whole issue with Hums, which was the – you know, the annual singing of – you know, when I first came here it was when fraternities marched to Webster Hall or in front of Dartmouth Hall, or wherever they hosted the Hums. Every house member had slacks on, a white shirt. They didn't always wear ties. But it was always very uniform in terms of how they looked. They were actually impeccable at times. It was...

And they would go, and they would sing songs, wonderful college songs, even songs that they may have written that they made up, their own lyrics, which had some imagination and excitement and

fun. That started to change [pause] I would say, you know, ’72, ’73—’71, ’72. They started to get into making up songs that were just ugly, using a lot of language that was not appropriate – stuff that was unsuitable for the community to come.

Because the Hums attracted a lot of people from the community – they loved to come and listen to these college students sing these songs because they were – they really did a nice job.

And when that started to change and they started singing, you know, “Our Cohogs,” and they started singing a lot of songs with profanity, and talking about women’s anatomy and, you know – and those types of things, there was a…I think, people started to pull away.

But, also at this time, we have to remember, that we rewarded students that won things, whether it was a Greek house or a residence hall, if they did good on something and they won a sculpture that they’d built for Winter Carnival or it was a contest that they won – the chariot races – we gave them kegs. That was how we rewarded them.

So we’re saying on the one hand we’ve got these rules and regulations over here, and we have concerns about this and that; but here’s a keg for doing this. So, you know, when you take a look at that, it’s like, okay, well, what are we trying to say here? What are we trying to do? But…

DONIN: That was setting – I should think that’s setting up problems for your department in terms of...

McEWEN: Well, not only that, I think through what I – my feeling throughout the whole sort of, my whole career—and I don’t think it was purposeful or that there was intent…

But I think the institution, the administration, often set students up to fail. I don’t think it was intentional. But I think the things that we did, some of the things – the way that we did them, that we were sort of inviting students to step into that trap, or a trap. And when they did step into it, we didn’t know how to respond or deal with it.

You know, they were sort of left with, "Alright, now, we have this dilemma over here with students, and now the administration has a

dilemma; how do we address that, and how do we, you know, pull students back into the fold or build a dialogue or start that dialogue?"

And throughout this whole process, too, in all fairness to the administration, I think we started to see this feeling, or there was a sense from students that because – as changes continued to occur throughout different administrations – that the students said, "We don't want to talk to you administrators anymore. We don't trust you; we don't like you."

And I think that that's been—whether there's any real basis for it, or truth, or it's just sort of been a way for students to kind of think that they can step out of this or get away from this. But I think that's been an issue for, you know, many years in students' minds.

DONIN: When do you think this sort of breakdown in the relationship began?

McEWEN: I think it started in the '70s. I think with – again, with the Vietnam War, the drug culture – I think it probably started then. But we didn't realize that it was starting.

And as we've become more regulated and enforcement-minded in terms of the rules and regulations for almost any little thing that happens, somebody's written up now – pencil to paper.

You know, I always said to students when I was an officer, when they'd say, "Well, you know, you're a Campus Police officer, but you don't have a gun." I said, "I don't need one. I have something a lot more powerful than a gun." I said, "I have a piece of paper and a pencil." I said, "I can do more damage with this for you as an undergraduate than a gun could, believe me."

But it…And I think these changes that have come with enforcement of alcohol policy, with the Greeks – with shutting houses down, putting them on probation, removing some of them from the Dartmouth – from the campus altogether, that there's this – you know.

But it's not just the undergraduates. I think that again, it's – there's a certain level of, probably, pressure and contact from alumni on, you know, different issues.

I think that when the trustees voted to abolish the Indian symbol, it was like, "Oh, my God." I mean there were so many alumni that were just absolutely, you know…and undergraduates.

And I think part of that—again, part of that legacy that there's – Dad has told his son or his daughter certain things he did when he was here at Dartmouth, or that she might have done, and then it's like, "Oh, wow, why is this discontinued? It's no longer happening."

DONIN: So it sounds like sometimes the alumni added to the problem – to the distrust problem.

McEWEN: Well, I think to some degree. I think that there's always – there's been that contention of, you know – of different levels that…well, you know – "If I don't get my way, I'm not going to give you any money." You know, those types of things.

I don't think the college pays any attention to that part of it, that "I'm not going to give you any money." But I think they do listen to the alumni. And I think that, you know that…that it's a – there's probably a very strong voice. I think the numbers are large.

And…so, when we talk about the Indian symbol, when you talk about...Well, with coeducation, I think that that was, you know, the beginning of some of this, too. But I think it started before that in the early '70s with issues and how folks were feeling about things.

DONIN: The coeducation must have really whipped them up into a frenzy.

McEWEN: Oh, I believe that it did. I think that—like I said at our last session, I think that the women that came here were the – they were the real victims. And you have to applaud and really put them in the highest, I think the highest standard you can find in terms of really the first couple of years of classes of women that matriculated that they survived, because it had to be rough.

I mean I can't really speak to it because I really don't know what they went through, some of them. But I do know…I mean, emotionally—I – but I do know that some of the things we dealt with were just ugly, I mean – unnecessary, not the types of things that you would expect a Dartmouth male, an undergraduate, that's accepted here at Dartmouth, with such a wonderful privilege to

come here, would do these types of things.

DONIN: Why is this "Cohogs" incident so famous? Were you actually present for that? I assume it was one of the—that was one of the Hum songs that was – that won a competition or something?

McEWEN: Yeah.

DONIN: Is that accurate?

McEWEN: I – I'm not sure. I don't recall. I remember being asked to judge Hums once when I think the – one of the assistant deans, [Gregory P.] Greg [Hakanen '75]—I think it's Hakanen, Hokanen. He asked me, and I don't even remember what year it was, but I said after that I would never judge them again, and it was because of the – some of the lyrics of different songs, looking – as a judge to look out at the audience when you've got parents and their little kids from the community that have come to this event, a Dartmouth College event, you know, that I wasn't comfortable with it. So...

DONIN: So you were asked to judge when the Hums had started to decline in quality.

McEWEN: Yeah. It really – it got bad. I mean it got to the point of where you would see people that would come to listen to the students – the different houses – sing; they would hear certain words and language, and they would just turn around and walk away.

DONIN: So, who ultimately chose the winner each year? This group of judges—was it a group of judges?

McEWEN: Well, it was different folks. John O'Connor was a judge. You know, I think that—I don't ever recall a president being a judge. Deans were judges. Faculty members were judges. I mean it was a mix of folks. It changed every year.

DONIN: And so fraternity houses and residence halls competed.

McEWEN: No, only fraternities did Hums. Residence halls were not part of that. That was a – that was a – it was a Greek event.

DONIN: When did they stop?

McEWEN: You know I was trying to—I was just thinking of that. I'm thinking mid-'70s, mid- to late '70s? You know, it started to die out. Less interest, I think.

Might have been – you know, I – it might even have been the '80s, but…I know a person who would know for sure – that's Dean [Deborah] Reinders Carney; I guess her last name is Carney now – Deb Carney. So, she would have that information because she's been involved with the Greeks for a while.

DONIN: And they stopped because the quality had become so negative.

McEWEN: Yeah, I think there was less...I think, you know, it just—there are a lot of things that just started to change within the Greek system, of events and stuff and things that the college just no longer condoned. I mean the chariot races died.

There were a lot of things – the tug-of-war which was before I came. But that was another, you know, the pulling of the folks on different ends of a huge rope.

And, you know…we no longer have the mud ball – at least, recognized by the college – or one of those events. There were a lot of things that have changed, and I think, based on conduct, behavior, and those types of things.

DONIN: At some point during this time period the faculty and administration were obviously aware of the declining quality of life that was going on in the fraternities. I believe it was Professor James Epperson who issued a report calling, basically, for the abolition of the fraternities. Do you remember that?

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: And the discussion around it?

McEWEN: Uh…not so much the discussion. I remember the article or story that he wrote. And…I think he was very bold, very brave to come out with that when he did, because I think he was probably scoring very high marks in terms of what was happening in the houses and stuff.

DONIN: It certainly brought everything to the table, didn't it?

McEWEN: Yeah. I mean, I know there were a lot of meetings, a lot of discussions. I think a lot of alumni got involved. I wasn't part of those discussions; John O'Connor probably was.

I'm trying to remember when—did he write those around...I think it was just prior to or right after coeducation, I think, that his...those…that…

DONIN: I don't have the date here, but I think it was after coeducation.

McEWEN: Yeah. But he raised a lot of very—I thought—a lot of very important issues and points about the Greeks, about conduct on campus. I think he missed—the only thing that I think he missed...but I…

His article was driven by—I think he just had a big dislike for the houses, but was also concerned about students in general on campus, and their safety and well-being.

But he missed the residence halls. And the residence halls, again, that's part of this culture, this picture of Dartmouth, that often have, sort of, been, or fallen by the wayside, and have been overlooked in terms of, you know, the types of things that have gone on in residence halls.

But, getting back to the fraternities…I think Epperson was probably, you know, at that point in time, was, like I said, right on the mark.

DONIN: But it was too bold a suggestion.

McEWEN: Well, you know, I'm not – when I say that, I think that for that period of time, with so much that was going on, with – again, with the drug culture, still the issues of alcohol on campus, the Vietnam War, coeducation – that there were just so many things going on, I think that were sort of, you know, in the mixer at that point, that it was hard to...

I'm trying to recall now. Were there a couple of campuses at that point in time that had decided to do away with their Greek systems, too, I think. So that the issues that he raised were perceived, I think, as a real threat to the Greeks on campus at that point in time. That, oh, wow, you know, we're next in line. Well, I don't remember the campuses, but I think Amherst or…

DONIN: Williams, I know. Williams was one of them.

McEWEN: Oh. Okay.

DONIN: But you're saying also that some of this bad behavior spilled over into the residence halls as well. It wasn't just the fraternities.

McEWEN: Oh, there have always been – there have always been large parties and a lot of vandalism and many things in terms of, you know, fights, assaults – sexual assaults that have…uh, occur in the residence halls.

DONIN: Mm hmm. On the subject of the behavior in the residence halls, what is the biggest sort of crime that you found you had to deal with? Is it vandalism, or is it...

McEWEN: When I first came, theft was the biggest crime and then – and vandalism. But use of – abuse of alcohol, which, oftentimes, you can just take, you know, alcohol abuse and vandalism and just stick 'em together because generally they're connected. If there's vandalism, it's probably—it was alcohol-related.

DONIN: And did you find that these crimes generally were just done by undergrads, or were they…what I'm trying to say, were they all Dartmouth students, or were there off-campus people as well?

McEWEN: There were off-campus people – oftentimes visitors from other campuses, because we were so wide open. I mean we almost never locked our doors.

Everybody, I mean…If you had ten guests up, they would sleep in – if they couldn't find room in your room – then they would sleep in a, you know, in a study room or conference room or something available. And nobody knew who they were. There could be…they could be anybody. They weren't always guests. You could have people that were passing through. We've often had problems with people hiking the Appalachian Trail, for example, that – you know, because the campus was so open.

And like I had mentioned earlier, last week, the problem that we had with the case of hepatitis. We had folks that – they're in your residence hall, you don't know who they are; they're not...

And Dartmouth students have always been great to… If they see somebody wandering about that looks like they need a bite to eat or a place to stay, "Oh, come on. You can stay in my room or come and stay in my residence hall." They've always…I mean that's something that's never changed. It's been that way forever.

DONIN: And of course your...it's really not in your job description to be dealing with those kids. It's really the Hanover Police Department, I assume, or is that wrong?

McEWEN: If it's a problem with someone that is not affiliated with the college, then we – for the most part, we would generally turn them over to Hanover police, yeah.

DONIN: So, back to this…back to the crimes. You say the alcoholism is generally responsible for a lot of the crimes that take place.

McEWEN: Yeah. If you look – if you were to take a look at the Department of Safety & Security reports on a given weekend – a Friday night or Saturday night – and you look at the theft that's occurred or attempted theft/thefts, if you look at the assaults, if you look at vandalism, if you look at the domestic abuse relationships…and sexual assault, I think I mentioned. Almost every one of them is alcohol-related. I mean it's in the very high, high 90 percentile. Alcohol is the...you know. They drink.

And I know there was an article written by James Wechsler from Harvard who has done a lot of studies on alcohol use and abuse on college campuses, young folks and stuff – binge drinking and that whole thing. And I think his report supports that. Every campus you go to, when you talk to security or police, it's – the majority of the stuff they deal with that's negative is alcohol—is alcohol-related.

DONIN: When you talk about robbery and theft, what is – what is the most common target for being stolen? Is it money, or is it goods of some kind?

McEWEN: It's…bicycles are a hot commodity, on college campuses everywhere, including Dartmouth. And, bicycle thieves now steal bikes not because they want the entire bike; they want the components of the bike – the derailleurs and that type of—because they're the most expensive part. And they can resell those. Laptop

computers that are stolen out of residence hall rooms, out of fraternities, out of classrooms, in different buildings – they're a hot item.

The…uh…anything that's of value. Could be a digital camera. But…those are probably the top things.

DONIN: So it's not cash usually, it's goods.

McEWEN: No, students don't keep much cash around anymore because they – you know, ATMs and all of this stuff – they do everything over the computer now with credit cards. And, you know – if they're going to order something from L.L. Bean or Land's End or whatever – I mean they're using their credit cards, so...

Once in a while we'll lose some cash. But, generally, it's a large amount. It's because somebody knows that: "I'm leaving campus to go home. Or, "I'm going on foreign study and I've gotten five hundred or six hundred bucks out of my account." Somebody generally knows that you have that.

It's not a sort of a—the thief that's going room to room. It's somebody that knows that you have that money on hand and they're going to relieve you of it. [Laughter]

DONIN: Mm hmm. In terms of pranks as opposed to crimes, have they changed over the years?

McEWEN: Well, it's – this is a peculiar thing because the things that were pranks in the '60s are now—I mean, you can almost take a look at 'em and set them side by side. The pranks of the '60s are now things that are reportable offenses that you would deal with as an incident report now from...

I remember being involved in a case where – this was a classic. I got a call to go to Hopkins Center because next to the music department in the lower level of the Hop, there's a restroom, a men's room, and there's a women's bathroom. And someone had gone into the men's room and disconnected and removed all the urinals. They were gone.

And, so…you know, I thought, "Now, why would you do that? Who would want those? It's got to be a fraternity. Because it's probably

on a scavenger list somewhere, and somebody..." So, we started nosing around and, you know…

I mean they did a good job. They went with all of the tools that you needed. They found a way to shut the water off. There was barely a drop of water on the floor in that bathroom. But anyway, we found ‘em, and the urinals were returned. They connected ‘em up. So there was no damage.

There was really—you – I guess you could call it a form of theft, although going back to the era of pranks and stuff, the word “theft” was hardly ever used on campus. Everything was misappropriation. That was the word that covered everything. That blanketed the...that was the thing, so.

So anyway, I got these young men to take the urinals back. They hooked them up, turned the water back on, everything worked well. And that was the end of it. I mean it was like I gave ‘em a warning. I had their names, their classes, and said, you know, "Anything else happens tonight, that is missing on campus, then there’ll be a report submitted."

And said, “You’ll probably be called by the college proctor. He’ll want to – probably want to talk to you, you know, about this.”

But, if that happened today, and we located the urinals and identified them, there would be a full-blown report written. And…

You know…I don’t know, but my guess is there would probably be some type of dean’s warning or sanction. I don’t think it would be a hearing unless the house had had a long history of, you know, wrongdoing. Then they might be, you know...

DONIN: Does that sort of thing go on the student’s record?

McEWEN: I don’t think so. I… [pause] I’m not sure. I don’t know what goes into a student’s file – personal file – from the dean’s level. I think if there’s a formal hearing and you’re found guilty of something or whatever, there’s probably some type of a record.

But, there probably is a record kept if you have contact with the dean. I think the deans put something—could be a notation in their file or something or whatever.

DONIN: Now, you talked about these traditions that the fraternities have for these scavenger hunts. Are there other sorts of prank traditions that you were aware of?

McEWEN: Well, the houses have done a lot of things in terms of, you know, I mean group activities. Some of the houses, they will name different things as…And I don't know if you would describe this as a prank or, in their minds a tradition.

But it could be – it's…in one fraternity there was a group of students – males – that would get together. And they would drink before they left the house, and then they would march from their fraternity, through town.

And on their way, they might disconnect or uproot a parking meter or street sign. And if they're not caught, they end up going through enough...

[End of Tape 4, Side B – Beginning of Tape 5, Side A]

DONIN: Okay. So if they don't get caught on their way, they go to the next house.

McEWEN: They'll go to the next house, which may or may not welcome them, but they'll be seeking alcohol. And this is part of what they called circuits. It's uh…you know, they go from one location to another, and they drink.

And throughout this process, as they drink more and more, of course, they become more and more intoxicated. And by the end, if they've hit five or six different houses on campus, you can imagine that – the condition that they're in; they've already started to drink before they've left their house.

And, so…a tradition, and things that they do probably in this era—and I don't know that this is still happening with, you know, with this particular house—but it would be considered probably crimes, and would – you know, they would be in some serious trouble if they were caught.

Where back…you know, a number of years ago, there may have been a report generated; they may have been given a verbal

warning; they may have just been sent back to, you know, to their house and just said, you know, “We don’t want to see you again tonight.” Might have been us – Campus Police might have been the—or Safety & Security—or Hanover police.

So again, there’s been, I think, a lack of clarity oftentimes with how, you know, things were dealt with – that sometimes it was a verbal warning, other times it’s – it’s, you know, pen to paper, or arrest if the Hanover police are involved.

But I mean a lot of the drinking games that have gone on in houses with...uh…there’s one house that has—that their tradition was to make what they called fog cutters. And these were very…

These are those potent punches – lethal punches that they would concoct in these fifty-gallon plastic trashcans. They’d line ‘em with plastic, and then they’d fill ‘em up with all kinds of stuff, and…

I mean these drinks were—for the person that’s a novice or unsuspecting female that’s at an event – or even male, oftentimes two small glasses of that stuff, and you’re…you’re gone. They uh…at this one particular house who had fog cutters, when we were covering the door for events – when we would have a guard there…this happened on a Sunday afternoon. We had an officer at the front door. And his responsibility was not to check anything that was happening inside the house, but just to check invited guests at the door, outside the door, going into the house.

And while the event was going on – he didn’t know because he didn’t go in to check, and that hadn’t been the practice or an expectation – folks in the basement who were so inebriated were swinging on the water pipes. And of course the pipes—they pulled the pipes down. The basement started to fill with water.

But what happened…when the fire alarm went off in the house, the students knew – some of them that hadn’t had that much to drink – realized that, "Gee, the police are going to come, and the fire department’s gonna come." So, a lot of people exited the back door of the fraternity and ended up on the lawn outside the house. And there were at least four of them that, when we arrived—and this was during the Campus Police era—when we arrived, we ended up transporting all four of those students to the emergency room at the hospital. And two of ‘em ended up in intensive care

because their alcohol levels were so high.

But this was from this particular punch that they made. And it was for almost every major weekend or event – they would concoct this thing. And that was just one house. There were many houses that had their different drinks that they made that were these lethal punches.

And uh…and, I mean we were very fortunate that – I mean, during that—when those punches were being served or folks had access to them—that someone didn't die. And during this…during that...I don't know if you've ever heard of sink night.

Well, sink night, of course, was a—this was part of the fraternity ritual whenever...If you pledged a house and then you were accepted, that night was called sink night.

DONIN: What did that mean?

McEWEN: Well, what it meant was you were probably going to sink to the... They probably have another definition. My definition of it was that you were going to sink about as low as you could get in your life, you know, at – on that particular night.

But what they would do is if you were accepted in the house, you received the official notification. You left the house at about, probably eleven o'clock at night, ran back to your residence hall, changed your clothes, and got into the grungiest clothes that you had, knowing that – that it was gonna be a wild night.

And you would return to the fraternity, go into the basement, and then they would have all these different rituals, whatever house it was. And then the drinking would start, uh…and [pause] people would get drunk. And you would be put through, like I said, any number of different types of things.

When sink night was active – when… I remember having deans come in and ride with me all night long, because every sink night I came in because I knew – I knew that it was probably one of the most dangerous nights of the year. Up to and including twenty to twenty-five students within a—I'm talking about from eleven, twelve o'clock at night until four, five in the morning—twenty to twenty-five students ending up in the emergency room at the hospital with

broken bones, severe burns.

One student, who – his entire body was painted with lead-based paint, nearly died. Uh…all kinds of stuff – uh…head injuries, back injuries. Uh…

DONIN: This is on top of being drunk.

McEWEN: Yes. And so, what is – you know, when you say, well – what is the definition of sink night? It's…like I…it's as low as you...

But, what would happen with a lot of the students—and this is where it posed another problem in dimension for the Campus Police on that particular night—is that some of them – a lot of them that were drunk would leave the houses. They would run.

They'd run up and down Webster Avenue; they'd run into dormitories. They – you'd have bodies in motion all over campus. And, of course, your major concern was that someone would fall, be injured, wander down to the river, end up in Occom Pond, you know – those types of things. So…

And like I said, I remember one dean who spent—and I think he might have been – he might have been an advisor for the Greeks when he was in the dean's office—was Lee Levison when he was here. And I remember he would show up at the office at…uh…you know, ten-thirty or eleven o'clock at night with his box of Freihofer's chocolate-chip cookies. And, you know, he'd say, "Well, I'm good for the night. Let's go." And, you know, he'd ride all night. And, I mean it…it…yeah, it was very scary.

I don't think that it occurs at the level that it used to because now everything is kept inside. And when they do—when they have – they don't call it sink night anymore, but whatever it is that they're doing probably is close to what it used to be in terms of the alcohol use, and the…But they keep it inside now. They don't let any of the brothers out. And generally what they do is they put paper over the windows and stuff so no one can see in, so you'll know...

DONIN: They've just become more sophisticated.

McEWEN: Yeah.

DONIN: But just as dangerous.

McEWEN: Well, yeah. And I think what happens now is that because—and for a number of years the Greeks have realized that they're sort of, you know, they've been on eggshells—that they're transporting their own – the sick and injured – directly to the hospital on their own…loading them in cars and stuff.

Which is even more dangerous in terms of, you know, someone starts to choke or, you know, has a – you know, broken bones – you start to move them, and – you know, those types of things, but…

DONIN: Mm hmm. Were women doing the same thing in the sororities?

McEWEN: Uh…probably to some degree. I don't think that it was at the level of the...you know. But I don't know that much about the sororities in terms of—I think there's always been the issue of alcohol use and abuse in the houses. And, uh…but I never really got any first-hand knowledge of anything that's sort of connected with the injury type thing or getting totally out of control.

DONIN: Is that because you had female officers covering the sororities?

McEWEN: No. I think probably the uh…they probably used a little more common sense and maybe even had folks, you know, sort of similar to the designated driver type.

I mean these are types of things that I had heard, that there would always be someone sober that would be watching over—that could make, you know, a quick decision or recognize that there's a problem. But, to what degree – I mean I don't know.

DONIN: Was it your sense that they had their traditions as well, though? Like the…

McEWEN: Oh, I'm sure. Yeah. Yeah. I'm sure that – because a lot of the—I think a lot of the sororities are – what, nationals? And, I mean they're…so they – there's a history. There's a – you know.

But there – but I also think that, you know, with women here at Dartmouth that there's that—there's – I think there's that line. And I think that, you know, on this side you have the males, this side you

have the women when it comes to some of the contests that go on with the drinking and the general, you know, uh…partying and – type thing – that I think some of the women, uh…try to or want to emulate what goes on, you know, in some of the fraternities to some degree. That there's that macho thing that, you know, that's there. It probably will always be there, but.

DONIN: Well, it's a question of equality.

McEWEN: Absolutely. Yeah.

DONIN: When the Hanover Police Department did get involved, were they generally tougher on the kids than Campus Police?

McEWEN: Generally what Hanover would do in that era would be to say—unless it was something that was absolutely – I mean, so blatant and so criminal—they would look at us and say, "Handle it. You take care of it." That's, uh…generally what they did.

Because their feeling—I think their feeling back then was that this young man or this woman – they're probably gonna feel a greater sting internally from the college than they will through the court process, you know, and that type of thing, so.

DONIN: Mm hmm. Have buildings become more secure than they were then?

McEWEN: Oh, absolutely. Yeah. I mean, college has come a long way just in the last—you know, I'd say in the last decade. And the biggest thing was the recent locking system – electronic system that we have for residence halls now that...that's…yeah.

We knew that this was going to be a major hurdle because the students have always enjoyed this freedom to come and go. And the toughest part would be educating them on the fact that that will still exist, and that the electronic locks – you know, card-access system – is for your safety and for your protection.

And so that – uh…And I think we've got to go through that four-year cycle like you do whenever there's any major change before that next – that class that comes in four years from now, or three years from now, will – they won't know anything about it. And they'll say, oh, we have this card-access system. This is neat, you know –

yeah. But.

DONIN: So during the '70s and '80s, these buildings were wide open – making your job harder.

McEWEN: Yeah. It was…there…at best it was a – on occasion you might lock up a given cluster area at their request. But for the most part, you know, most of these buildings were—residence halls were left unlocked.

And even when – if you did lock them, you ended up with propped doors or broken or vandalized locks and that type of thing.

And…and there's always been the fear—I mean, since the Clery Act with what, you know, happened at Lehigh when their daughter was murdered and raped in a residence hall—that, uh…the…One of the reasons why the Clerys pushed so hard to get these laws changed in terms of security on campus was that they had locked residence halls in Lehigh where their daughter lived.

But the door—there'd been a long history of propped doors, and the institution didn't do anything about it. They just said, "Oh, yeah, well, we had another propped door, whatever." And…and that's really what got this thing moving.

And…I don't know. Howard Clery [Howard K. Clery, Jr. '53 TU '54] is a – he's a Dartmouth alum, and so he's – you know, he's had a—he and his wife, I think his wife's name is Connie—have had a lot to do with, you know, security on campus, but.

DONIN: Now, a lot of the behavior that we were just talking about pertaining to the alcohol and the traditions – that was really going on in the fraternities. But was the same kind of stuff going on in the residence halls as well?

McEWEN: Oh, yeah. Like, I mentioned in the last – they had this ongoing – these ongoing rivalries between residence halls.

But, no but, I mean…there…I don't have the records, but if the records were retrievable from—and I don't know how well they might have been kept back in the '60s and '70s—with vandalism in residence halls, but it was huge. It was huge.

I mean, the uh…the…vandalism occurred every weekend and oftentimes, you know, during the week in residence halls, from…

And a lot of this—I shouldn't say a lot—some of this occurred because of the close proximity of residence halls to fraternities where a lot of people would wander through…they might wander through a residence hall. They might not live there, but they would wander through and punch out a window or damage, you know, furniture – you know, that type of thing.

So they always had easy access…and it was…you know, even for outsiders – visitors.

DONIN: What about things like, you know, pulling the fire alarms? And…you know, false alarms, I guess you'd call 'em?

McEWEN: Yeah, that happens occasionally. It used…it was a problem years ago. But, as things started to change within the residence halls, and I think with the better-trained, educated students, it was sort of the – mentors or the undergraduate advisors – they started, I think, to have more meetings with incoming – you know, the first-year students – and others…

And professional staff in the residence halls that – that's hired now. That I think there's more education, there's more contact, there's more of the types of things that people are sitting down to discuss. There's a dialogue, I think, happening and I…and students, I think, have a greater sense that they're part of the scheme of things, and they want to be part of it.

I mean, we – before I retired, what we were seeing the last few years, uh—I'd say from the mid-'90s on—more and more students were calling us to say, "Look, I am fed up with the person who lives next door to me – with the wild parties, and the vandalism, and this and that. And I want to report this."

And they were willing to step up to the plate. And, I think that for whatever reasons, and it could be the change in the culture – kids coming in from, you know, different schools or whatever, starting to see – they're more knowledgeable, more aware of these types of things…and certainly the issues of threats and murders at high schools and that type of thing… People, I think are a little more—since September 11 and, you know, a little more tuned into things.

Hopefully.

DONIN: So that's something you would encourage.

McEWEN: Absolutely. And I think it's a good thing. And I think it's a…hopefully – hopefully it's a sign of the times that at least things are starting to change a little bit.

DONIN: Uh huh. What about off-campus crimes? I mean if you've got an undergrad on Main Street who's, you know, shoplifting or writing bad checks – what's your role in that?

McEWEN: If that student is caught by Hanover police, and they go to court, we learn about it, we generate a report at our level, and it's submitted to the dean's office. And then they will call the student in and begin their investigation to gather information and stuff. And then the student would be – would be charged for the – theft.

DONIN: So it's really, um…it's really out of your hands. I mean, their – the punishment is coming from the state.

McEWEN: Yeah, it would be the state and then the college. I mean we – Campus Police and Security, we've never adjudicated at any level. This has always been the dean's office – internally –and then the state, local, or in some cases federal if it's a drug thing.

DONIN: Um…how about behavior at sporting events? We've touched on this a bit – football games, um…hockey games. I guess those are the two venues that are the most challenging? Maybe not, but…

McEWEN Well, it's football, hockey, soccer…uh…

I think probably one of the greatest changes that we've seen within behavior at sporting events…uh…has been the uhh…the decline in uh…alcohol use and abuse or presence of alcohol at these events. I mean obviously when we had 22,000, 20,000 people at football games – Memorial Field – people—it was easy to get alcohol in there, and it was hard to enforce.

The numbers have declined, but I think the enforcement and the college rules and regulations and the laws as they have changed, uh…has made a big difference. And we have almost no alcohol at football games anymore, even though they're small crowds. It's rare

that we have alcohol at any hockey games.

Occasionally we might deal with someone that's already pre-loaded or front-loaded before the game, and they're, you know, they're – they're a little wobbly or that type of thing.

Basketball games have almost never been a problem. Soccer—because soccer has taken off has – and lacrosse – have become major – both men and women events, the uh…what we've seen is uh…that – is sort of, uh – that started to seep in at those events.

And what we've had to do is beef up our staff, along with the police and to sort of pick people off earlier if we can before they're in the crowd, and…

Because one of the things that they bring now – they try to get in now with these cardboard boxes of wine that, you know – five liters of wine, I guess. If you can get that in, then that's a great source of alcohol for an event because it – you can sit it between you, and it's got the little nozzle on it, and you've got your little cup, and you know...but…

But those are some major changes that have occurred over the years in terms of—at these events. I mean even at concerts where we used to have major problems with alcohol, uh…that, uh…that's gone.

DONIN: Are there other behavior problems, though, that you had to deal with besides alcohol?

McEWEN: Well, yes. Some of the other problems we've dealt with at athletic events have been the language. I mean the profanity. Folks, you know, sticking a finger in somebody else's face in a threatening manner, you know, that type of thing.

Crowd control. We've had a couple of events where we've had people rush onto the field. Not football, but at—I think there was a women's event and a men's event where people rushed out on the field actually because they didn't know that there were still, like, two seconds left on the clock.

And they got out there, and people started pushing and shoving. Could have been…we could have had a major problem there with

fights.

But, thankfully, the police that were there and security got onto the field as fast as the people rushing the field and got them off and broke up a couple of skirmishes from anything happening.

DONIN: Now you mentioned that you used to send a detail to travel with these teams. Was that always the case?

McEWEN: We actually didn't travel with the team. The team would already be, you know, like in New Haven. And we would go down on – we'd leave on Friday afternoon, drive down, meet with the Yale University police.

They'd put us up – always put us up in the law school housing there on campus. And we would work with their staff throughout Friday night, Saturday at the game, Saturday night, and then leave on Sunday.

And if they had any encounters or made any arrests of Dartmouth students, they would pass that information on to us, and we would just be there as eyes and ears and uh…be on the field at the Yale Bowl in front of the student section so that they could see John O'Connor, and they could see me.

And…so they knew that we were there. Not that that was going to deter them if they were going to get crazy. But the Yale Bowl was one of those places that's easy to control as far as a crowd goes, so.

DONIN: Did you continue that, though, when you were proctor?

McEWEN: No. That died out before I became—just before I became college proctor, as budgets started to – you know, monies became a little tougher.

But I also think that other institutions stopped doing it because of the—as *in loco parentis* sort of went out the window, there was a – you know, the feeling that there was no need for that.

And also what we started to see—probably written somewhere, but I've never seen it—but, I think during the Vietnam War, as the drug culture, Woodstock, and Kent State and all this, a lot of colleges'

administrations started to take a step back and say, "We really need to look at what we have on our campus in terms of police, security, and that type of thing. We really need to start to beef things up."

So they were starting to move away from things that they might have been involved in on other campuses and sort of got more localized and less global at that point.

DONIN: We touched on the drug problem last week; but another sort of category of crime we have not talked about is – I guess you'd call it hate crimes, whether they're racial or sexual or whatever. Has there been a period of time where that has been more serious than other times?

McEWEN: Well, yeah. I think it's kind of bounced around a little bit. I think the most significant—I think the most significant…well, there are two of 'em – was the shanties when the shanties were attacked on Martin Luther King's birthday. That, obviously, sent a very chilling message throughout this campus and, I think, in the nation.

I mean everybody read about that. I got contacts, calls from a lot of my colleagues at different campuses who said, "How are you going to deal with this?" you know. And I said, "I don't have a clue at this point. We're just in the middle of it now and we're trying to figure these things out."

That and the Rodney King decision which sort of…When that decision came down, of course, we had all kinds of protest demonstrations on campus – students wandering around singing, chanting through classrooms, disrupting classrooms, burning flags on the green. I mean there were a lot of things happening that created, I think, dissension, ill will, and feelings between a lot of black students on campus, white students on campus. And people from the community that have always had an interest in what goes on here.

But those were two. I think the...that we've always had the issue of – before hate crimes really had a definition of what they were all about, they existed like hazing has always been there, but no one ever dealt with it as a serious thing – that it was, you know, a college prank or tradition, and those types of things.

But, I remember when President [Richard M.] Nixon announced the—they were invading Cambodia…I think John Kemeny declared a moratorium, a one-day or two-day moratorium and…for folks to get together and have discussions, talk, and so on. But they set up…

DONIN: They took place in Webster Hall.

McEWEN: Yeah. And they set up a – what I described as a bank of phones in the Top of the Hop to take calls and solicit support against the war and, you know, the whole thing. And I remember being on duty covering that event outside at the Top of the Hop, monitoring.

I was there with a—I was the lieutenant; I was there with an officer. Bob Fitzpatrick was an officer here then. And we were the two that were assigned to crowd control.

And, so…things were doing well until about six o'clock – six p.m., when a bunch of pickup trucks pulled up in front of the Hop, and they parked behind...they parked illegal—they were behind legally parked vehicles. And I didn't pay too much attention at first and neither did Officer Fitzpatrick.

But then we noticed that we recognized a couple of the folks getting out of the vehicles, and they were folks that worked for Buildings & Grounds. And uh…so, I said, "Well, I'm going to go over and talk to them and see what they're..."

So I went over, and these are folks that I'd known for a couple of years. They just put their hands up and said, "Get away from me. Do not get in my face. You're not going to stop us from going in there. We're going to go in there, and we're going to start tearing these longhaired, anti-war – my son is in Vietnam..."

And so…after two or three pickup trucks more vehicles started to pull up, and they had done their own phone calls to rally support, to come in and to disrupt this event that was going on in the Top of the Hop. So we contacted Hanover police and said, "We need some assistance *right now*. You might want to call state police – this could get ugly."

Because…and, I don't know how much you travel the campus – but if you travel around the campus, oftentimes you will see – because

we have so many hunters in this part of the country – they carry their shotguns and their rifles and their bows and their arrows.

Well, all these guys, I mean they all had their guns in the back of their pickups. And so I'm thinking, "If they're liquored up, and if there's this and that going on, you know, we could be in for a pretty interesting evening."

DONIN: Hold on.

[End of Tape 5, Side A – Beginning of Tape 5, Side B]

DONIN: Okay. So you've got this confrontation going on.

McEWEN: Right. So we decided that, Officer Fitzpatrick and myself, we would position ourselves more closely to the front of the Hop near the doors, hoping that we could prevent these individuals from entering. As we did, I was grabbed by one of the grounds workers. Thankfully we had those snap-off neckties for our uniforms. So as he grabbed my shirt, he snapped the tie off and ripped the top button off the neck of my uniform shirt. And so I sort of parried and pushed his arm away, and I said, "This isn't worth going to jail for at this point." Luckily the police had just arrived and a state police unit.

But as this is happening, several students that are upstairs, they heard and saw what was going.... They came down, they positioned themselves. This was so comical when you think about it. These are the anti-war sort of hard-core protestors. They positioned themselves between myself and Officer Fitzpatrick. They're willing to take on this other group because they're.... I don't know if it was there to protect us just to get them out of there so that they wouldn't disrupt. But I just thought that this is really funny. So anyway, the police took them away. I think they arrested one of them.

But again, this was a situation that could have had serious ramifications had they gotten their hands on some students that night. Because they came loaded for trouble. When you talk about hate crimes and you talk about...it's… Again, by definition it was very difficult to define or to understand a hate crime until we started to see the Clerys push all of these federal laws and stuff. So now the whole hate crime thing is something that people are educated to—about—and they're dealing with.

DONIN: Was this antagonism between the college employees, the laborers, so to speak, and the students, was this a common conflict?

McEWEN: It wasn't common in the sense that...as obvious or potentially physical as it was that night. But there was always the discussions on campus among a lot of employees or workers in support of their sons or family members that were serving in Vietnam or might have lost their lives or a limb or that type of thing. So it was evident. You could sense, you know, putting your finger on the pulse, that it was there on the campus.

DONIN: Well, that was really just a reflection of what was going on outside the college as well, you know, across the nation.

McEWEN: Yes. And students, I mean students were going to Lebanon and other towns to protest where recruiters were, where newly recruited young men were getting on buses, you know, and that type of thing. And they would try to stop the buses. I remember being in Lebanon on a detail with John O'Connor and the Lebanon Police, and we were there mainly to identify any Dartmouth students that were being disorderly or disruptive, and then we would write up a report on that.

DONIN: But they would also probably get in trouble with the local police, wouldn't they?

McEWEN: If they refused a verbal order to move by the police, if they were standing in front of a bus or just lying down in the road, then they would arrest them, yes.

DONIN: Another form of -- I guess you'd call it -- hate crime was after coeducation was—and I think you alluded to this in the treatment of the females who first came here. Was there an opportunity to actually intervene in some of these incidents where they were being harassed?

McEWEN: It was pretty rare that the...because generally what would happen was the incident would occur and then someone would report it. And oftentimes it was not the woman that was the target. It would be a friend or someone else that witnessed it would report it.

DONIN: After the fact.

McEWEN: After the fact, yes.

DONIN: And in those days there was no recourse to do anything to the offending person.

McEWEN: Well, if they were identified and a report was written, then again the report would go through the channels, and it would go to the dean's office. I mean I don't know the outcome. I mean if it was something major and there was a hearing, there was a possibility that you might be—if you were the perpetrator you might be asked to leave campus or sent home or that type of thing. I don't remember too many folks being separated from the college. Again, I wasn't privy to a lot of that, those decisions.

DONIN: Let's go back to the shanty incident. Were you actually on duty when that took place?

McEWEN: No, I was not on duty. I was called, and I came in for that immediately.

DONIN: After they'd already been wrecked?

McEWEN; Yes.

DONIN: Can you recall those days following it, what the campus was like and what you were asked to actually do in response to the attack?

McEWEN: Well, we had—Campus Police had quite a bit of involvement with the shanties for one reason and one reason only, and that was to protect the safety of students, whether you agreed with it or not. And of course the shanties being in the middle of the green, and that being a major thoroughfare for students on weekends and during the day, changing classes, I mean they were always there, always seen.

A lot of folks just walked by and didn't pay any attention to them. Others would be, you know, remarks would be made or this type of thing. It got to the point of where the actual—our coverage entailed around-the-clock coverage eventually. And we were making spot checks for a while at the request of the administration—and I mean a lot of spot checks.

But once we actually started to provide an on-site, physical

presence, I think we ended up—it ended up costing our budget $50,000 for that coverage, which was a lot for an unbudgeted amount. But nevertheless, you can't put a dollar figure on the safety of an individual either.

After the attack, we immediately went into full coverage of the shanties. There were a lot of meetings, a lot of discussions about what should we do and how should we do it. They wanted it to be, you know, pretty much to have a presence but make it as low-key as possible so that it didn't look like a police state or that type of thing, you know, which we did.

But I remember one of the young women that was in the shanty, [Kimberly A.] Kim Porteus ['88], whom I had a lot of contact with.... I mean she was a wonderful young woman. I mean she was an activist. Her heart was where she wanted it to be and the way she felt about it. She was tenacious. She wasn't about to give up, and she hung in there with this. I'm just—we were grateful that nothing happened to her that night, at least physically. Emotionally, you know, it was terrible.

But that night, as the thing started to unfold, names just started to come out. Our investigation—most of our investigation was pretty much done for us because there were students who knew the students that—and they were willing to just say, you know, "It's one thing to be opposed to this, to be anti this and that. But when you start doing that type of thing, I mean it places lives at risk."

DONIN: Was there ever a feeling that you should have been on duty around the clock beforehand to prevent this kind of thing from happening?

McEWEN: I think there was always that feeling. Because we had coverage for a while, they pulled the coverage off. It sort of flip-flopped back and forth. I think when it changed, when it started to change, or there was a renewed interest, was after the shanty was burned at UVM. I think there was an attack up there. And then that started to.... And I'm not sure there was anything else nationally. There was somewhere else in the country where some shanties were vandalized I think.

But we didn't know how to deal with it. I think that was part of it. It was… Do you want to let the students that are opposed to Dartmouth's investments and this whole thing do their thing and

express themselves and have the shanties out there, which were clearly in violation of a whole bunch of things? But the institution took a step back and said, "Fine. We'll let it happen." It was a tough time because it did, it flip-flopped back and forth.

DONIN: And the flip-flopping was coming from the dean of the college or from the president's office?

McEWEN: I'm not really sure because, you know.... Maybe I shouldn't say flip-flopping. I don't know if that.... The shanties could be there, the shanties couldn't be there. And I think it was probably a combination of the president's office, the dean's office, maybe even trustees. I don't know. I think that there was just so much going on with that issue that it was a tough one to deal with.

I mean we got to the point where I was away at a conference, and the lieutenant in the department, Cliff Robinson [Clifford Lee Robinson], was dealing with the dean about -- they wanted the shanties removed. They went out to remove them, and the students picked them up and got them six inches off the ground and said, "Well, they're not even touching the green or the ground, so why do we have to move them?" And that went back and forth.

And there was, again, there were some issues with I think probably between the dean's office and my office because they wanted them gone, they didn't want them gone, and we were out there saying, "You've got to move them," and "No, no, you can leave them."

I think even when President McLaughlin said he wanted the shanties removed and people wouldn't go, they would be arrested and that type of thing. And the police came in. I think he realized soon after that happened that he didn't want to follow through, and he contacted the police—our office and then the police—and said, "I don't want to charge them." And the police are saying, "Whoa! We sent our staff down there. We're in the paper. We're this and that. Now what are we going to say? We arrested them, and we didn't arrest them. We let them go, we didn't.... And what kind of a message does that send for the police the next time they have to arrest somebody?" So it was, you know, it was a little fuzzy at times.

DONIN: Well, by the time it reached you, it was very fuzzy. It's been said by others that the handling of that was very much a flip-flop.

McEWEN: I don't think we, you know, we didn't know how to deal with a lot of things still even in.... I think we went—we went through this dilemma with the '60s and the '70s. And then we get into the '80s, and it could have been—or might have been—because there was a little bit of a cooling-off period between the late '70s until some of these issues came up. I don't know. Maybe folks just got too comfortable with what they were doing. And then when we did have a major issue or concern, we just didn't know how to deal with it.

DONIN: Well, and that must have been a reflection on the leadership of the college.

McEWEN: Oh, I'm sure. But was that a good thing or a bad thing? I mean, you know, if you—I think, my sense of what little that I knew about discussions of things that were happening at that point, you know, with senior folks at that point, was that—and I'm not sure that it always comes out—but I think publicity is always a major thing. If we push too hard here, and we're in the paper, and it ends up coast to coast and other countries for alums to read, is that a good thing or a bad thing? Does it bode well for the...?

I think they were very difficult times, and I think people struggled with, you know, how do you...? You say the shanties have got to go, then you say they can stay. Then you say the next day they've got to go, and then they can stay.

I think when the students occupied Baker Tower with their sit-in, that was a—I think that really got some attention in terms of, you know, they're up there with sleeping bags, backpacks, and all this and that. And if they get out onto the widow's walk and somebody falls off there or they occupy that place and somebody falls asleep in a sleeping bag and they roll off that and land on the ground, end up on the ground, you know.... I mean that was an...that was not an easy location to negotiate. When the dean was there and the trustees and the students and the police, I mean the students were looking down, and there's the armed police sprinkled about different places up there. That was an interesting afternoon and evening.

DONIN: Well, as you say, these students are very smart, and they really… They've created a very awkward situation.

McEWEN: Yes. And they know the buttons to push. And what I always found

interesting and to their—to give them a pat on the back—there's never a spokesperson. There's always a consensus of, "Well, you know, is there someone here that...?"
"No, you talk to all of us," you know.
So then you've got 900 different views coming at you and ideas and stuff. But they knew to not have one person be singled out or targeted as *the* person that's going to wheel and deal. It was smart.

DONIN: Now we talked about, you know, the Parkhurst takeover that took place in '69. They then took over Parkhurst again following the shanty incident.

McEWEN: Yes. There have been.... Parkhurst has had quite a few—I mean I couldn't even begin to tell you—quite a few sit-ins. I think that takeover was when they went in the president's office, and we were requested to go person to person and get identification from them. They were sitting in, and it was like, "I don't have my ID card with me."
"Well, what's your name?"
So we were writing down a name and a class, and I didn't even know—we didn't know if it was the right name or person to go with a name or whatever.

DONIN: Now who requested that of you?

McEWEN: I think that came from the dean to do that.

DONIN: Uh huh. And my understanding was that when they got in the office, President McLaughlin wasn't even there at that point.

McEWEN: No.

DONIN: So they stayed and waited.

McEWEN: Yes, they were.... I mean other than the fact that they disrupted the orderly process of the workday for employees and that type of thing, they weren't that bad.

I mean there was one young man that I remember in all the years that I've dealt with protests and demonstrations, and I don't recall his name, but I know what fraternity he was in. He was the one person that rang my bell that day. Because I remember, I think, Margaret Bonz was the first-year dean. And I think Margaret said,

"Don't let him get to you. He's just trying to rattle your cage." And I said, "He succeeded." That was one of the few times. But he—it was one of those in-your-face type things where he wanted to get the desired effect and impact in front of all the others. First to start with, not with me personally. And that was where I made my mistake, that it was directed at the establishment, the administration and stuff. But, yeah, he got me cranked up that day.

DONIN: Uh huh.

McEWEN: But I mean I don't even remember how.... They ended up leaving the building eventually. I think there was some agreement that some folks would meet with the president at some point to have some discussions and stuff. But it's interesting when you talk about protests. The protests nowadays are—the last few that we had in front of Parkhurst—students would come to my office and say, "You know we're having a protest, and we plan on having X number of people, and this is what we're going to do. And we're going to keep an eye on the crowd and be sure that nobody gets out of control. And this and that. And do you have a bullhorn we could borrow?" [Laughter] Because we know this.... I always loaned it out to them, you know.

DONIN: Pretty civilized.

McEWEN: Well, it's changed. I think it's changed a lot. And I'm sure it's going to change back at some point, and something else will happen.

DONIN: So you were actually on duty that day when the students entered McLaughlin's office.

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: Do you remember how you found out about it? Did they call you?

McEWEN: I think someone in the building called and just said, "There's a bunch of students that have filed in." We may have even seen something going on. I mean because we have patrols out all the time. And people say, "Oh, there's a gathering of folks," you know, that type of thing, "milling around."

I think we anticipated that something was going to happen anyway. But we didn't know if it would be Parkhurst, the president's house.

I mean over the years what we've seen—we sort of saw a change in terms of where the administration building used to be the target, and then it changed, oh, I don't know, in the '80s it started to change, and we had two targets, sometimes three, but generally two: It was the administration building and the president's house. So we would end up having protestors over there. So we would try to anticipate the shutdown of one protest so we could shift officers to the next location to try to keep them from getting into the president's house, you know, and being disruptive or pounding on the doors or that type of thing.

DONIN: Did they ever actually go into the president's house?

McEWEN: Not that I can recall. I mean it's possible that it happened, you know, with maybe a small number of folks and that it was handled by the president or a president. I'm not sure. But generally when we were there—I mean when we were there, folks never got into the house.

DONIN: Uh huh. Did we talk about "Take Back the Night" marches?

McEWEN: No.

DONIN: Again, that was in response to harassment of women?

McEWEN: Sexual assault and rapes on campus, yes.

DONIN: Do you remember those? Do you have memories of those specifically and when they began? Obviously they began following coeducation.

McEWEN: Yes, I'm trying to remember what year that we had the first one. It could have been late '70s. But…

DONIN: And were they actually targeted at the fraternities? I mean they took place on Webster Avenue, is that right?

McEWEN: Well, yes, generally they would gather—they actually started to gather in front of Webster Hall I think the first couple of times, and then they met on the green. They would have a few speakers, folks. And then they would start, light their candles and start their march, and go down Webster Avenue and up past the dean's house. They

always wanted to hit the president's house, the dean's house. You know they might go two years in a row going the same route and then change it for some reason.

But they always had us there, and we would—I mean Campus Police, Safety & Security—and we would escort them mainly because of the pedestrians; we didn't want anybody hit by cars and stuff. We'd notify the police, and sometimes they would shut off different arteries and stuff so we could get through.

But generally they went well. We had a few that.... On one occasion we had some students on the roof of one of the fraternities who threw some bottles and cans at.... And this is men and women and a lot of folks with their kids.

DONIN: These were the marchers you're talking about.

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: Yes.

McEWEN: So what we would do, because we were there, we would immediately have somebody go into the house and contact the house president or one of the house officers and try to find out who was on the roof and just tell them to get those people off the roof or whatever if there were any folks up there. And we would write that up, and that would become part of a report that would be submitted to the dean's office and go through—dean's office and then to the office that was handling Greeks, the fraternity issues and stuff. There was the usual.... You'd get some houses where males would come out and start singing stupid songs or things that they had made up and that type of thing.

I mean the biggest concern there was you'd try to avoid a face-off or confrontation between the marchers and the folks who came out of some of the houses and stuff.

I know it was two years ago Sergeant Lancaster, Mark Lancaster, in our office, got special recognition from the group because of his involvement with the Rape Aggression Defense Program and stuff that we started, he and Sergeant [Rebel] Roberts. And they thanked him and gave him some type of award and gift for his involvement, which was wonderful.

DONIN: So rape was a problem?

McEWEN: It's always been a problem, but it's always been so unreported that we've never really known—and probably will never really know—how many rapes actually occur. Most of them, the majority of them, are drug-related, and it's the boyfriend-girlfriend situation or the acquaintance rape that occurs with someone who's here for the weekend or a guest.

They're very difficult. It's one of the most difficult crimes to deal with in terms of… You have women who have been assaulted, they've been raped. They will come in to—they'll go to the counseling office and talk to a counselor, but do not want it reported to the police, do not want security to know, do not want the dean's office to know. And in many -- I would say probably seven out of ten cases -- they know who the assailant is, the attacker.

As a survivor, I think that they don't want to—they're worried about publicity. They don't want their name known. They don't want.... But in many cases there's reluctance on the part of women because they know the male, and they don't want to ruin his career and mess him up for life because of this if he's arrested or charged. And it's very, very difficult to deal with these cases.

DONIN: I assume this required special training for you all.

McEWEN: We actually hired the first woman—the first woman in our department was trained to investigate sexual assaults, and eventually that position was transferred to Dick's House because it required a whole different training and education than we could really provide in our department with our budget and staffing and so on. So we transferred—through the dean's office—we transferred that position to Dick's House which I thought was a good move and made sense.

But, yes, in terms of how you deal with a victim or survivor of an attack, other than ask the wrong questions or deal with the victim or survivor in the wrong manner, placing them in a setting where.... If they've just come in to report it and the only officer you have on is a male officer, you'd better start looking hard and fast to find a woman, whether it's a dean, someone from Dick's House, that can sit with this person.

DONIN: So you must have also worked carefully then with the—sorry, closely—with the counseling office.

McEWEN: Yes, yes. We've always.... See, when we moved our office to Rope Ferry [Road] right next to Dick's House, we'd always had a pretty good relationship with them. But that was strengthened and reinforced by the daily contact, almost hourly, whether it was counseling, whether it was a victim of an assault, or a student that had some psychological problems, or someone... any number of situations where we had very close contact.

DONIN: Did that relationship develop as a result of women coming on campus?

McEWEN: Well, yes, I think it did. It increased. You know the—yes, definitely. Yes.

DONIN: You've mentioned hazing a couple of times, but I don't think we really went into it in detail. Has that been a tradition here since you came?

McEWEN: Yes, the hazing or whatever—I don't know what it was called before, in terms of pledge initiation. Maybe that's a softer or kinder way to describe what hazing really is. But when I first came here, it wasn't unusual to hear about a student that was transported nude, wrists duct-taped....

DONIN: Oh, yes, we'd better stop.

[End of Tape 5, Side B – Beginning of Tape 6, Side A]

DONIN: Okay, so hazing or pledge initiation.

McEWEN: Yes. I mean I recall a student transported by other students to the Canadian border nude with wrists duct-taped and left up there with no identification or whatever. Now again, hazing is an act that's performed against your will, and it's dangerous, you know, and so on. But I think back then it wasn't viewed as that. It was part of: if you want to be part of an organization on campus, whether it was Greeks or some outdoor affairs or secret society or whatever, these are… Something's going to happen; you may not know what it is.

But students were taken blindfolded and tied up and taken out into a wooded part of the Upper Valley and just left, to find their way back. Even if they get the blindfold off and it's three o'clock in the morning, and this kid is from New York City or wherever, another part of the country, they don't have any clue where they are. I mean you could die from the elements.... I mean from any number of things with students blindfolded, duct-taped, thrown in the trunk of a car and transported somewhere. I mean those types of things were things that Dartmouth, you know, was dealing with.

We now have the hazing policy and certainly the law or laws are getting better, I think nationally so that.... I mean I remember the case at Alfred University where a young man was duct-taped and thrown in the trunk of a car, and he died. That was one of these initiations which.... And there have been many of those cases that have happened where someone is being initiated into some type of group, you know, and they die.

DONIN: Was it confined to just fraternities here, or were athletic teams involved?

McEWEN: Oh, athletic teams have always been involved. Athletic teams, groups like outdoor affairs where you join Bait & Bullet or different parts of that and, you know, outdoor affairs. So it's happened through.... Places where there's, I guess, some type of an organization.

DONIN: When did it finally...? I mean, was Dartmouth's response to hazing caused by what was going on nationally?

McEWEN: No, I think this is something that's gone on for many, many, many years in terms of.... I mean I don't know how far back.... I mean in Dartmouth's history I'm sure if folks could go back, if there's any reports or news articles written about different things, you could probably connect hazing to that to some degree, with some of them. So I don't think it's new. I think it's just that—I think we get better, as we learn about some of these things and there's a greater interest to sort of look into them and become better educated for a number of reasons. I mean safety, that's become a major issue on college campuses. But I think most campuses are trying to avoid ending up in court.

DONIN: Right. We've been mostly talking about the undergrads. But I'm

wondering how much interaction do you have, or did you have, with the graduate students? Were they under your—I mean, I assume they fell under your oversight as well.

McEWEN: Well, they do and they don't. It depends on the situation, what's happening. But the alcohol policy, for example, is for undergraduates only. The alcohol policy does not include graduate students. If there's an infraction with alcohol involving a graduate student, then it's addressed at that level, and that could mean, well, for example, illegal kegs. It's written in the undergraduate policy, but that is part of the overall policy that kegs are not allowed in residence halls. And because some of them live in residence halls, you can kind of stick that one together.

But, no, we've had considerable contact with the graduate schools, over the years with the medical school, certainly with—probably more with Tuck School than Thayer School and the medical school. Because Tuck School has always been one where there's been issues with alcohol and with the fact that....

I think there's this attitude, you know, with Tuck School students that, "We're part of Dartmouth, we're not part of Dartmouth. We don't know what part of it is that we're part of. We're here." And sometimes it's tough dealing with the thirty- or thirty-five-year-old that's already been out in the business world and has come back to finish up. There's that "you can't touch me" type attitude and stuff sometimes, which it isn't the case. But it can be a lot more interesting dealing with the graduate students than undergrads because there is that—there's that challenge of our authority and that type of thing.

DONIN: Do you patrol, for instance, I think of Sachem Village. Do you patrol Sachem?

McEWEN: We do, yes. Sachem is located in Lebanon, New Hampshire. But we do patrol Sachem, yes.

DONIN: And if there's trouble there that requires state… local police, then you call the Lebanon Police.

McEWEN: Yes, yes. We have a good working relationship with Lebanon. So if we have an issue there, we call them, and they'll assist us.

DONIN: Over those decades, did that happen often?

McEWEN: On and off. It's not a daily or weekly thing. But, you know, we've always had problems in Sachem because of its location, because it's remote, and it's kind of located along the tree line of a wooded area out there.

So we've had problems with—they're described as the peeping toms, if you will, looking in windows, and folks that have stolen women's underwear from clotheslines out there, have actually gotten into the private apartments and gone through dresser drawers to pick out bras and underwear.

But also thefts. One of the police two years ago arrested a thief who had actually stolen all kinds of cameras and all kinds of stuff out of apartments at Sachem. And this was an ongoing, open investigation for a number of years between our department and Lebanon Police, and we had never had any luck with catching the person or persons committing the thefts. And finally down in the southern—well, I think around Keene, New Hampshire, Keene police were involved in an investigation, and they arrested this guy. Had a search warrant, went to his house, and he had hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of items. And among those items were things that had been stolen ten years ago out of apartments in Sachem Village. And it turns out that this guy worked for a telephone company or whatever. So he got into these places and was in all these places. Sort of hit the gold mine there. But then trying to track down people that had been here ten years ago who had stuff....

DONIN: Oh, to return their goods.

McEWEN: Yeah. So those are some of the things that have happened out there.

DONIN: Well, as you say, it's very secluded. Easy to....

McEWEN: Yes. Easy access for people that want to drive in and patrol around the sort of little cul-de-sacs there or whatever. But, yes. But we do patrol it several times a day in both daylight and after dark.

DONIN: Is that also true of Rivercrest?

McEWEN: Yes, we patrol Rivercrest. And let's see, I can't remember what's before Rivercrest, but there's another housing area before Rivercrest that the college owns, just before you get to CRREL [Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory] it's on the left. We patrol that area, too.

DONIN: But those are not grad students. Aren't they…

McEWEN: No, a lot of those folks are....

DONIN: Aren't they faculty?

McEWEN: Yes, faculty. We have deans that have lived out there. May still be some deans living out there, yes.

DONIN: So is there the same kind of crime that you worry about out there?

McEWEN: Yes, yes. I think what you find is that with, like faculty and deans and professional folks, they're more inclined to lock their doors when they leave. You find even with graduate students oftentimes there's that sort of, "It's Hanover, it's Dartmouth, and nothing ever happens here."

DONIN: How about Grassé Road?

McEWEN: We don't… Only when they're bored I guess they might want to patrol… [Laughter] But, no, we don't patrol out there. I think Hanover kind of covers that area because it's out in an area where one of their directed patrols that they have…

DONIN: I see, I see. Okay. Well, that's graduate students. Okay. You know what I forgot to ask you about — having to do with the fraternities— before we move on is whether or not the.... There have been differing times when freshmen have been allowed to—I don't know what the term is—present themselves for membership to these fraternities and sororities. And then at some point they pushed that up to sophomore year, I believe.

McEWEN: Right.

DONIN: I think they called it the exclusion policy?

McEWEN: Right.

DONIN: So that freshmen were not going to fraternities, and they weren't allowed to pledge until sophomore year. Did that help at all the level of alcohol abuse and the number of incidents of illegal use of alcohol? Did that help at all? Or did it just mean more enforcement for you?

McEWEN: If it did help, I'm not aware of where it might have helped.

DONIN: Yes.

McEWEN: My sense is that it doesn't matter what those changes were. Nothing really changed. It was still the same old same old with access to the houses and.... Because I mean the houses know how to select and how to pick the people that they want for their membership. I mean you can see that in houses where you have the jocks, you see it in other houses and stuff. And so it.... I'm not sure, at least in my mind, if it made any type of a difference at all.

DONIN: And there are certain houses, I assume, that continue to have a certain reputation over the years, you know, whether it's a particular theme house—as you say, one of these sports-related houses. Did those identities change over the years, or have they basically been stable?

McEWEN: Well, I think we've started to see some improvement, you know, in the Greeks. But I also know that these kids are smart enough to know when the heat is on to sort of back off and to kind of cool things down a little bit. But I mean the partying still goes on, the free flow of alcohol even beyond the registered social events where they're allowed to have just so many kegs or so many cases of beer. We know that. I think we're making some inroads through education and with Deb Carney's office, with the meetings, discussions they've had with the Greeks.

I mean even with our alcohol monitoring, our staff, the Campus Police, we may be one of the only places in the country that has Greeks where they're comfortable with us and they trust us and they invite us in, and we're part of whenever they have parties, and we check these registered events. There's no more hoodwinking, and there's no more games. It's open. It seems to be healthy.

And I can't say it's 100 percent. But for the most part I think we're

making some progress. Now where it's going to end up, you know, ten years from now, I don't know. I hope that the stronghold that we have continues and continues with more of the educational part of it as opposed to the enforcement part. Because like I said at the last session, the enforcement part's the easiest part. It's there. It's black and white, rules and regulations. But educating and spending some time, good quality time with these young men and women, I think that's a role that we need to expand on more and more.

DONIN: Do the alums of these groups help you, I mean of the fraternities and sororities? Do the alums that are sort of.... I assume they all have governing boards of some sort.

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: Do they help you at all in enforcing?

McEWEN: Not directly. I mean some of them are a pain to us because they challenge us in terms of, "Well, you don't have a right to do this, a right to do that." But we don't really deal with them on that level. We'll deal with our own internal chain of command in terms of people we need to talk to.

DONIN: So those overseers—I don't know what terms they use—but those overseers are not part of the chain of command when you're dealing with the fraternities.

McEWEN: Not with us. They deal directly with Deb Carney's office or with the dean's office.

DONIN: I see. Uh huh.

McEWEN: I think some of them are house advisors. They have different titles, I guess.

DONIN: And have the—your relationship with them has improved over, say, from what it was in the '70s and '80s, it's improved, is that what you're saying?

McEWEN: Yes. I think it's improved, yes, since… The '70s and '80s, you know, it wasn't that bad. But it was—again, it was kind of give and take with different issues and stuff because, again, we really, we weren't that clear on what the mission was and where we were

headed in the whole issue of alcohol with, you could have kegs here, you couldn't have them here. You could do this, you could do that.

But, you know, yes, I'd say since the late '80s, early '90s, that relationship has taken on another dimension in a positive light with the houses. Not with all of them. Some of them still are really reluctant. They don't like us to be there. But we haven't given up on that either. We're still working with folks.

DONIN: Did you actually ever shut any down?

McEWEN: Any parties, social events?

DONIN: No, fraternities.

McEWEN: We didn't. That's not our… That would come under some other level of adjudication or decision-making.

DONIN: But you must have played a role.

McEWEN: When Mary Turco was here, was the dean of residential life and she was in charge of the houses, she shut Beta Theta Pi down, which was a major decision and one that I have to commend her for, that she had the strength and was willing to stand up to them because she took a lot of heat. She took a lot of heat for that. That was one of the biggest athletic houses on campus. But over a period of.... I mean the way that we assisted in that final decision was that we provided the information over X number of years of incidents and that type of thing, which the college already had. But it was gathering these things to reinforce the fact that they were all accurate and logged properly.

DONIN: Did the work of your office change when they created the residential life office? Did that help you in the work that you had to do?

McEWEN: Yes, it did. It did because it.... Again, when we talk about education and enforcement, the residential life component of this was more of the educational part of it and if they had an issue or concern, you know, with something, then they could call us, and we would provide assistance in an investigation. If there was something that we were aware of, we certainly would share the information with

them that there is a problem, that we felt there might be a problem on the fourth floor of Wheeler Hall with students leaving notes on other students' doors, and that there was something going on, and they might want to have their professional staff start to take a look at that and start talking to folks.

DONIN: Did you find that different classes were more challenging than others? And I don't mean years, but I mean the freshmen were more or less challenging than the juniors?

McEWEN: Well, I think the freshmen, first-year students, are always—I mean it's always a challenge. Because when they get here, it's where they have so much freedom to do things that they might not normally do unless they came from a prep school, which we find sometimes. But there's that.... Well, they have to go through that, that process of experimentation and kind of feel their way through, "What's going on," you know, "What's it like in the dining hall?" I mean, "Is there a certain place you sit? Do you have to worry about the seniors if they're in there?" Or that type of thing. "What kind of clothes do you wear?" The whole thing, the backpacks.

But certainly for the social scene, I mean, I think this whole… When they arrive — and they're not all drinkers obviously, but a lot of them are — it's like, "I've got to get some alcohol in my room because everybody's got alcohol in their rooms." So they start to seek ways to get alcohol. And they're smart enough to know that oftentimes you can go to someone that's an upperclassman that's willing to go the next time they buy a case, they'll buy you a six-pack. Or they'll come up with a false ID, which has gotten to be a big deal. But in many ways it's to ready themselves for that Greek, that setting of how do you get in? And if you get in, are you going to get served? And that's why a lot of them want to have alcohol in their rooms because they pre-load or front load before they go out on a Friday or Saturday night just in case they can't get served so that they've already had a few drinks and stuff.

But what we've seen over the last I'd say decade with first-year students is that there's a greater inclination for them to want to engage in conversation with security officers, to ask questions, and certainly to start to report more things. And probably more so in the last five, six, seven years.

But the biggest challenge probably, if there's one big challenge, it's

keeping them safe on major weekends but especially in the winter when there's cold weather. Because you get so many young folks, first year, that will go out and drink in excess, and might flop down in a snow bank or try to find a—or think that this place that they've decided to fall asleep or whatever is a warm place. And you worry about them for their safety.

I mean we've had numbers of cases over the years where we've found them in snow banks, we've taken them to Dick's House, they've jumped out windows. We've tracked them in the snow to private residences streets away where they were barefoot, and we just tracked them through the snow, and they walked into somebody's garage, and we find them in there asleep with a blood alcohol level that borders on—is almost close enough to take them to the hospital, but Dick's House, because they meet their criteria they keep them there. But it's safety. I mean safety's the biggest thing. But I mean....

DONIN: So they become more knowledgeable, more sophisticated as they've spent more time here.

McEWEN: Yes. They learn fast. But then a lot of them are—they matriculate, come here in other programs when they're sixteen and seventeen years old. And they're exposed to the campus, and they're turned over to the person that's supposed to watch them while they're here, you know, on a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday night or whatever the nights might be if they're athletes or here just to look at Dartmouth as prospectives.

And we have a lot of problems there. I know admissions, they're dealing with that, and I mean they have been for a while. They come here, they're left on their own, and what's the first thing they do? They find a party, they start drinking. What's the second thing they do? They wander off and they're lost. They don't know the campus, and they end up in trouble for their safety, for their health, that type of thing. So these are things that before I left that we've ratcheted that up a notch or two in terms of: we've got to get people to pay more attention when we bring them here before we lose somebody. But I mean I've always found it most interesting.

I remember growing up in West Leb one of the big things used to be when freshmen arrived at Dartmouth, they all wore beanies. We used to come up and, if you were quick enough, relieve them of a

beanie and hope you didn't get caught. And the one time I did it, and I told Jim Wright this, the one time that I did that, I got caught. [Laughter] And that was it. I never came back again.

I thought because I was an athlete in high school that they weren't going to outrun me. But I just happened to pick a beanie off the head of a freshman football player, and his friends.... As we ran with my friends, we knew the campus and they didn't. We ran to Bartlett Tower, and the tower used to be unlocked all the time. We ran into the tower, figuring they wouldn't find us. But they were right on our trail. They caught us. So there we were stuck at the top of the tower. And they made us an offer we couldn't refuse: [Laughter] We gave them the beanies back, and they let us go. But that was it. My one time.

DONIN: That's great. Well, speaking of town-gown things, what causes the biggest—and I don't mean with the Hanover police, but I mean the town in general, with government and the neighbors—what are the biggest strains? What were they for you when you were proctor?

McEWEN: Well, I think what we started to see happen is as enrollment increased, even in moderation, that more students were living off campus. And it might not have been just because of enrollment but because they wanted another way to express their independence. So they're living off campus. That you know with people calling in — residents, you know — noise complaints and students and stuff. And the police calling and saying, you know, "These students that are living on South Park Street or whatever, they're doing this and they're doing that, whatever that kind of thing." But I mean that's been most of it. Some of it has been the big parties with large amounts of alcohol, broken glass, vandalism, you know, fights and that type of thing. But the police generally have been the first ones called on those.

DONIN: So you don't really interact with the other town departments basically, just the police department.

McEWEN: Well, I think the college at… I think it's at the senior level someone has direct contact with Julia Griffin, the town manager. So those types of things with.... And I'm not sure who—I'm not sure if the dean or the president or legal counsel, I'm not sure, someone meets with her on a regular basis to talk about these types of issues.

DONIN: So the issue really is just the off-campus housing that causes noise and parking and that sort of thing.

McEWEN: Yes, probably parking problems, probably the other issues, as the college continues to build, with folks having concerns about a residence hall going up next to their house and noise, if it's going to create noise, more vehicles, and that type of thing.

I mean the town-gown...I mean the whole thing is such a delicate balance in terms of how you address these issues and who you talk to. And I think that as things have changed for us with different police chiefs, a lot of the allegations made by the police directed at our department, we try to counter with, "Well, you know, we're willing to work more closely with you. But you've got to give a little, too."

And I think we've made some major strides there, too, in terms of the.... I mean I remember when I was... And this was a classic. I hadn't been the college proctor long, and we were dealing with a situation where we handled a case, and Hanover police thought that they should have been notified or been involved in it. And there's no requirement for us to report anything to them unless it's a felony involving an injury or whatever. But we report a lot.

But the police chief showed up in my office with the criminal code, the state statutes, and he had it open to a certain page, and he came in, and he just.... And I'd known this guy for a long time, and we were pretty good friends, and we were still friends after that once we got it sorted out. But he came in, and he slams the book down, and he said, "See that? Obstruction. Obstruction of justice." He said, "I will arrest you the next time that this occurs." But those were some of the things that.... And you had to work these things out. And it just didn't happen that—it didn't happen that he came in and he did that. We had to sit down for many meetings after that to resolve what it was he had in his head and felt that we were doing wrong, you know, types of things. It can be an interesting process.

DONIN: You touched.... I think we talked about this some last week. One of the big improvements you said was when you changed the name of the department.

McEWEN: Right. Yes.

DONIN: And stopped wearing uniforms that looked like sort of local police uniforms.

McEWEN: Right.

DONIN: You sort of dressed down a little bit.

McEWEN: That was helpful. But that also....

[End of Tape 6, Side A – Beginning of Tape 6, Side B]

DONIN: Okay. So you were talking about the change in the name of the Campus Police and the change in the uniform.

McEWEN: Yes. That occurred. Hanover had appointed a new police chief, a person that they brought in from the outside, and who was a terrific administrator, a wonderful person to work with. We met weekly, and we discussed a lot of things. And one concern that had been ongoing was the fact that we were called Campus Police when we were not police. So we worked out an arrangement where we would change the title or name of the Campus Police to Department of Safety & Security, and change our entire dress so that we weren't dressed like police. And I felt that that was a good decision and arrangement. And again, within the town-gown concerns or discussions, it was, you know, we were willing to be reasonable.

DONIN: You brought up the college's legal office. Now the person who during the '70s and '80s—this is the time we're focusing on here—did you work a lot with Cary Clark [Cary P. Clark '62], who was the college counsel?

McEWEN: Well, John O'Connor worked with him a lot. But, yes, I worked with Cary not directly because the chain of command, a lot of the things that I had to deal with or address would go through the dean's office, then to the legal counsel. And if Cary felt that he needed to talk with me or meet with me, then we would. I mean it wasn't uncommon for him to give me a call to ask me a question about this or that, or to try to work with different things. Because many things would go to him, many issues, and then he would want to get information from me.

DONIN: Because given the activism on campus in those years, there must

have been a lot of incidents that you were present at that they were either being adjudicated on campus or with the Hanover police.

McEWEN: Yes. And I mean that we generated paperwork on all of that stuff so that there was detailed information for, again, the chain of command for folks to look at, to review, and to ask questions or if they needed more information. But, yes.

DONIN: Okay. Of all the sort of annual campus events that happen every year, I guess you said Sink Night is probably the most challenging.

McEWEN: Yes. And that's something that's—it's in the past for us because it just doesn't.... If it is happening, we have no knowledge of it now because they've gotten smarter, and it's contained.

DONIN: So of those that do take place—and again we're focusing on the '70s and '80s—Carnival, Green Key, Homecoming, is there one that's worse than the others in terms of trying to keep people safe?

McEWEN: I think Homecoming has become the—or is the one that's the major event in terms of safety because of the bonfire, the running around, the—you know the bonfire, the amount of drinking that occurs early afternoon on Friday as people prepare to get out and be festive and get crazy and do things that college students do.

But there's a great deal of preparation months in advance for Homecoming every year, working with the local police because they provide more coverage now than they have in the past. And ever since the tragedy in Texas, the college has gotten more.... Well, I think we've always been concerned about safety, and we've done the things that we've needed to do. I'm not sure that we were doing enough, and I think the administration recognized that. So they brought in a couple of—they brought in some folks that have expertise on building these bonfires and....

DONIN: Engineers or whatever.

McEWEN: Yes. And so what they did was they—I think they wrote some proposals and recommendations on making some changes which we've, you know, I think we've made some minor changes. But we've improved lighting and crowd control and that type of thing.

But it's always a concern. Because when you have over a thousand

bodies in motion in the center of a crowd of eight or ten thousand people, anything can go wrong. And the most dangerous part of the—and I think we've overcome that—was the touching of the structure when it was lit and concerns about that. But also the changing of direction when they run because they reverse the direction, and people get trampled. And we've had broken bones and some injuries out there over the years.

But I think we're on the right course now. It's going to take a few years to get this culture kind of toned down a little bit. I mean it's still pretty wild, but different than it was. The history of the bonfire with problems that we had before Lee Pelton came—I mean he clearly made some major changes as the dean right after he came because we had major issues with the building of the bonfire, with attacks, with people being injured, threatened, and missiles being thrown. And Lee Pelton decided it was time to write something and just say—a policy and letter to the community saying, you know, this thing is not going to continue if.... And then we shut it down to, you know, one night of building it, or two nights, so they didn't have that window of three or four nights to do these attacks which were—it was stressful.

DONIN: Let's just shut this off so you can have a break. [PAUSE] Okay. So the bonfires have gotten more safe.

McEWEN: Yes. I think we started to see some improvement there. And certainly the administration is interested and concerned about doing what's right. A lot of folks have worked hard on making improvements, so that's a good sign.

DONIN: So Carnival and Green Key and even Tubestock, they're not as challenging as Homecoming?

McEWEN: Well, Carnival, for whatever reason or reasons, just doesn't have the flair that it used to. I think one of the reasons is we no longer have a ski jump. That's gone. We used to have all major ski events with hundreds of participants, contestants, from all over, different campuses and stuff, that would come here. So that doesn't exist. I think there's little or no interest in building sculptures like they used to. All the fraternities used to have a sculpture, all the residence halls. It used to be a contest, and, again, the winners were awarded kegs. So that's kind of died out.

Because it wasn't unusual on Carnival weekend, Winter Carnival weekend, on Webster Avenue you could barely drive your car up and down because people would come from all over to see these beautiful statues and sculptures that they'd built because they really.... And like you say, they're smart, they have great imaginations, they could build some wonderful things. But, you know….

DONIN: Why have they...? I mean since they're not being rewarded with kegs, is that the reason that it's...?

McEWEN: No, I don't think so. I just think that there's just—there's very little or no interest in it. And for what reasons, I mean I don't know. I think it's just that the culture has changed.

DONIN: So has that made.... Are you saying—when you became proctor for instance, say mid-'70s....

McEWEN: Right.

DONIN: It was a much bigger event that made a lot more work for you, for your department?

McEWEN: Yes. Winter Carnival used to be huge in terms of the number of events on campus, with parties in the houses which I'm sure still exist but probably not as much as they used to. I mean bands everywhere. All kinds of—I mean they had the carnival king and queen contest. I mean they just had, there were just many, many events. Some of it may be budget-based, too, in terms of monies not available. I'm not sure.

DONIN: Okay. Another related group that we haven't talked about in terms of the work that you had to do is the behavior of alums when they come back to campus. Did that ever create problems for you? I mean in terms of, for instance, you said that the alcohol consumption is much more under control now. Were they ever a problem in terms of their behavior at sporting events for instance?

McEWEN: Often, yes. At sporting events and at other locations on campus when they would come back. Someone who has been out of here two years or five years, and they come back and think they're still an undergraduate here and go out and party and are picked up if they do something wrong. Then, of course, they want to argue and

contest this and that. It's as if they're untouchable because they're an alum, and we have no right to ask for identification and turn them over to the police, you know, and that type of thing.

I mean we don't treat them any—we never treated them any differently than any other folks that we dealt with. If they violated the college policy or rules and regulations, then.... And we would notify the alumni office and let them know that we had contact with an alum so that they'd have the information. And then if they wanted to send them a note or whatever they could.

We have issued criminal trespass letters to alums over the years for different things, saying, "You're no longer welcome here. And unless you have special permission to be on campus for an event or whatever, then don't come. We don't want you here."

DONIN: That must be a nightmare for the alumni office.

McEWEN: Yes, probably. I mean I remember one reunion period we dealt with an alum who was comical in one way and not so comical in another way. He had had a few drinks, was here with his wife, and decided that he wanted to streak through every alumni tent on campus that weekend. So he had his trench coat on, and his wife was the accomplice. She was the driver.

DONIN: Oh, my God. [Laughter]

McEWEN: So she would pull up to a given tent. He would jump out of the vehicle, drop the trench coat, and psshhh. So we started getting calls that there was this guy streaking through tents. So we said, "Ah, we'll never catch him."

Then somebody saw him get into this little sports car. So we pulled up. We were on the east side of the campus. We were headed over to Mass Row, and we saw this little sports car, and it was sitting out by SAE fraternity. And a woman driving. Nobody else in the car.

But we drove up, and we said, "Are you alone?" And she's laughing. She's just giggling. She's just having a great time. We asked her, "Are you alone in the vehicle?" She said, "Well, my husband, he's around here somewhere. I don't know exactly where." So we walked around the car, and there's the trench coat on the ground by the door of the car.

So we start walking. He's coming our way, and we just said, "You might as well stop running now. We have your wife over here. We have the car, and we have your trench coat." So he comes walking over. So we asked for identification. And he says, "I don't think you want to know who I am." And I said, "Well, I think we do. We've gotten complaints, and we need to talk to you." He said, "Oh, please don't, don't. I don't want to give identification."

So we get to the car, he gets his wallet out, he hands us his driver's license, and so we start writing his name down, and all this, and asked him what class he was. And he said, "What are you going to do with this?" I said, "Well, it's going to go in a report, and the alumni office will be notified that, you know, you're an alum." And he said, "Please do not report this." I said, "What is your big issue about this being reported? You chose to do this." He said, "I'm the assistant attorney general for the State of [a New England state]." And his wife, his wife now is laughing so hard I thought she was going to roll out of the car. She said, "I told you, you dummy, you were going to get caught." [Laughter] But it's just sort of a side story, but you just never know what you're going to run into.

DONIN: So did most of these alum problems get generated through the fraternities or at sporting events?

McEWEN: Mostly drinking at fraternities.

DONIN: And usually during the reunion weekend or reunion week?

McEWEN: No, no. It could be big weekends because a lot of them would come back—been out two years, five years—come back for Homecoming, Carnival, that type of thing. And they would be willing to buy an extra keg or four cases, you know, for the house as a gesture of their, you know.... So, yes.

DONIN: Amazing. Okay. Another subject—we talked about this a little bit last week—is parking. I think you said there was a period of time when it was part of your duties, and then it became not part of your duties. Can we go over that again?

McEWEN: Yes. When I first came, Campus Police were the folks on campus that wrote all the tickets for cars, and of course that was before paid parking. So we had cars parked all over the place, illegal cars.

DONIN: When you say paid parking, you mean meters?

McEWEN: No. That was before employees had to pay.

DONIN: Oh, oh, sorry.

McEWEN: I'm sorry. Before employees had to pay.

DONIN: Oh, so employees were parking all over the place.

McEWEN: I mean, which they could. But a lot of them parked illegal because there have never been enough parking spaces, ever. [Laughter] There never will be. So in the early '70s, I think it was very early '70s, they decided to—I don't know if it was a trustee vote or whatever—to go to paid parking, which just blew the lid off everything. There were a lot of faculty folks that said, "I'm not going to pay."

I remember right after John Kemeny became president, he had to deal with I think it was a senior faculty member who had a car who kept getting tickets. It was a friend of the president's, a very close friend of the president's, I guess, and a colleague, and he went to the president and said, "I'm not registering my car, and I'm not going to pay to park. If it's so important to the college to have me pay to park, you can have my car if you want it." So they towed it and took it to the impound section in the undergraduate parking lot, and it ended up belonging to Dartmouth College because he wouldn't go back and get it. That's how adamant he was that he wasn't going to pay. But the president stuck to it and was not going to back down.

DONIN: So this guy completely lost his car?

McEWEN: Yes. And I took over parking, the head of parking, for less than a two-year period; when Ralph Manuel was the dean of the college he asked me to. Because parking has always been run—it was always run out of business affairs. I took it on for a while, but I gave it back mainly because I couldn't get any money from the parking budget to do the things that I wanted to do. I just took it on an interim basis, and decided it wouldn't benefit the department or the college for us to take that on without a budget for it. So then they started hiring full-time people to administrate the—as the head of

parking.

DONIN: And this includes enforcing the student parking, I assume, out on the satellite lots.

McEWEN: Yes. Yes, they have responsibility for all the peripheral parking lots, A lot, the undergraduate parking lot which is off campus. So now I mean they ticket, they tow, they put immobilizers, boots, on wheels and so on.

DONIN: Has it always been the case that freshmen could not have cars on campus?

McEWEN: Right. That changed—I can't remember exactly what year it was. But they have a lottery now in the spring, and they allow X number of students through this lottery process, first-year students to have a car.

DONIN: Oh, to come as first-years with cars?

McEWEN: If you....

DONIN: If you win the lottery.

McEWEN: Yes. But not until spring term.

DONIN: Oh, I see, spring term, right. Okay. So you must have been glad to be rid of that.

McEWEN: Yes. Because I mean during that period of time that I had the responsibility for parking, we were towing faculty, we were towing.... I mean it was an ongoing thing. Parking is one of the toughest jobs on this campus. But we also—we towed a graduate student during that era who actually filed a complaint with the attorney general's office that went through a whole.... It's recorded somewhere internally where he wanted to sue the college and so on. He lost because Dartmouth did everything right in terms of rules and regulations and printing and informing people and that type of thing. But it was an interesting case because it was.... But it wasted a lot of time.

DONIN: There must be a lot of crossover with the Hanover police in terms of enforcing parking. Or they just stay off campus?

McEWEN: They just do the off-campus stuff, right. Yes.

DONIN: Okay. Well, we're almost at the end. I want to do two things. I just want to get your thoughts, if you want to share them, about the presidents under whom you've worked. And then I'd like to give you an opportunity to talk about what you feel were your greatest accomplishments, biggest hits, while you were here, especially during the time that we're focused on, Kemeny and McLaughlin. And then if you've got notes that we haven't touched upon, obviously I'd like to give you the chance to talk about that as well.

McEWEN: Okay.

DONIN: So why don't we first, if you have thoughts to share—and we've talked about all of them briefly—talk about Presidents Dickey and Kemeny and McLaughlin. You didn't have so much time with President Dickey.

McEWEN: No, I didn't. But I found in my.... Because he had very—his handwriting is....

DONIN: Oh, yes. Very distinctive.

McEWEN: But he had written me a note back in January of '76, which....

DONIN: You have the stamps, too.

McEWEN: Yes. He actually wrote me one.... Well, he wrote me one in '75: "To all of you, the department, in token memory of our great good friends in.... John Dickey." And then he wrote, he said, "Dear Bob and all of you. This is to note that truly nothing you could do more than that picture with me. Those happy memories that...." You know, his friends on the Campus Police and stuff. And he thanks us for.... I kept these.

DONIN: And they're handwritten.

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: You wouldn't get those today.

McEWEN: No, absolutely not. I also kept a—you'd be interested. This was in

my...I held onto, and it was the George Wallace thing.

DONIN: Oh, yes. This is your ticket.

McEWEN: Yes. It was....

DONIN: And, you know, I'm not sure he was governor when he was here. You know last week we were talking about that. I meant to look that up before I saw you today.

McEWEN: Does it say on there?

DONIN: Well, it calls him the Honorable Former Governor. There you go. That's the answer.

McEWEN: I mean as far as President Dickey, I mean I guess my memories, my thoughts, of his presidency and his lovely wife and family that he was extremely liked and loved by folks on campus. I recall an incident when he was residing on Lyme Road at their home out there where—and they had an alarm system on it.

I was having a cup of coffee in the snack bar in Hopkins Center, and a student by the name of Gifford [Gifford T. "Giff"] Foley ['69], who graduated in the '70s. He came here late '60s and then I think he was separated from the college at that point for an act that he committed. But he went on to join the military and came back a war hero and was—I think it was a special exception for him to come back.

But I was sitting there having a cup of coffee one evening, and Giff Foley came over and sat at the table. I knew him well as an undergrad, and we started talking. And over my radio we get this notification that there was an alarm at the president's house, John Dickey's, on Lyme Road. And I'd never seen—Giff Foley jumped out of his chair, and he said, "I'm going with you." He says, "Somebody's out there messing at John Dickey's, I'll ring their neck!" That's exactly what he said.

Unfortunately Giff died a few years ago in a plane crash. He flew these—I don't know what kind of planes, these biplanes, winged planes and stuff and did all of these circus acts and stuff.

DONIN: Stunts and stuff.

McEWEN: Yes. I think he went down in a lake somewhere.

DONIN: I think I heard a story about him that he also had had a very bad motorcycle accident before graduation.

McEWEN: He did. He almost died from that. Yes.

DONIN: And he was in Dick's House, and somebody suggested to him that he would not be going to graduation, and he said, "I survived Vietnam. I'm not going to miss my graduation just for a few broken bones."

McEWEN: Yes. He was a special person, he really was. But my contact, personal contact, was somewhat limited, you know, with the president because of my position at that point as a patrol officer on the midnight shift.

DONIN: So what happened when you went out with Giff Foley? What was the alarm?

McEWEN: Oh, it was human error, which often happened. They set something off, and I mean everything was fine. But it was always, "Sorry about that."

And Mrs. Dickey was just—she was just a lovely lady. I think I mentioned before that she would always bring cookies and stuff for the holidays. But wonderful, wonderful folks. And I know there are so many people that had contact with John Dickey that can express and tell stories about the man. I'm really not in a position—I couldn't do him justice, I really couldn't. But I wish I could.

DONIN: He always had his dog by his side.

McEWEN: Oh, yes, yes. He had the dog with him the night—he had that sobering impact on that young man outside of Parkhurst by Hitchcock Hall [Laughter]. So I don't know really much more that I can say about him. I mean the short period of time that I worked with him and knew him, I mean he was a wonderful person.

DONIN: He certainly changed the face of Dartmouth College.

McEWEN: Yes. And he was here what? Twenty-five years? And then John

Kemeny, President Kemeny. I knew him before he was the president through parking tickets. [Laughter] It's not a bad thing. Everybody gets them.

But when he took over as the president and with his lovely wife Jean, I mean she was so outgoing, and she was everywhere, I mean all over the campus with—I mean I think all or most of the students knew her. I didn't have a lot of direct contact with him either because John O'Connor was still the college proctor.

But I know that Carroll Brewster, when he appointed me to the lieutenant, he contacted John Kemeny and took me up to his office, and introduced me to the president just so he could put a face with a name. I think he already knew me anyway. But it was a nice gesture.

And like I said, I mean I often responded to things that came to the dean's office, his license plate. The period of time when people broke into his office and put chickens and stuff in his office, and they were all over his desk and made a mess overnight and that type of thing, and we started to think about changing the locks on doors and getting more and better locks and stuff.

DONIN: What were the chickens about?

McEWEN: I think....

DONIN: I'm going to stop you actually now that I've asked that question and put another tape in.

McEWEN: Okay.

[End of Tape 6, Side B – Beginning of Tape 7, Side A]

DONIN: Okay. The chickens in John Kemeny's office?

McEWEN: Okay. I think the chickens were connected probably to the decision on coeducation.

DONIN: Oh.

McEWEN: And I think there might have been some notes, some little notes that were left in different places and stuff. I never saw those, but I

had heard that there were some things that were left or whatever. But those were acts that were totally uncalled for and created a lot of concern. And I had mentioned the event at the president's house when Jean Kemeny had announced to the police officer from Hanover and myself that we were not to talk to one another at that event. "Stay apart and not, you know...."

I didn't have a lot of direct contact with John because the chain of command was very important, and working with John O'Connor, who was ex-military, the chain of command was very strong. And my four years in the military with the organization I was in, chain of command was strong; you never broke that. You respected it, and you followed it to the letter. So I mean I would no more call the president or tell him anything about what was going on on campus.... I mean if he asked me directly. But it would go through John O'Connor and take that route.

John Kemeny was here in a very tough time, a very difficult era with what was going on, again, with Vietnam and the drug culture and coeducation, and he had to make a lot of hard, difficult decisions.

DONIN: Did you ever have reason to—when you were proctor—did you ever have reason to worry about the safety, the physical safety, of the presidents?

McEWEN: Nothing that was major. But certainly there would be times when we knew when the president was going to be at a given location and there might be a gathering of students, we would always have somebody close. I was always close in cases like that, up to and including with President Wright during the Winter Carnival after.... Let's see, what was the announcement then? Oh, with the review of the fraternities and stuff. It's the....

DONIN: Oh, the Student Life Initiative.

McEWEN: Yes, Student Life Initiative. I shouldn't forget that. But there was some concern when he spoke that night on the green, the opening ceremony for Winter Carnival, that there might be.... So I stayed very close to the president and Susan, and so did—I had two other people there that were real close just in case we had to get them out if anything happened. But on occasion. But like with John Dickey, I can't imagine that he would have looked to a John O'Connor to protect him. I think John Dickey was, hey, handle the

situation himself. John Kemeny, I don't recall any times when—there may have been at some protest or whatever when he was president or around that John was probably very close to him. But my assignments would have been to deal with the uniformed staff to be sure that everybody was positioned and where they should be.

DONIN: Were you surprised when John Kemeny retired? Because after such a long run for John Dickey, it seemed like a short run, although very obviously a very active one after eleven years, ten years, that he announced….

McEWEN: I don't know. I didn't know too much about the history of college presidents in terms of their tenure at that point. I mean I had heard somebody say, "Well, a college president lasts six to ten years usually, that's it, and they're off to somewhere else," and that John Dickey was kind of the exception. But I really didn't know. I suspected.... I had, like I think a lot of other folks, some suspicion that there might be some health problems. I didn't know. But just from discussions and people talking about it.

DONIN: Well, he was certainly a heavy smoker.

McEWEN: Very heavy, chain, I think, yes. But I mean I think the era that he held the presidency was so tough. I don't know all of the decisions he made and everything. But I think he did an excellent job.

DONIN: Uh huh. And then David McLaughlin?

McEWEN: Yes. And as I mentioned at the last session, I mean David McLaughlin, he took an interest in I think every department on campus, I mean up to and including people saying, "Well, he just micro manages this and that and so on." But all of the contact that I had with him was very positive, was very professional.

Like I said, I mean he had called me at home on things, and he expected certain things and this and that. And I mean I didn't have a problem with that. It's just that he kind of caught me off guard, and I realized that I had to change a few things and make some adjustments, and I did.

But he certainly did a lot of good things for the Campus Police when he was here. I think he probably did a lot of good things for a lot of

other departments. I know that he kind of shook this campus up when he arrived because he started to make some major cuts and move some people out and change some things.

But I used to see him everywhere. I mean he was all over the place. I mean I had heard through some folks that knew him that said he was the type of person that required little or no sleep. He'd only sleep two or three hours a night, and that was it.

DONIN: That's what I've heard.

McEWEN: But that he was a fitness fanatic and had, I guess, changed some things at the house [inaudible] somebody had given him a rowing machine or whatever. But he loved dogs, and he had his kennel. They had built a kennel for him.

And Carroll Brewster, when he was the dean, had a Great Pyrenees. I don't know, have you ever seen one of those? I mean this thing was like—must have weighed 200 pounds, and it was pure white. He had to build a fence around the whole house, the lawn, at his house on Choate Road. And the dog kept getting out. I mean with presidents and with deans, it's always been the dogs thing. So Carroll would call and say, "Ah! The dog is out!" You know, five o'clock in the morning. So we'd go looking for him and find him. And always this dog had been in Occum Pond and was soaked and weighed another 100 pounds. We'd load him into the vehicle and take him home. But anyway....

I mean I enjoyed working with Dave McLaughlin, I really did. And I've gotten into some discussions and debates with a few people who said things that I felt warranted a reply or response from me. But when he left, you know, he told me that if there was ever anything that he could do for me or whatever, not to hesitate to call him.

I've seen him a few times since, and he always shakes hands. I mean very.... Always remembers your name and just.... I liked him. I liked his wife. I knew his—I think he had at least one son who went here to Dartmouth.

DONIN: Yes.

McEWEN: Again, I think he was here during a tough time. But I guess that's

what president's are paid for and expected to make these tough decisions and stuff. I can say I really enjoyed working with him. I never feared him. A lot of people did, and they thought, oh, dear, he's going to stop in and say, "You're gone." Or that type of thing.

DONIN: So you must have found it disconcerting, though, that he was not sort of following the chain of command. I mean he was skipping over sort of the intermediary, the dean of the college to communicate with you.

McEWEN: Well, yes, he was. But whenever that happened, whenever I mean, you know, if he.... I always contacted my superior, my boss, to let him know that the president had made this request and that I'd gotten a call from him. So that even though the chain might have been separated, it was short-lived because I....

DONIN: Connected it.

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: So at this point this was Dean Shanahan then.

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: So to keep the circle connected, you always responded back via Shanahan?

McEWEN: Well, either Shanahan or the senior associate dean. Because a lot of times I reported directly to the senior associate dean. They changed—that kind of changed over the years. But I always kept that person in the loop.

DONIN: And if there were policy decisions that had to be made or that had been made, were you included in them when something was going to change?

McEWEN: With some, you know. I'm trying to remember. It was pretty limited, I mean in terms of the policies. I mean the policy stuff was generally done at the senior level. They might ask for input in terms of ideas or thoughts or that type of thing.

DONIN: But they never.... If a campus regulation was going to be changed, I assume you had to participate in that decision.

McEWEN: Probably not in all of them, maybe in some of them, depending on how it might impact Security or Campus Police.

DONIN: I mean enforcement, that was certainly going to fall to you if it was going to change the nature of your job.

McEWEN: But sometimes the policy was written and decided, and then it was handed down in terms of this is.... Because I think that what was happening at some of the—at the higher levels was that security or Campus Police were often sort of an afterthought because we're here, and they knew we would do whatever we had to do. So it wasn't a big deal, and it wasn't an organization or a department that they would get hung up on in terms of, well, what the impact would be on them or this or that. This is what it is, and this is the way we go with it.

DONIN: You were a far more reliable department than others, I'm sure.

McEWEN: Well, I always looked at it that we're the only game in town 24/7. So no matter what came down, I mean you had two choices: You either looked the other way, or you dealt with it. And looking the other way was not viable and would get you in trouble. So you deal with it and do the best that you could and handle it. Or hand it off to someone else that should be dealing with it.

DONIN: Did you ever have a need to communicate with, say, the FBI?

McEWEN: Oh, yes. FBI, Secret Service, Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, Interpol. Oh, yes. Oh, yes. We've had cases that...yes, over the years.

DONIN: This was generated by specific cases?

McEWEN: Right.

DONIN: This communication.

McEWEN: I mean when—who's the author, Salman Rushdie?

DONIN: Oh, yes.

McEWEN: When his stepdaughter was here as an undergraduate, and I don't remember her name. But we were contacted by some federal

agents who were concerned when he had that bounty of a million bucks or whatever it was on his head because she was here if anybody found out about that. So we ended up spending a lot of time keeping a close eye on her. And it was only a chosen handful of people who knew about that because the fewer that knew, the less the risk of it getting out. But, yes.

DONIN: We didn't actually talk about that. I mean, were there undergraduates here who came with their own security details ever? You know, presidential kids or....

McEWEN: We might want to do one more session.

DONIN: Yes. You've got a whole other story to tell. Right.

McEWEN: I mean if you.... There are things that may be beneficial and maybe not. But if you'd like them to be....

DONIN: Sure. I'd like them to be part of the record if they're during the '70s and '80s.

McEWEN: Yes. I don't have a problem doing another session as long as it's okay with you.

DONIN: We're going to stop now.

[**End of Interview]**

INTERVIEW: Robert McEwen

INTERVIEWER: Mary Donin

PLACE: Hanover, New Hampshire

DATE: March 22, 2004

DONIN: Today is Monday, March 22, 2004. I am Mary Donin, and I'm here with Proctor Robert McEwen for Session #3 of our interview, and we are in Rauner Special Collections Library. Okay, we're going to pick up where we left off last week or two weeks ago. But before we get back to all your work with the law enforcement agencies that we were going to cover, I did want to get on tape your story about the cadavers that you mentioned, I think, at the end of our last session that we never got to talk about.

McEWEN: Okay. Let me preface my remarks by the fact that what's going on at UCLA had nothing to do.... I mentioned this before that news story broke in California.

But when I first started here as a patrol officer on the night shift, one of our responsibilities—not written in the job description—was to accommodate and assist the delivery of cadavers to the medical school. Most of these deliveries occurred on Sundays, late Sunday afternoon, early evening. And our responsibility as Campus Police at that point was to unlock the door at the loading platform at the rear of the medical school, and then assist the—generally it was one person driving a hearse—who would deliver the cadaver. And we oftentimes had to assist with lifting cadavers from the stretcher that they were on onto these stationary steel beds in a room that was obviously refrigerated and climate controlled.

On one occasion I remember the delivery of a cadaver. The body was of a male, about six foot six or six foot eight, and the only bed that was left was one on the third level. We had to lift the cadaver and I had to assist the person who was delivering the cadaver. We lost control of the cadaver. It rolled into our arms. [Laughter] And, of course, for the remainder of the night I had this smell of formaldehyde on my uniform and couldn't get rid of it. So it was pretty bad.

But this was something that you really didn't know about until you

were hired, you took the job, that this was part of the job. And sometimes there would be two or three deliveries in a given evening. So it was pretty busy.

But it was sort of unusual and out of the sort of, you know, out of the duty and responsibility that officers felt was just a little above and beyond. But as the boss always said, “And any other duties as assigned.” So that covered that. But it was sort of interesting.

That stopped. I think that stopped in the very early '70s. They found other ways to deliver cadavers and deliver them at different times.

DONIN: Were they coming from the hospital or from nursing homes?

McEWEN: Coming from different states—from Massachusetts, Connecticut. They would be driven here from any number of places, Vermont, sometimes Maine.

DONIN: Ah ha. Well, you didn’t know about that when they hired you.

McEWEN: I didn’t know about that. But it was one of those things that you just sort of got used to it, and it was an expectation of the job so you did it.

DONIN: Truly a jack of all trades.

McEWEN: There were a lot of things, yes. Yes, that was just one of them. But that was interesting.

DONIN: What were some of the other sort of unexpected parts of your job that you were sort of unprepared for when you started?

McEWEN: Well, I think the fact that we had to do so many things within the community outside of the sort of Dartmouth environs in helping, assisting elderly people in town. And I think I touched upon this briefly early on that we would go to private homes in town and assist elderly women and men that needed a ride to the hospital to be admitted to the emergency room and that type of thing. This was sort of.... And again, when you think about those things and you look at where we are in this day and age with liability issues and that type of thing.... But it was a different era, and there were things that you could do, I guess, and you were expected to do it. So if the

boss said, “Do it,” you did it, and that was it.

DONIN: Now this was really—you were much more a part of the Hanover police. I mean that sounds to me like that it should have been obviously with an ambulance, but in those days you said they didn’t have an ambulance. And you were called upon to do it because you had the proper vehicle?

McEWEN: We had the station wagon with a stretcher. So we....

DONIN: And the Hanover police didn’t have that?

McEWEN: No. They had regular police cruisers. So we carried out just a lot of different things.

DONIN: You were much more active within the community then than you are now.

McEWEN: Well, in different ways, yes, I think so. But I mean that was more of a personal touch where not only did you provide a service or an assistance to someone, an assist, but you also got to meet someone from the community that you probably didn’t know or hadn’t met before, which was always kind of nice. And people were always grateful. I mean they would be thankful, you know, thank-you notes, phone calls to the boss thanking him for the kindness that was extended which was always nice.

DONIN: Do you have occasion now to interact with members of the community?

McEWEN: Well, we do on different things with different town-gown issues. But not probably on such a personal level or one on one. It’s more of a setting of meetings, discussions, and that type of thing.

DONIN: Uh huh. As you say, it was a different era then.

McEWEN: Yes. Much different.

DONIN: Right. Any other unexpected parts of the job that you were surprised about when you started?

McEWEN: None that I can think of off the top of my head. I mean there were just—I mean every day was.... I mean you came to work and knew

what your duties and responsibilities were, but there were always things that changed during an eight-hour or ten-hour shift. But like I said, whatever the boss asked you to do, you did it, and that was it.

DONIN: And I think you've made the point before that in those days you were much more generalists; whereas today, everybody's a specialist.

McEWEN: Yes. Yes, that's true. Where, I think, you know, today folks might argue the point that, "Well, I wasn't trained to do those types of things, I'm a specialist in this." But you didn't debate or argue. You just carried out whatever it was.

DONIN: Right, right. Okay. Well, let's go back and pick up the thread that we touched on last time when I asked you about your interactions with law enforcement agencies outside of the local folks, and we decided it was time to stop and leave this for another interview. So I think I'd asked you about your work with—what the occasions were when you had to be in contact with the FBI or the CIA; or the reverse of that, the occasions when they had to be in touch with you. So can we sort of pick that up and expand on it a little?

McEWEN: Sure. Some of my first contacts with FBI and Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms folks really started when we had reports of students at the engineering school. They were building—one student was building a machine gun, which was either a 30 or 50 caliber machine gun, and had done just a beautiful job on it. The only thing I think that was missing was the firing pin to make it fully operational.

So we contacted the FBI, knowing that automatic weapons were a violation of federal law at that point. And so they came to campus with some Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms folks, and they took a look at it and confiscated it. They didn't arrest the young man, but they gave him a very stern warning about developing these types of things. I think they also talked to his professor and class and said that these are the types of things that you just can't build these freely and have these. So that weapon was confiscated.

We had a couple of other weapons that students had designed or built in different workshops on campus. And, you know, generally what happened is that someone would see this and make a phone call to sort of tip you off that this was happening. So then you'd follow through. So we had visits.

But the FBI—I mean they were on campus frequently back in the '60s and the '70s, you know, looking into a lot of the student activities, things that were happening with the radicals on campus, with the SDS and Weathermen and others, Black Panthers. I mean there were a lot of things that were going on at that time that we would have federal agents visit.

I got to know a lot of the folks through John O'Connor, my boss, because he was the contact person at that point being the department head. But I always enjoyed working with the Bureau. We never had a problem with the Bureau.

Secret Service—we had a lot of contact with Secret Service in the late '70s and into the '80s and '90s. Early on they were sort of difficult to deal with in terms of not being as approachable as the Bureau. They were sort of kind of standoffish and didn't communicate as openly and freely.

But that changed after I think a couple of different changes in management and administration with Secret Service. And the last fifteen, twenty years that we had contact with them, they were just—it was wonderful to work with them because they were so open with information and helpful and would guide us in different ways to handle situations, up to and including the debates on campus and when President [William J.] Clinton spoke at commencement in 1995. I mean a lot of contact with Secret Service.

The debates always brought interesting situations. I know one of the debates was held in Spaulding Auditorium in Hopkins Center. Secret Service decided to block off the entire basement area of Hopkins Center, the music department, and all the recital rooms. And students were informed to clean out their instrument lockers and not leave anything in there. For a number of reasons. But if the Secret Service had to do any type of a search, they wanted to be sure that there would be a limited number of things to have to go through.

So at this particular debate they brought dogs in, and they were sniffing through the whole area. And everybody was kind of—I don't want to say they were relaxed, but they were feeling comfortable where they were at this stage that everything was going smoothly,

and there weren't any issues, and no major problems with any of the candidates. Folks were being pretty reasonable in terms of their holding rooms before they went upstairs onstage to debate and speak. And as one of the officers went through with a dog, the dog just stopped and sat in front of this one locker. And that was it! The game faces came on, and everybody said, "Uh oh. Whoops!" Because it's unusual for that to happen.

But the dog just sat right there in front of this storage locker, instrument locker. So they had to get the locker open. And as they opened it, a sheet of paper, white paper, about nine by twelve, just kind of gently slid out onto the floor, and on it written in big black letters was "BANG!" So they went from game faces to—I mean there was just full blown everybody was like, "Alright, start clearing people out, and start cordoning off the area," in terms of that particular location.

Well, as the time went on—and things really moved fast, I mean during that period of time—we found out who the student was that had the locker. Found out where he lived on campus. So people were looking for him. And what happened was we had Secret Service, ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms) staff and state police, local police, and Campus Police all went to his room, his residence hall. And he was in his room on the computer. There was a knock on the door, and there's this entourage of armed people and pretty angry, pretty mad. And they started to ask him, you know, about this. And he said, "Well, I just did it as a joke. My father is a federal agent, and I'd heard some stories about different things."

But what happened was the reason the dog stopped when it did was that this young man apparently had also left some cleaning fluid in his locker. And the cleaning fluid used to clean instruments has graphite in it, which is in ammunition and stuff used for weapons, you know.

DONIN: Oh!

McEWEN: So the dog detected that, just that faint odor of the graphite through this, and that was it, right there.

DONIN: What an amazing story.

McEWEN: Yes. So this young man spent the rest of the day, until the debates

were over, locked up, just in case something else happened or if he was involved in.... But I think it was a lesson learned. And I can't imagine that he would ever do anything like that again. But, yes. But you start thinking about when that type of thing happens, what are the next steps and beyond. If they hadn't found him, would the debates have been cancelled?

DONIN: Did it delay the debates?

McEWEN: No, no. Everything still.... Secret Service maintained their posture, and they followed through. No, everything went well.

DONIN: Did the college seek any action against the student?

McEWEN: Oh, yes. He was.... I don't know what happened. I don't know what the charges might have been: disorderly conduct or something. But I know that he was written up.

DONIN: I wonder how he knew that anybody was going to open that locker, or did he assume that every locker was going to be opened?

McEWEN: Well, I think probably because he had some knowledge, his dad being a federal agent, there probably had been discussions from time to time about different things his father had been involved in. And he'd probably heard stories about, you know, and thought, "Oh, this will really be funny to pull this as a prank."

DONIN: Terrible.

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: Terrible.

McEWEN: I mean everything ended up okay. But it was like.... I think probably ten or fifteen minutes before that folks were—the state police, the local police, the Secret Service, ATF, everybody was pretty comfortable, like I said. Because they knew that they'd done their job. They knew they'd done everything that they could do, and they were ready for the debates. And then this happened. And it was like Wow!

DONIN: Now when something like that happens, how far up the command of the college does information like that go at the moment?

McEWEN: Oh, right to the president.

DONIN: Ah hah.

McEWEN: Yes, yes. I immediately contacted my boss, the dean. The dean would contact the president and let him know what's going on. The provost, the president, all of the senior people were aware.

DONIN: He must have not been pleased.

McEWEN: Well, you know, I don't think anybody was pleased. But I think they were happy that that's all it was, was this sheet of paper that said "BANG!" on it. But, you know, it got your attention.

DONIN: The dog's sense of smell is remarkable, isn't it?

McEWEN: Very keen, yes.

DONIN: Now you also had the presidential debates over in Rockefeller, didn't you? Is that where they were actually held?

McEWEN: Years ago? Yes. The debates have been around, and we've always had protests when we've had the debates and stuff.

DONIN: You mean student protests.

McEWEN: Yes, students, community folks, people outside the community. I mean oftentimes when we've had—when there have been major issues, we've had people bussed in from Boston that would come up and protest. A lot of folks that would come up for different events to protest.

DONIN: Now when these outsiders are on campus, they're under your jurisdiction, though.

McEWEN: Well, generally what we do, working with the local police and Secret Service if they're here, what we do is we try to identify select locations where we can say, "Okay, this is the area where you can form your, you know, gather and protest, and you stay in this area." And that's it. I mean it's cordoned off, and we assign people to be sure the people stay in that general area.

And that's that whole thing of communications. If you can get to things sooner rather than later, oftentimes it's a lot easier to deal with if you communicate that to the—if you have a spokesperson for a group and just say, "Okay, we've picked this location for your group, and that's where you have to be and remain." No guarantee that they'll say stay there. Some folks will peel off and try to get into other areas. But you always have a police presence or security, someone there to keep an eye on the protestors.

DONIN: Do you also find that you have to interact with the media when there are large groups of people here to demonstrate?

McEWEN: Well, we used to years ago. But once the college sort of developed their public affairs with news service and that office started to grow a little bit, there was more contact. Which I think was good for almost every department on campus because most folks don't know what to say or how to interact with the media, and you have to be careful what you say.

Because if you work for Dartmouth, then if you say something, you're going to be viewed as a representative for the college, and things can get very, very misconstrued in terms of, "Who is this person, what did they say? Is this what it means?" If it ends up on the front page of a newspaper, then people read it. And as you know, that's what they believe.

But there have been so many improvements in that area. Before major events, you always had meetings with the news service folks to talk about, "Okay, how do we handle this?" And if there is an issue, if there are questions.... And they would assign people to the different events, so if you had a.... You no longer became the spokesperson, if you will. You would contact that person who has expertise and say, "Okay, they're asking questions about this and that. Can you come over and talk to folks?" So they would deal with the media.

DONIN: So you were able to refer all the questions to the press office.

McEWEN: Yes, yes.

DONIN: When did the press office become active? I should know this myself, but I don't.

McEWEN: Well, I mean they've been around a long time in different forms, where they've had one person hired for it, and they've had different titles. But I think that office really started to grow in probably the late '80s, early '90s. And it's been a blessing, I think, for everybody on campus because if you have something going on, you can call that office, they'll send someone over, and you can ask questions—even guidance or advice on what to say, how you should respond to this, you know, and it makes it a lot easier.

DONIN: Well, let's back up then, say, to a really big event that was early on, maybe when John Kemeny was president, and he cancelled classes after the Kent State and the invasion of Cambodia. Did you have to deal with the press at a time like that?

McEWEN: No. They had a person then who dealt with—and I don't remember their name now. I mean I have some names in my head, but I don't know if they were here. I remember [John C., Jr.] John Heston ['54] was here. I know that at one point they had, the college had, an ombudsman person. But a lot of times I think maybe the president or one of the vice presidents would talk to the media or maybe even a dean to talk about what was happening. But generally I think there was one person. I know that even when Cary Clark was here, I think he did a lot, too, in terms of sort of community relations, media relations.

DONIN: Uh huh. I believe John Heston was hired by David McLaughlin to be head of communications?

McEWEN: Was that in the '80s? That would have been in the '80s, yes.

DONIN: Early '80s, yes.

McEWEN: Yes. And I can't remember if there was anyone before John. There might have.... And back then I think that folks had different-—beyond their one title they might have had other titles or responsibilities to carry out, too.

DONIN: So you were pretty much able to keep the press at arm's length and refer them to somebody else?

McEWEN: Yes, for the most part. And I think John O'Connor did a few interviews on different—but it was pretty limited. I mean I think generally the sense or feeling was we didn't—I mean you just didn't

give information to the media that—that there was someone else, you know, up the ladder that you could refer them or things to.

DONIN: And the media included *The D*, I assume.

McEWEN: Yes. I mean you had to—obviously a student newspaper. I mean, these are young men and women that are writing different stories, and you had to be very careful about what you said, how you said it, and what kind of information you gave out. I mean, I learned early on that if you were going to do an interview with *The D*, talk to a reporter, that you would always ask them to read back what you said. And that if something was misquoted, then you had to call them right away once it was in print to just say, "Look, that's now what I said" and so on. But it's a student newspaper, and certainly not perfect. But I think they try, they work hard. But I think it's difficult.

DONIN: Did they usually print a correction if you were able to—if you spotted something that was gravely wrong and you called them?

McEWEN: Yes, they've always been pretty good about that. *The Review*, on the other hand, I mean we learned early on with *The Review* that you just didn't talk to the student reporters and stuff because unfortunately everything turned out to be, at least I think in our minds, in Campus Police and Safety & Security, to be sensationalism, and it was like they would take this little story and it would just mushroom into something that didn't make any—that wasn't accurate.

But again, you always worried about when these papers were published and circulated and people read this stuff, it's like, "Now that they've read it, do they believe it?" Hopefully.... I think a lot of folks learned with *The Review* that there were—you had to sort of take a lot of this stuff with a grain of salt, if you will, if that's a....

And I think the most difficult problem I had with *The Review* was the constant attempt to sort of tear down and trash the college presidents and the administration. I mean we all know the administration's not perfect. But just to sort of attack the college presidents in the manner that they did often was just—I thought it was abusive and was uncalled for.

DONIN: Did you yourself ever sort of get burned by *The Review*?

McEWEN: Yes, early on we did, before—and you learn as you go....

DONIN: Sure.

McEWEN: Interviews on different things just turned out to be all wrong. "I'm just not going to talk to them anymore." I mean they used to call our office all the time looking for information on this and that. Just say, "We have no comment. There's no one here to talk to you."

DONIN: Keep them as far away from you as possible.

McEWEN: Yes. It's too bad because beyond *The D*, that was really the only other student publication that had sort of campus or college events and activities. But it was just so mean-spirited. That's written somewhere.

DONIN: Indeed. I'm just going to turn this tape over.

[End of Tape 7, Side B – Beginning of Tape 8, Side A]

DONIN: Staying on the subject of *The Review*, were there occasions when they actually did violate campus regulations that you had to deal with?

McEWEN: Well, I think because they were located off campus, their office, oftentimes the Hanover police got involved in different things. But I know that when the shanties were attacked, that there were a lot of issues I think connected to—associated with—*The Review*. Some of the members of *The Review* were involved in that. Again, I mean freedom of the press, the whole thing, I mean you had to be very careful.

I know that the evening of the publication of the Hitler issue, which was being circulated on campus in residence halls, created an evening of real concerns for the safety of students who were opposed to this issue, this Hitler issue which was being delivered. Because students that were offended by it were picking the stacks of papers up and throwing them in the trash. And we eventually got called. And when we responded, our concern was not for the—it was not the fact that they had the freedom to circulate these things, but the fact that it was creating a hostile situation on campus between students, and had the potential for—I think there was

some pushing and shoving. There might have been some punches thrown in a couple of situations. So we wanted to avoid that from having anyone injured. So we told the folks that were delivering the papers that they should discontinue that delivery for the night until this could be worked out internally with the college.

But it was a night of—I think a lot of students were so upset that they contacted friends, and there were little meetings and discussions going on in different residence halls and locations on campus that night.

But again, it was something that caused a major issue, you know, on campus and hurt a lot of people, I mean obviously. And I think that the sense was, or the feeling from a lot of folks was that this is what goes on, whether it's *The Review* from Harvard or Dartmouth or whatever, that a lot of these things were beyond mean-spirited, were hateful.

But we were fortunate that night there were no serious injuries, and we spent a number of hours just sort of breaking up and dispersing little groups and contacting.... You know we had to contact the dean on call to let them know what was going on. So that if they needed to get folks from counseling to talk to students who were really distraught over this.

DONIN: Was there no way to take action against the students that published this Hitler issue for some kind of hate crime?

McEWEN: I don't believe so. I'm not sure what happened after that. I think that it just sort of.... I think there may have been some meetings, discussions, on campus in the days to follow about this.

DONIN: Were there other incidents that involved anti-Semitism that you recall?

McEWEN: Beyond some of the articles and things that were written in *The Review*, I don't; I can't think of any specific cases.

DONIN: I seem to remember looking at *The D* news about students occasionally having a swastika, you know, painted on their door. I don't actually remember the details of it. But that's not something that you recall as being common?

McEWEN: I don't recall. Well, it wasn't common. But I don't know that that was *Review*-connected. We've had sporadic incidents over the years where, yes, there has been a swastika painted; there have been, you know, cases of anti-Semitism, remarks written on bulletin boards on private doors in residence halls. And those are all investigated. But it's very difficult unless you have a suspect, unless somebody actually saw a person.

In a few cases over the years, it has involved inebriates returning to their residence hall on a Friday, Saturday night who decide to write something that's really ugly on somebody's bulletin board on their door. Or to make some type of a remark.

But generally—not that it's an excuse—but in a lot of those cases it was alcohol-related. So you did have a person identified so you could follow up with on Monday or whatever it took for the dean's office to....

DONIN: How much use did you make of—I don't know what to call them—tipsters, people that would call in information to you anonymously.

McEWEN: Not many anonymous tips. In most cases if a student called in to give us information, they gave their name freely, their class, where they lived; because they were concerned about this whole, the principles of the community, a sense of community, and the safety and that type of thing. And they would say, "Hey, I don't really want to have to come forward and appear and testify. But this is who I am, and this is the information. I'm willing to be interviewed."

I think the anonymous-type calls, the ones that I remember, were '60s and '70s, early, when folks would call in about drug-related stuff and just say, "Hey, I don't want to give you my name. But I live on the third floor or the second floor of this residence hall, and they're doing drugs next door." That type of thing. "I just want you to know about that." But what we've found in the last decade at least, students are willing to give their names and willing to give you the information.

DONIN: That must be a source of help.

McEWEN: Oh, absolutely. I mean because you always have the person that you can go back to if something else develops to ask a question, ask more questions. And I think a lot of that has to do with the fact

that—the change in the image of Campus Police to Safety & Security. But also the fact that there are more—there's more education going on in the clusters and stuff that residential life is doing, and I think that's made major improvements, major strides in terms of the relationships there.

DONIN: When you say education, what form does the education take?

McEWEN; Well, I mean they have discussions, they deal with—they talk about different issues, whether it's sexual assault, whether it's theft, how to deal with a situation. I mean years ago it wasn't—I mean it was terribly common to get calls from someone complaining about noise in a residence hall, a loud stereo.

Where now I think students are learning that the best approach oftentimes—and it works most of the time, I think—is for you to go and talk to the person in the room and just say, "Look, you know, I study during certain hours. And if you could just keep the music down." Where if they call us and then we show up, then if the student somehow finds out that this other student filed a complaint or called it in, then you've got a gap already, and it creates problems. But I think the residential life staff—I mean they're doing more and more and making some good improvements.

DONIN: Now before residential life became active, which I think was in the late '70s, did that fall to you to educate the students about...?

McEWEN: Yes, we used to spend a lot of time in the residence halls—evenings—talking about drugs, alcohol, theft, what to do if someone's harassing you, that type of thing, who to call and that there were other… You didn't have to always call the Campus Police. You could contact the dean's office or go to the student housing office when it was called housing. You could go there and report the person who has two dogs in their room or that type of thing.

DONIN: And then it turned over to residential life when they became active.

McEWEN: Right. Yes, and that started to grow. And it just made you—I think we've seen a very positive progression over the years, and I think it's with Dean Redman, [Martin W. Redman]. Marty Redman, I think with his leadership and things that he's done to make improvements with residential life.... The things that I saw before I

left and things that were happening were just, you know, were wonderful. And the students benefit in the long run because I think.... It's very slow, but you have a greater sense that you're part of the community and that you're valued.

DONIN: How do you think the students' perception of Campus Police changed when you became Safety & Security?

McEWEN: Well, again, I think it was.... I think it was slow in terms of—we became less threatening. We moved to a softer—that whole softer image from sort of the police-type uniforms to almost mufti if you will. And I think that that was seen as, recognized as... I think for a lot of students, if they were having contact with us, you weren't dealing with a male or female in a police-type uniform. It was someone in a blazer that didn't necessarily attract attention, you know, in many ways. But it also—I think it created or presented opportunities for us to be welcomed by students because we would go and do our programs in residence halls not dressed in a full police uniform and it is just sort of a softer image, I think.

DONIN: How did the staff react to the change in their image?

McEWEN: Well, I think most of them liked it. Some of them that came from police agencies before they came to Dartmouth, it was like, you know, "I've always worn a uniform, and I've been wearing a uniform. Now I'm switching to this, but a different change." But I think most folks over a period of time grew to like it because it was a little more relaxed.

I mean I thought personally that it would make improvements. It would have its drawbacks in terms of dealing with, you know, if you had a situation that was full blown, and you had people going in in blazers, and you had a mixed group of students and non-students, we might not be that recognizable or whatever.

But I think that students always say—you can always hear them—"Oh, the 'po' are still here." I mean that's what they still call us to this day, most of them that didn't even know that we were Campus Police. But that's carried through the legacies, I think. So, "Oh, the 'po' are here!" you know?

But I remember in uniform responding on a big weekend to a complaint between two houses on East Wheelock Street, and it was

a full-blown party. Everybody was.... Well, not everybody, but I would say that probably 90 percent of the people there were drunk—and I mean really drunk. I was a lieutenant then, and I knew a lot of students, and I felt comfortable being around students in almost any type of situation. And as I was walking onto the lawn area—and a lot of students that were under the influence. "Oh, Lieutenant McEwen!" you know. And they came wandering over, patting me on the back.

And the next thing I know—because we were in full police uniform back then, and I always wore my police hat; it was like the military-type hat with the hard visor—the next thing I know, my hat flew off my head. Somebody threw an empty shot glass, and you know how thick those are. Hit the brim, right at the point of the hat, took it off my head, and split (I didn't know until afterwards), it actually split, cracked the hat, that hard, hard plastic stuff, whatever it was called.

DONIN: That's terrible!

McEWEN: Anyway, so I didn't know where it came from. But it was the most incredible thing. It was almost like being outside of Hopkins Center the night we had the problem with the folks that were here to disrupt the phone-a-thon and part of that moratorium during the Vietnam War.

Students that were in the crowd that knew me immediately went into the crowd, and they identified—and they were chasing the guy, and they finally caught him, and they roughed him up a little bit before they got him back to us. But he wasn't a Dartmouth student. He was a guest here. But it was just incredible. I mean it was like the two officers that were with me were like, "Oh, we're not going to be able to handle this situation." [Laughter]

DONIN: You didn't need to. The students did it.

McEWEN: No, the students did it. But I mean it's.... So I think over the years—I guess my point is that because we're so visible and we're here twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, even when the college is shut down during holidays and that type of thing, we know that there are always students here. And we still provide the same services during that period of time to students if they need things. I would never say that we're sort of a necessary evil, but I think that we're an afterthought for a lot of folks. But students, I think, we're

always there, in the backs of their minds, if there's a problem or if there's an issue, it's a department you can always call, and somebody's going to respond and do whatever they can do for you.

DONIN: Uh huh. I think that probably reflects the situation on all college campuses. That the Campus police or Safety & Security, whatever they're called, are the back-up of last resort.

McEWEN: Yes. And I think things are improving nationwide on college campuses. But I know that talking with a lot of my—going to different conferences over the years and talking with folks that were either police chiefs on a college campus who had full police powers with guns and the whole thing or security directors, that I was always struck by the fact that not so much by our department, but by the things that Dartmouth does in terms of the administration and the president's office on down as being supportive.

I've talked to a lot of folks that had the same responsibilities that I did, that would be, "Oh, God I just hate this, and I hate that. We can't get money for this. They won't support us on that." And I never felt that, never realized that at Dartmouth. It's always been—you take a good common-sense approach and look at what the situation might be or what the needs might be, and it's always worked out in a positive fashion. I don't know.

I've always said that there's something.... Dartmouth is different, and probably people say this about every institution of higher learning in one form or another. But I've always felt that Dartmouth was different in that sort of this warm and fuzzy, this sort of wanting to do as much as you can do for the young men and women that we have on campus, but also for employees and for the administration. I mean I've found that we always.... We never say that that's the end. We're always looking to go beyond that to see if we can reach out a little further to help somebody out, whether it's on the job or even in private lives where the college has helped folks.

DONIN: So you think that's a tradition that's not necessarily common at other universities?

McEWEN: And again, I don't know that because I've never been.... I can only talk about what my colleagues have told me or how they feel about, you know.... I remember when being part of the New Hampshire

Security Directors' Association—and I think they've changed the title now; it's become more police-y—but I was always struck when I went to meetings, and there would be twelve or thirteen security directors there, and people just had issues where they couldn't get money for this, they were taking staff away from them when they needed staff, you know, that type of thing. And that was never—we never experienced that here.

I may have just been lucky during the thirty-six years that I was here, the twenty-seven years as the director. But I think that.... There's just something about Dartmouth that.... And I'm not the only person that's said this. It's just a little different in terms of how people deal with it. And, of course… What, you came from Harvard? Maybe it's even better there, you know. I mean, it's hard to say.

DONIN: The Harvard police, I think, were more police-y, as you would say, because they....

McEWEN: Well, I think they hired a.... Didn't they hire a man—was it in the '80s?—that came from the Metropolitan or Boston Police or something. I remember that. And I know that.... But it's a different, it's a whole different.

DONIN: It's an urban setting. It has a whole different set of problems and challenges.

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: So in terms of your budgeting, you always felt that you were fully supported by the college?

McEWEN: Yes, yes. I was always amazed that whenever I submitted requests for different equipment or whatever, that it got approved. They may not have always gotten approved immediately. But, you know, the college is kind of slow to make decisions on stuff because they want to study stuff and look at things thoroughly, which makes sense. But I always felt very fortunate that we were very well supported.

DONIN: Let's go back to the work with the outside law enforcement people. I just want to hear your recollections about the visit of President Clinton for commencement in 19—what'd you say it was?

McEWEN: ‘Ninety-five.

DONIN: ‘Ninety-five. All I know about it is that it rained cats and dogs.

McEWEN: Yeah. It did rain cats and dogs. As a matter of fact, my huge Dartmouth umbrella, which was the green and white with the long handle, I loaned that to President Clinton’s staff for him. And I don’t know if he ever used it, but I know I never got it back. [Laughter] So.... But that’s okay.

No, I mean the planning for his speech at Dartmouth was months and months and months in advance, working with not only the folks at Dartmouth but the Hanover police, the state police, Secret Service. We had meeting after meeting after meeting. And, you know, initially there were a few things on paper. But then as we got closer—and when I say closer, three to four months out—then the folders started to thicken up.

But it was one of the—it was a very smooth event. I mean other than the weather, I mean I think everything went well, up to and including the fact that folks were told they couldn’t bring umbrellas, they couldn’t—there were certain things they couldn’t bring to the stadium that day. They set up the magnetometers so that they could check everybody, and it was a very, very smooth event. Went really without what I would say any issues. There might have been some little small things that happened. But it didn’t involve us. It didn’t involve our staff or other folks.

DONIN: Did you have to beef up your staff for that day?

McEWEN: Well, we had just about everybody that worked in the department on duty, people through the evening, the day before, the night before, and then into the commencement. But we had to cover different locations on campus where -- the reception after and so on.

DONIN: Now the ceremony’s normally held on the green, but in this instance it was held...?

McEWEN: At Memorial Field.

DONIN: And that was just because of the crowd?

McEWEN: Well, partly because of the crowd. But I think because of the location, where, you know—and I don't know if this is written anywhere—but it certainly made it easier for Secret Service and Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, all the people that they had because they had.... I mean they had people on top of the public address, that building at Memorial Field. You know they had snipers up there. They had the whole thing. And then they had that whole area checked out. They went and checked in apartments at the—near Hanover High School where people could come out on roofs or decks and that type of thing to be sure that nobody was hanging out windows and all that. So they did a lot of stuff in advance.

DONIN: So that was for security so they could....

McEWEN: Right.

DONIN: ...control the crowd better.

McEWEN: And it worked well in terms of the… I think traffic flow, pedestrian flow. Got people in. I think it started, like most commencements at Dartmouth, it started on time. So....

DONIN: The crowd must have been pretty cranky, though, going through the security process—or not?

McEWEN: Well, there might have been some cranky folks. But I think, you know, any opportunity—if you were lucky enough to get a ticket to sit and see the president of the United States and hear him speak, what a great opportunity. And if you've got to jump through a hoop or two.... I think that, you know, people—people were getting, I think they were even before some of these terrorist attacks, that people were.... You go to concerts, these huge concerts, there's layers and layers of security, and sometimes it can be a pain, and you've got to take your backpack off and have it searched. Or you have to turn it in. You can't take it with you. I think folks are becoming more conditioned to that.

DONIN: So they were sitting in the stadium in the pouring rain with no umbrellas.

McEWEN: Yeah. Most folks brought, you know, I mean most folks brought those trashcan liners or different things, you know. And they had

those ponchos you can get, whatever. I don't know if the college handed ponchos out. I can't remember. Because we were really exhausted because we'd been working days and days and days in advance providing different things and looking at.... Because, you know, all the advance teams for Secret Service, they would come, and we would have to take them to this building and to this building and this location. We'd have to look at this and that. They'd keep going over and over. It was a constant dress rehearsal until the day of the event. And then everything was in place, and everybody felt good, and you know....

DONIN: Did you have to... Did they have to do security checks or background checks on anybody here?

McEWEN: They did security checks and background checks on a whole bunch of people, yeah.

DONIN: Anybody that was going to come in contact with him?

McEWEN: Yes. They had some names from every department.

DONIN: How about students? Did they worry about students?

McEWEN: Any students that were involved in any close contact, I think. But they didn't do the whole student body.

DONIN: A huge undertaking.

McEWEN: It is. Beyond working with the Secret Service, you've got a White House staff, you've got all these folks that are, you know, and some of them are very reasonable, and others are very— "What!? Don't you know who I am? Here's my card. I want this, and I want that." You would get that every once in a while.

DONIN: I can imagine. Okay. I'm going to turn this tape over.

[End of Tape 8, Side A – Beginning of Tape 8, Side B]

DONIN: Okay. So we're back on. So you must have been delighted when his visit ended. I assume he didn't' spend the night. He took off as soon as his speech was over or after the reception or whatever.

McEWEN: I think he left after the reception. I know that I was somewhere on

campus, and I got a call from one of the Secret Service agents through the Hanover police. And they said that they wanted me over in Baker Library. And I said, “What do you need me over there for?” They said, “Well, it’s a photo op, and we want your picture taken with the president, President Clinton.” And the Hanover police chief was there. I think there were some other local police agencies. So I said, "Well, you know." I don’t know why I was being obstinate. But I just said, "Nah, we still have things to do." At any rate, I gave in, and I went over, and there was a reception line, and he came through, shook hands, introduced himself. They took the picture.

The thing that I was struck by most was that at that time the police chief, [Nicholas] Nick Giaccone—it’s Nicholas Giaccone—his wife had been going through a series of treatments for cancer. And so she—I guess she wanted to have an opportunity to meet the president also. So Secret Service had to clear that obviously. They had to know who was in this line, the reception line.

And so I was standing not too far from where—I wasn’t eavesdropping, but I could hear his conversation with the police chief’s wife. And I almost burst into tears because she had told him that she was battling cancer and stuff, and she died shortly after that. I mean it was.... But he was so kind. I almost think that he might have, that President Clinton was teary-eyed. I know that he held her hand, and he spoke to her for what seemed to be a long time. It wasn’t. But I think he...not knowing this woman, he’d never met her, but realizing… I mean she wanted to meet him, the president. And some kind words were, you know. But I thought it was—that was just a wonderful moment.

DONIN: They say he’s got incredible—what’s the word?—people skills.

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: And sort of a personal charisma about him. Regardless of what you think of his politics, he’s got an amazing amount of....

McEWEN: Yes. I was struck by that. I mean he could have been in just a big hurry. And they could have said, "Well, you know, I don’t want to meet this woman" or whatever. But I thought it was very nice.

DONIN: That is nice, very nice. You referred last time to the need to worry often about students who were perhaps the offspring of famous

people. Or I think you mentioned as an example Rushdie's daughter was here as a student.

McEWEN: Yes, stepdaughter, I think. Yes, right.

DONIN: Did that happen often, that you had to worry about the safety of particular students?

McEWEN: Well, we had.... Again, it occurred once in a while. We had a woman who came to Dartmouth who was a superstar tennis player. Apparently at summer camps she had befriended a tennis player from the Soviet Union who was here on a temporary visa, but was an outstanding tennis player. And he became infatuated with her to the point of where her family became extremely concerned. And he was sending her all kinds of gifts and letters and so on and so forth. And they—I mean beyond the acquaintance, they didn't really want this to go any further. And I think some of his letters got to be a little—there was some pressure, almost threatening, that he wanted to see her, wanted to be with her.

So we got involved, and we got the local police involved. And at that time he was in Florida, and he had folks that he was living with and was sort of...I don't know, counseling him or whatever, coaching and so on. So then he moved from Florida and ended up in the Carolinas for a while. And this was when the whole issue turned—changed—in terms of his...that he was going to come up here and was going to see her whether she wanted him to or not.

Of course the family, the young woman's family, came to the campus. We met with them and just said, "We'll do everything that we can to provide a safe environment for your daughter so that it doesn't disrupt why she's here, to get an education, and enjoy herself playing tennis and so on." So we arranged to move her from the location she was living to another place on campus, and started to provide some surveillance during the evenings. And had made contact with her so that we knew where she was going to be at different times, and she would let us know. So we were hoping that he wouldn't show up. But that if he did come to campus he couldn't find her and that he would leave.

Well, he showed up, and obviously, you know, there are things that you're aware of and you plan for, but one thing you can't plan for is the popularity of someone on campus and how many people know

this person and how open students are about, "Oh, you need a place to stay tonight? Sure, I'll put you up. You hungry? We'll feed you." You know, that type of thing.

So apparently this tennis player from the Soviet Union, this young man, went to the dining hall and started asking questions. Then, of course, he found somebody that knew her. And they told him where she was living. So we were fortunate enough with our staff and with the police to actually catch him before he got to her. And the police realized that this young man had some very serious problems, and he was taken to the hospital.

Apparently after a series of interviews with a psychologist/ psychiatrist out there, they decided that he definitely was a threat to her safety, her life. And he was taken to Concord Hospital and admitted down there until he could be sent back to the Soviet Union. But he had apparently made these threats even to the doctors that.... And I'm not sure exactly, but it was along the lines that, "If I can't have her, nobody else is going to have her."

DONIN: Oh, my!

McEWEN: So again, you know, situations like that. We've had sons and daughters of celebrities on campus that.... I remember when John Denver died, his plane crashed, his daughter was an undergrad here. She wasn't on campus at the time of his death. But of course news media, it only took a short time for them to figure out, "Oh, his daughter's at Dartmouth." And so they were calling and wanting to send people here to interview her, to talk to her, just hours after her dad's death and stuff.

You know, different movie stars and political figures that have had sons and daughters here. I remember when Bob Keeshan's son and daughter were here. I met them, and they were great kids, young man and young woman.

DONIN: He's Captain Kangaroo, right?

McEWEN: Yes. He just died. A very nice man. Got to meet Mr. Rogers when he was here. He was at commencement. He was just a delightful person. But, yes, I think, you know, over the years—you don't always know when you have a celebrity's son or daughter here. They might get into some difficulty.... But sooner or later somebody

says, well, you know.... [Meredith Baxter '82A] Meredith Baxter Birney's son was here. I think Meryl Streep's son was here. There's just been a lot of.... And a lot of political.... I mean I think Sandy Berger's son was here a couple of years ago. He's graduated.

DONIN: Now did they ever bring—did kids ever bring their own security with them, bodyguard or...?

McEWEN: Not recently. I do remember.... This was in the mid-'70s, and I can't remember the.... I almost think that it might have been an international, foreign student who had some type of—what is it called? political....

DONIN: Asylum?

McEWEN: Immunity or something. Or whatever that. And someone came with him and met with...I think they met with John O'Connor and talked to him about that they didn't have any expectations, but if anything happened, let us know right away. That type of thing.

DONIN: Well, I'm sure international students, whether from famous families or very wealthy families, especially from certain parts of the world, would perhaps feel the need, that their child needed security.

McEWEN: I just can't think of any off hand other than, you know, there have been a few just sort of sporadic cases, again, where there would be some sort of low-level contact, and then that would be it, just to let us know that they were here, and that if there was a situation that, you know.... But we didn't know about Rushdie's stepdaughter until I think she was a senior. But then that was—as things started to escalate in terms of the bounty placed on his head, then that became a concern.

DONIN: To wrap up on the policing part of this, I guess the worst crimes that you've had to deal with while you were here would obviously be these murders. The first set that you.... Is it accurate to say the first set you had to deal with were the graduate students in the '80s?

McEWEN: Yes. The murders that occurred locally, yes. I mean we'd had cases where.... We had a young man on campus whose brother killed his mother and father at home. And we had to provide security for him because the two brothers didn't get along, and there was concern that the brother might come to Dartmouth and go after him. But the

graduate student murders were.... Hanover police obviously were called first on that, and they informed us. We didn't know right away what had happened. But they contacted us to tell us that there had been two students murdered, and they wanted to let us.... No details were given out. Only that we should contact the college and let them know that it involved graduate students. And then I think within twelve to twenty-four hours, more information was forthcoming to us so that we knew what had happened and who was involved.

DONIN: But because it was off campus, you didn't have to become involved?

McEWEN: No. They actually didn't need us for anything until they wanted to start gathering information about—more information about where they were from and so on and so forth. And then started dealing with the graduate schools and asking questions and trying to determine who knew these young folks and could they offer any information about it.

DONIN: And then, of course, the [Half and Suzanne] Zantops in 2001.

McEWEN: Yes, that was just a.... The way I found out about that — this horrible, horrible case — was that I was at the Dartmouth Skiway checking on a student dance which was the first dance that was allowed out there for undergraduates. So we wanted to be sure that the people that we had assigned out there were comfortable with what they were doing, and that we wouldn't have any problems.

What we discovered was that the band that was playing was local from the New England area, and had invited a lot of their friends who were not going to be allowed at the event. So we anticipated there would be problems in the parking lot, and we were concerned because they had not put any lighting in yet; it was very poorly lit. And so we had to check vehicles and so on. We had a couple of vehicles come in that actually—they weren't Dartmouth students, but they had a lot of beer in the back, and they were there to have a good old time. And we didn't want them there.

So while I was there, I got a call to contact Police Chief Giaccone. So I called him, and he gave me a little bit of information at that point. So I immediately got in the vehicle, returned to campus, and started to make my calls. And I remember contacting the dean on

call, the dean of the college. I remember contacting—I talked to the president. I talked to the provost, I talked with—I think [Edward M.] Ed Berger was the dean of faculty then. I remember someone—I think the president asked me to call him, so I called him and just told him that at this point in time information was kind of sketchy, but that it appeared that we had two professors dead. And cause of death at that point, I don't think the police, they hadn't released anything at that point, at least to the college. And they may have already talked to the president; I'm not sure. But it was obvious that it was bad, just horrific.

So then as the evening progressed, I remember being here until—I think I was here 'til three or four in the morning. And the president had already decided that they would have an early-morning gathering with key people, senior people. I was still in contact with the police chief trying to get information and figuring out, you know, "Well, okay, we've got to start thinking about shifting gears here in terms of if this is a double murder, and we don't have a suspect, the campus is just going to go crazy," which they did. And we needed to beef up security and have a presence that would be high visibility and be everywhere that we could be. So we started to do that.

But when I talked to the police chief the last time—I think it was around four, and it might have been after I got home—but I asked him if he could do us a favor. And I said, you know, "Could you please ask the attorney general's office if they can have some of their representatives come to this meeting in the president's office in Parkhurst in the morning, because I'm sure there are going to be some questions. And although they're not going to be able to give a lot of information and they're going to protect some stuff, they might be able to give a little insight in terms of what we can say and so on and so forth." So he talked to them, and they agreed to do that. And that worked out well for that meeting. I think it was beneficial for everybody that was there.

But again, it was like—I think everybody was still in total disbelief and shock. And it was, "How do you—beyond the students, what do we do for faculty, what do we do for other folks, you know, other professors that had a close association with the Zantops? Are they at risk? Is this something that—as it political, was it personal?" You know, what...? There were no answers right away, obviously, and it was just everybody was uptight.

DONIN: At that point it made sense to focus on the Dartmouth community because they were part of the Dartmouth community.

McEWEN: Right. And, of course, when this went into print, I think the thing that caused some confusion and obviously a lot of concern for parents was that I think it said something like, "Two Dartmouth Professors Murdered." And it made it sound like, if you didn't know about it, that it happened on campus. And so a lot of folks were.... And we set up hotlines for parents to call in to tell them, the dean's office, that—just to give them information on what was going on. Just like we did with the hepatitis-meningococcal situation. To have the best information we have so that you can give it out to folks so that there isn't this great rush of having parents come to campus and taking their sons and daughters away because of concern.

It was just unbelievable. I mean I still don't believe it. I watched the report on *City Confidential*. Have you seen that? They did a great job. But to describe the way that they described it, this area, you know, how rural it is and how wonderful the Zantops were, how trusting they were. How they believed in folks and stuff, it was like—it was just hard to accept.

DONIN: People said they started locking their doors when they'd never in their lives up here locked their doors.

McEWEN: Oh, I'm sure. Yes, I'm sure. I remember there were a couple of professors who were very close to the Zantops that had real concerns about it. They felt that they might be at risk. And I remember talking to a couple of them and giving them some ideas and thoughts on ways to improve their homes if they didn't have good locks, and how to know who your local sheriffs are because a lot of people live—there are a lot of them that live in Vermont out in wooded areas and stuff... types of things to do.

DONIN: So you must have beefed up security not only in the residence halls but in the classrooms.

McEWEN: Well, we ended up having people assigned, fixed posts, over in the dean of faculty office and in other areas where we would have a presence—low-keyed, but if somebody had a problem, if somebody came in, you know.... What we were thinking about was that if this perpetrator was someone that was on campus or whatever and was acting strangely and came into one of these areas, at least

we'd have an on-site presence so that the administrative assistant, or whoever was the receptionist there, could motion to us, and we'd come and deal with the person. But, of course, it didn't happen because they weren't part of the community, outside the....

DONIN: And the media must have been swarming all over the campus.

McEWEN: Yes, the media was everywhere. Yes. I mean I got calls at home at midnight from reporters, you know. "Well, Proctor McEwen...." Well, I remember one phone call: "Proctor McEwen, this is so-and-so from the *Boston Globe*, and I want to assure you that if you're willing to talk to me, this is off the record." I said, "Look, I've been in the business a little too long to fall for that one. And don't call me here at midnight again, you know, at my home." But it was.... Yes, the media was, I mean.... I don't know if you were.... Let's see, were you here then?

DONIN: Uh huh.

McEWEN: I mean for the.... The trucks, the satellite trucks, were everywhere. I mean they were just.... The campus was just.... We had to chase a lot of them out of residence halls because they were knocking on doors. We said, "You can't be in the residence halls. These are the living quarters of students here, and this is their private lives. And you can't do that. If you want to talk to someone, then you'll have to arrange to do an interview and appointment if you know somebody." Or whatever. They were.... Some of them were very reasonable. Others were just obnoxious.

DONIN: At that point the residence halls were already locked, right? The students needed to use their swipe cards?

McEWEN: No, that wasn't in effect yet.

DONIN: Oh! So they weren't even locked?

McEWEN: Well, what we did during...what we would do during different periods on campus, like for big weekends and that type of thing, in a lot of the clustered areas we would go to a lockdown where we would lock the doors. But again, the system was, you know, it wasn't a 100 percent in terms of—because you could prop a door, and there was no alarm or whatever. So until we went to the card swipe, card access system, you know.... But we were locking doors

everywhere.

DONIN: And people that were actually doing the sort of collecting of evidence on campus, was that the state police or was it the local police, FBI?

McEWEN: It was a combination of the attorney-general's office, their staff; sheriff's department; state police; and the local police.

DONIN: Uh. What a zoo.

McEWEN: Yes. Yes, it was.... Well, you know, I mean we had the double murders of the graduate students, and then you have this, and people are in total shock. Those types of things don't happen here. Well, you know, they do or did, and there's no guarantee in anything. But the police along with the—the local police, the state police, and all the folks that worked on that investigation, I mean you have to applaud, I think the quickness with which this thing was solved. Because if it had gone on and on and on, people were already drained, but I think they would have just been totally wiped.

DONIN: It could really wear down people's relationships within the college community.

McEWEN: Oh, yes.

DONIN: At one point there was sort of a false alarm with the discovery of something in the basement, some questionable clothing or something. I don't remember the details, but that must have been horrifically traumatic for the students, not to mention the faculty.

McEWEN: Yes. No, the students were definitely concerned, and they were—I think they were.... It was sort of kind of a renewed relationship or communication within the student community, that people were sort of looking out for one another.

DONIN: Or the flip side of that, looking at people in a different way and not feeling good about it.

McEWEN: Yes, true. Yes.

DONIN: Thinking or wondering, you know, "Is this fellow next to me capable of doing something like that?" Especially those, I would think, the

students that had the Zantops as professors.

McEWEN: Right.

DONIN: It must have been terrible.

McEWEN: Oh, I can't imagine. I had met them once a number of years ago. But I didn't have a real...I didn't have much contact or real or any type of relationship. But they just seemed like lovely, lovely folks, you know. A terrible shame.

DONIN: Were there any other.... Now that we're on this gruesome subject, were there any other deaths, on-campus deaths, you had to deal with?

McEWEN: Suicides. I don't have a number. But a number of suicides, shootings. A young woman hung herself in Hopkins Center. An employee shot himself on the golf course. A lot of suicide attempts, but there have been a number of deaths from suicide.

DONIN: Generally undergrads or grads?

McEWEN: Both.

DONIN: And that immediately becomes a Hanover police matter or state police?

McEWEN: Yes, whenever, we would immediately call Hanover police. Unless they were called first by someone. But they would get involved immediately.

DONIN: Terrible.

McEWEN: Oh, absolutely! I remember a young man that committed suicide. It was in the very early '70s. He had been a long-time friend of members of the Campus Police, and he used to come in the office every day, have coffee with us. He was from the—I think he was from the Virgin Islands. He was just the nicest guy, outgoing, very popular on campus. And I don't know what happened. He graduated. He was living in one of our senior society facilities on campus and shot himself. He bought a handgun. But there was never any clue. There was never any—there was nothing that we were aware of. He used to ride....

[End of Tape 8, Side B – Beginning of Tape 9, Side A]

DONIN: So over the years, did you generally develop special relationships with certain kids who liked to visit the office and spend time there?

McEWEN: Oh, definitely. I mean I still get calls, letters from students that, you know, from the '60s, '70s, '80s that.... And I knew I was sort of getting too old do to this job when I started getting calls a couple of years ago from men and women who'd graduated from Dartmouth years ago and said, you know, "Hey, Bob, do you remember when I was an undergraduate?" And I'd say, "Well, don't remind me of that." "Well, my son's coming." Or "My daughter's coming." So it was time for me to get out of town then. [Laughter]

But, no, I mean I had, I think, for me one of the most pleasant and wonderful moments was a young man who graduated in 1976 who was Fairfax Hackley III ['76], who played football at Dartmouth. He's now a bodybuilder, close friends with Arnold Schwarzenegger, and he's living in, I think, Falls Church, Virginia. Well, he called me I think it was—and this is awful I can't remember—but in 1999 he called me. I mean it was a phone call, but we had been in contact on and off half a dozen to ten times a year. I was in my office. He called. He said, "I'm going to drive up this weekend." And he said, "But I can only stay one night. But I need to talk to you and ask you something." I said, "You're going to drive up here to ask me? Why don't you just ask me over the phone?" "No," he said, "I want to talk to you, and I want to take you out to dinner."

So he drives up from—I don't know, it's a ten-, twelve-hour drive. He arrives in mid-afternoon and decides he'll come back later to see me, and we'll go out to dinner. So I'm still curious, you know, what does he want, you know? Because he had a pretty good, clean record while he was at Dartmouth, you know. So we went out to dinner, and we're sitting there, and he says, "I have a question." And he said, "You know I have a son, Kyle." And I said, "Yes." He said, "I want to ask you if you'll be his godfather." I mean it was like, you know, it just kind of blew me away. And I was like, "Love to."

DONIN: Aaah.

McEWEN: So just a.... But I mean when you talk about memories and things of where you work and folks that you have contact with, this was a

very pleasant.... I was honored. But I have students that, alums now, that call and say "How's it going?" and that kind of thing. And will stop in, used to stop in on big weekends. But I think the—we always had good relations.

I remember when I was a lieutenant—and this was during that era of the whole Vietnam thing and student protests. It was a Friday afternoon. John O'Connor had gone home, and I was in the office. And in came I think it was six, maybe seven, students. They walked through the swinging gate into the main part of our office. And I'm just saying, "Hi!" to them as they come in by first name because I knew them all.

I said, "What are you guys up to?" There was no response. They just walked right directly into John O'Connor's office and shut the door, the proctor's office. I looked. I said, "What the heck is going on?" So I go, and I'm trying to open the door. They'd locked it from the inside. I said, "Well, I have a master key." I said, "What are you guys up to?" "We'll let you know in a few minutes." Well, some of them had been in John's office for any number of reasons, some good, some bad. And they knew that he had this huge closet in his office where he kept a lot of spare uniforms. So they're in there putting uniforms on and being real quiet. [Laughter]

So I unlocked the door. And there they are. One of them was sitting behind John's desk and said, "Well, I'm the acting...." I said, "What are you guys up to?" "Well, if you're going to report this to the administration, this is a friendly occupation, but we're not leaving 'til we've ordered pizza," and, you know, the whole thing.

So they stayed in there. And I mean they were being real quiet. Every once in a while, one of them would stick his head out and say, "Any calls that we need to go to?" I said, "You clowns!"

So I called John at home. He started laughing, and he just said, "Leave 'em in there." He said, "They'll get sick and tired of being in that little office." But it was, you know, these were all young men that we knew. I think they were all from—most of them from Phoenix Fraternity which was here then. But it was a friendly.... But I mean it was kind of funny to have an occupation or protest that was so user-friendly if you will. [Laughter]

DONIN: Right, right. So what's in your notes there that we haven't talked

about?

McEWEN: Well, I mean I've realized we could probably end up with hours and hours and hours of this stuff which I don't want to… Well, I certainly don't want to bore people, you know. I think.... I mean one thing…

There are two folks that I just wanted to make some comments about. President [James O.] Freedman, when he was here, I think that he—and we may have talked about this earlier, but he was just a wonderful, wonderful man. I really enjoyed—I enjoyed his presidency, I enjoyed his willingness to step out on the front steps of Parkhurst and deliver some of the kindest, most supportive words that I've ever heard in terms of how students were feeling on campus that had felt that they weren't welcome here, and especially with all this anti-Semitic stuff.

I mean every time that I saw him, he would always acknowledge me and say, "Hi, Bob. How's it going?" and that type of thing. I mean I really—I remember when President [Albert] Gore was here—Vice President Gore was here—to give a speech for the medical school, I think it was, for their big fund-raiser that they had, and it was at the gym. And the president was in the reception line, and there were all these VIP's. And, of course, when Gore came in, he had Secret Service and his entourage of fifteen vehicles in the motorcade and stuff. And I saw President Freedman standing in there in this line of folks in the reception, and he spotted me outside through the open doors. And he's waving, "Hi, Bob. How's it going?" And I thought, "God, the vice president's coming. He's in there with all of these VIP's, you know, and he's waving and saying, 'Hi, Bob.'" So I walked in and shook hands.

But he's just a very warm, wonderful man. I think that he was—I think there was a lot of media attention that was printed that I felt it was very unfair and unnecessary about him in terms of his.... Early on, I think, when he became the president, there were so many folks that felt that he's not a Dartmouth person and all that. But I really enjoyed working for him and seeing him around campus and stuff. And he treated our staff.... This time that he spoke I think he knew the names of most of the people on the staff.

DONIN: There were some pretty ugly incidents with *The Review*, I gather, and picking on a music professor.

McEWEN: Yes, Professor Cole. Yes. And President Freedman.... I mean it was much more than standing his ground. I mean he stepped forward, and I think that he...I think he did a lot for this institution in terms of setting the stage and preparing people for how to deal with a lot of this ugly, ugly stuff. Unfortunately, I didn't know Bathsheeba [Freedman]. I said "hi" to her a couple of times. But I think she was very active in teaching, and I didn't see that much of her. But I certainly appreciated and respected his tenure here, because I think he did a wonderful job.

And President Wright, whom I've known for a long time, but I've known the first lady, Susan [Debevoise Wright], for a lot longer from my contact with her when she worked, you know, in the different offices—she worked in the dean's office—on campus and stuff.

I recall one of the bonfires. After the bonfire was over, the president and Susan were coming back from, I think Hopkins Center. It was ten-thirty or eleven o'clock at night. As they walked across the green, I could hear him greeting the officers by first name: You know, "How's it going, Rebel?" "How's it going, Mark?" You know, it was just so wonderful that the president of the college knows the names of people that work in Security or Campus Police.

And I really have enjoyed working—I enjoyed working with President Wright. I know that on more than one occasion at one o'clock in the morning, he would get out of bed and get dressed and come outside to see what was…. The ruckus was out on Webster Avenue where we were trying to prevent people from.... But even up to and including the little attacks and skirmishes on the house where people had thrown bottles and made attempts to break windows, you know, and that type of thing. They've just been—he and Susan have just been wonderful about it. It's sad that that type of stuff goes on. But it's....

DONIN: The placement of the president's house, with all those fraternity houses around it, it must be a nightmare.

McEWEN: Yes. I mean I don't know how that ever happened in terms of the.... And I think, you know, if there's a light at the end of the tunnel, it's the fact that I think the majority of students and probably alumni/alumnae appreciate and respect the president of the college. It's just a handful generally of the troublemakers that want to stir things up and think that this is the cool or neat thing to do.

But most folks—I don't think they support that type of stuff with the vandalism and the graffiti and, you know, the craziness.

So I just wanted to mention those two, President Freedman and President Wright. I can't imagine how tough those jobs must be day to day with all of the stuff that comes down the pike.

DONIN: Grindingly hard, grindingly hard.

McEWEN: Globally, you know, it's got to be...the stuff that they deal with.

DONIN: Horrendous.

McEWEN: But let's see. I don't know. You'd mentioned last time -- my accomplishments or whatever.

DONIN: Uh huh.

McEWEN: I don't really have.... I really don't have any accomplishments that I feel that, you know, noteworthy or that I can take credit for. I did a lot of things over the years. But I certainly didn't do any of these things alone. Implementation of programs and developing different things always occurred with the support and help of others. So I think if I were to point out anything in my career from 1967 would be the fact that I always felt that I did the job to the best of my ability. And that I had no illusions that I was going to become a rocket scientist or that I was going to solve any world problems and stuff.

But I always felt that I was hired to do the job from a patrol officer to a supervisor to an administrator, and that that job was to be as helpful and to be as supportive as you could be to the community that you're serving. And that was always my philosophy and my approach, that you always looked—I always looked—to go a step beyond if I could to make someone's stay here a little easier or a little more comfortable, in appreciation for the fact that we have the best and the brightest here, and that some of the young men and women that are here come from backgrounds where they don't understand a lot of stuff, and they need sort of the nuts and bolts, the day-to-day stuff that is pretty basic that they haven't come in contact with or don't know how to deal with...up to and including: [Laughter] "Well, there's a washer down here in the basement. How do you turn the thing on? How much soap powder do you put in?" You know, that type of thing in the middle of the night.

DONIN: Because you guys are the only ones that answer the phone at that hour.

McEWEN: Yes. And I think if there's anything else it's the fact that I always took great pride in the fact that I—I always had an open-door policy. And I always made time for students, faculty, staff when folks needed things. But, you know....

DONIN: Did you miss the.... You know, as you sort of moved up the ladder in your job, did you miss the sort of hands-on, day-to-day work with the students because you spent so much time sitting in meetings? I think you alluded to that at one point.

McEWEN: Yes.

DONIN: You were constantly on committees and sitting in meetings.

McEWEN: Yes. The most enjoyable part of my career was the seven years when I was the lieutenant, as a supervisor. Because it was more—it was very direct in terms of hands-on and contact with folks. Of course it changed somewhat when it went to the administrative level. I tried. But then other commitments sort of steered you in different directions and stuff, away from the student contact...or not as frequent.

DONIN: In the later years.

McEWEN: Right.

DONIN: Yes. If you could compare what the department was like when you started and how it was when you left, what are the major changes that you could pinpoint?

McEWEN: Well, I think....

DONIN: Besides the name and the uniforms, obviously.

McEWEN: Yes. Well, obviously the growth in the department, the number of staff from five to thirty-six. But I think that we've—it's much more professional now, when I think of it, much more specialized in terms of what we can do. I don't always agree with that, as I said. I think there is a place for generalists even today. But I think as laws

change and as needs for folks change and increase, you need to be more specialized.

You need to have people that know how to deal with interviews that.... For example, the two full-time investigators that we have, they both come from police backgrounds; I think they've become acclimated to the campus setting nicely. But they have to get constant training every year in terms of interviews and how you interview people and not.... There's a difference between interviews and interrogation. We're not law enforcement, so we don't interrogate; we interview. And you have to recognize the fact that there's a difference there. And so that type of training is very important.

I think that's another one of the things that's changed, is that when I first came here, you just came onto the job cold, and you learned on the job. That still happens to some degree, but you go to an academy now, and there's constant training. You're in and you're out. But those types of things.

I think that we.... The contact has become more—I think it's become more pronounced between the Office of Safety & Security and the administration. As you become more professional, I think you get more recognition, and people that come in contact with you realize that it's a more pleasant situation, and you're more professional, and it's like it is in the real world to some degree.

But, you know, it changes all the time. There's that need to keep moving forward and to keep developing and to strengthen the things that you're doing. And I know that that's happening with [Harry C.] Harry Kinne, who replaced me. And I think, too, that attitudes.... I've seen attitudes change from—that the work ethic has changed in some areas, that there's...because generalists have sort of, you know, it's kind of fleeting.

And what's happening is you're finding there are greater challenges or debate among employees: "Well, I wasn't hired to do that. So that's not where...." Or, "That's not my job, and I don't—I'm not comfortable doing it or I don't want to do that." And I think that that, as you start to see the....

Well, for one thing, the department is now union. They voted in a union last year. So that's going to make some major changes in

terms of how...not how but the way things are done and so on and so forth. And it probably will be a good thing eventually. But I think that because it's so misunderstood or so foreign to folks at the outset that, you know, until you can work into it for a few years, that it causes some consternation and disrupts in folks that have always gotten along or been friends, and there are splits there.

But I'm an optimist; I always have been. And I think that as you move forward, things get better. And if you stay the course, that you win, it becomes a win-win situation. And that's the way you have to look at it.

DONIN: Great. Any other thoughts?

McEWEN: No, I guess not.

DONIN: You're sure?

McEWEN: No.

DONIN: Alright. I'm going to shut it down now.

McEWEN: Okay.

[End of Interview]