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## The Quill -- June 8, 1967

Roger Williams University

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# The Quill



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## EDITORIAL

### Reflections



In 1940, Thomas Wolfe, stated that "Man was born to live, to suffer, and to die, and what befalls him is a tragic lot. There is no denying this in the final end. But we must, deny it all along the way. In such denial is the only hope of the future. He went on to say that "I believe that we are lost here in America, but I believe we shall be found ... I think the true discovery of America is before us. I think the true fulfillment of our spirit, of our people, of our mighty and immortal land, is yet to come. I think the true discovery of our democracy is still before us, and I believe that all these things are certain as the morning, as inevitable as noon. In looking back at the past struggles, we are fortunate to realize that what Thomas Wolfe stated is far from being unreality.

The whole chaste and cheap aura cast by the arts of the last few decades has produced a reaction in our generation which has consciously or subconsciously run the gamut of practices in the arts and in dress.

In the dances of the forties, it was the style to have very controlled movements. There were certain steps which one did and in order to be recognized as a good dancer one had to know these steps well. Now, however, it has gotten to the point where it really does not matter what the hell one does, as long as he moves slightly, in time, or not in time with the music.

In literature there were existentialists and there were those who practiced absurdity. The existentialists had a definite philosophy and wrote in terms of it, giving examples, and explaining it. Those involved with absurdity (mostly in the theatre) did not bother to explain it, but just wrote absurd little plays and movies. Now we have a generation of some writers who do not know where they are, whose philosophy is based on drugs. They use slang solely for the sake of using slang, and, in general, most of their writing is purposeless. (I am not talking about people like Barth, Gold, Hemingway, Capote and others.)

In painting, during the years of the war, Abstract Expressionism reigned supremely, and was not knocked down until Pop Art, Op Art, et cetera.

The music of the forties was mostly rehashing of experiments with the twelve tone scale, and followers of Rachmaninoff; and of the other side there was Gershwin, Kern, Arlen, Lane, and all the other show-tune writers. They are followed a set pattern for songs, that is the 32 bar chorus. There were only a few daring innovators in music, to name one, Edgar Varese. He was one of the first to experiment with electronic music (starting as early as 1923.) Now we have two major styles one electronic music, that is the more serious and highbrow one; and two, Rock and Roll. Both styles have flipped out in all directions and absolutely nothing holds them back.

In the dress styles of the forties, as a result of the war, materials were costly, so there were no extra trappings on the clothing. Everything has a streamlined shabby look to it. There were no bold colours. Now it is quite different. Aside from the Op Art dresses and other articles of clothing which are coming into fashion, the flagrant Edwardian era is once again getting the better side of people. On the streets one sees women's knees, ruffles about the neck and wrists, large belts, pants with paisley patterns, tophats, capes, and other oldfashioned vestments with a new flavour to them. It is obvious that people are tired of being chaste and sexless. People want to show off their good looks. This is good.

In architecture, the International style ravaged this country for about twenty years. The main exponent of this type of degradation of the city and landscape was S. D. Stoen. A good example of this is the Pepsi-Cola building in New York City. It has huge walls of glass brick which admit diffused light and no air into the interior

of the building. It is supposed to modern looking, but it is more antique in appearance than many of the brownstones of our cities. It took a long time for architects to defy this style, especially in the so-called architecture commissioned by city government for developments. Now with people like Paul Rudolph, the importance of color, texture, light, and shadow play an important part in good architecture. You get the idea, I have said enough.

In conclusion, I think that our generation is rebelling against the sterile and technological cleanliness imposed on us by the last war and economic difficulties. I think this is a healthy rebellion and will lead to more imaginative and better works of art in general. I am in favour of it.

Our only hope and salvation for the future will be to conquer hypocrisy and mediocrity through the acquisition of truth and honor.

Richard Viti

### To Have & Have Not

Since many of you will be subjected to one or more additional commencement speeches in the future, you may think it unpardonable that this column (paid for by your own funds) contains still another solemn sermon. I am, nevertheless, going to make just such a sermon -- one which I have been eager to deliver for some time -- "Never was such prompt disembodying!" (E-44 students, who wrote it?)

"Speed" and "Numbers" are the words that most aptly describe our times. We are urged to buy NOW and pay later (if at all); multi-lane highways lure us to flee the city for the beaches and parks (where we encounter city people in large numbers); college students are encouraged to finish their four-year program in three years; an atrocity in Santo Domingo or Vietnam flashes upon our television screens while the body is still warm and sometimes still squirming. We are accustomed, in short, to being told instantly of everything that happens on the globe and encouraged to expect our least desire to be gratified immediately.

We are numbed by the casualty figures that pour in from Vietnam and our public highways; we are supposed to be moved by the news that 200,000 marchers appeared in a pro- or anti-war demonstration; we are showered by ominous figures concerning the population explosion and what it will mean in 1980; you as college students are told to accumulate credit points and credit hours; network officials hope to achieve a self-fulfilling prophecy in predicting 60,000,000 viewers for the Super Bowl.

Thus, we are kept in a constant state of urgency -- a feeling that either we will be left behind in some important human activity (that is, not be among those numbered -- an intended pun, by the way), or some disaster will overtake us unless we ACT NOW. This urgency requires that we rely mainly upon our intuitions. We do not have time to think things out.

But it is precisely within such an atmosphere that your college experience ought to be the most help to you.

I speak here particularly of your studies in history and the humanities. The purpose of these disciplines is to acquaint you with the history of man's activities on earth and the rational method of examining this history. The knowledge of man's great schemes -- his political, religious, and social idealisms -- and their weaknesses ought to warn you against being swept up by all-encompassing appeals to your sense of patriotism, piety, moral righteousness, and sheer self-importance. Reason is a brake against speed. Having been made wary by your knowledge of history, you should then insist that you be allowed to examine the particulars before buying the

### ADDRESS TO GRADUATES From Dr. Salatino

First of all, I would like to bring a word of sincere felicitation to you, the young men and women of the class of 1967 who shortly will become the newest graduates of Roger Williams Junior College.

The programs of study upon which you embarked upon will either be completed or continued at other institutions. In order for you to accomplish this, you will have met the academic requirements of the college and become members of its alumni.

Here at Roger Williams, I trust you have found more than you had anticipated to find when you first entered college. It is the wish of any institution that its graduates have made full use of the resources for learning that are at the disposal of the student. Roger Williams is no exception. It is hoped that you have found the stamina and courage to understand the process of living and working with other human beings, and that you have gained a sense of self-confidence and a sense, too, of humility, that will be of enormous value to you in this everchanging society and competitive world. This is education for a life of courage and endurance, not for any easy utopia.

We at Roger Williams look to you the graduating class hereafter to exemplify this college's cherished tradition, which is the development of uncompromising standards of excellence.

### From The President

It has always seemed especially fitting to me that the Commencement season for high schools and colleges comes at this time of the year. The long, harsh winter lies behind us and

spring with its sense of newness and beginning has a good foothold in our hearts and minds. The air is different, exciting, challenging with the knowledge that we are

now living in a new season, a time for continued growth.

Spring is the time for the curious to once more come out of hiding and rediscover the secrets of life. It brings home to us the reality that knowledge is never gained forever, but changes as does nature. Summer with all of its promises lies ahead, and spring is the time of the seeker.

After many trials and tribulations, and long after his formal education was ended, Roger Williams, the man, referred to himself as a seeker - one who admits he does not know the truth, but is open to knowledge, new ideas, new impressions, new concepts.

This attitude on the part of Roger Williams, this new season of self renewal, is what I refer to as the spirit of commencement, and it is in this spirit that I welcome you, the graduates of the Class of 1967, into the community of those scholars who recognize that man's happiness lies in his continuing quest for truth, understanding and beauty.

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Peter Porter

product.

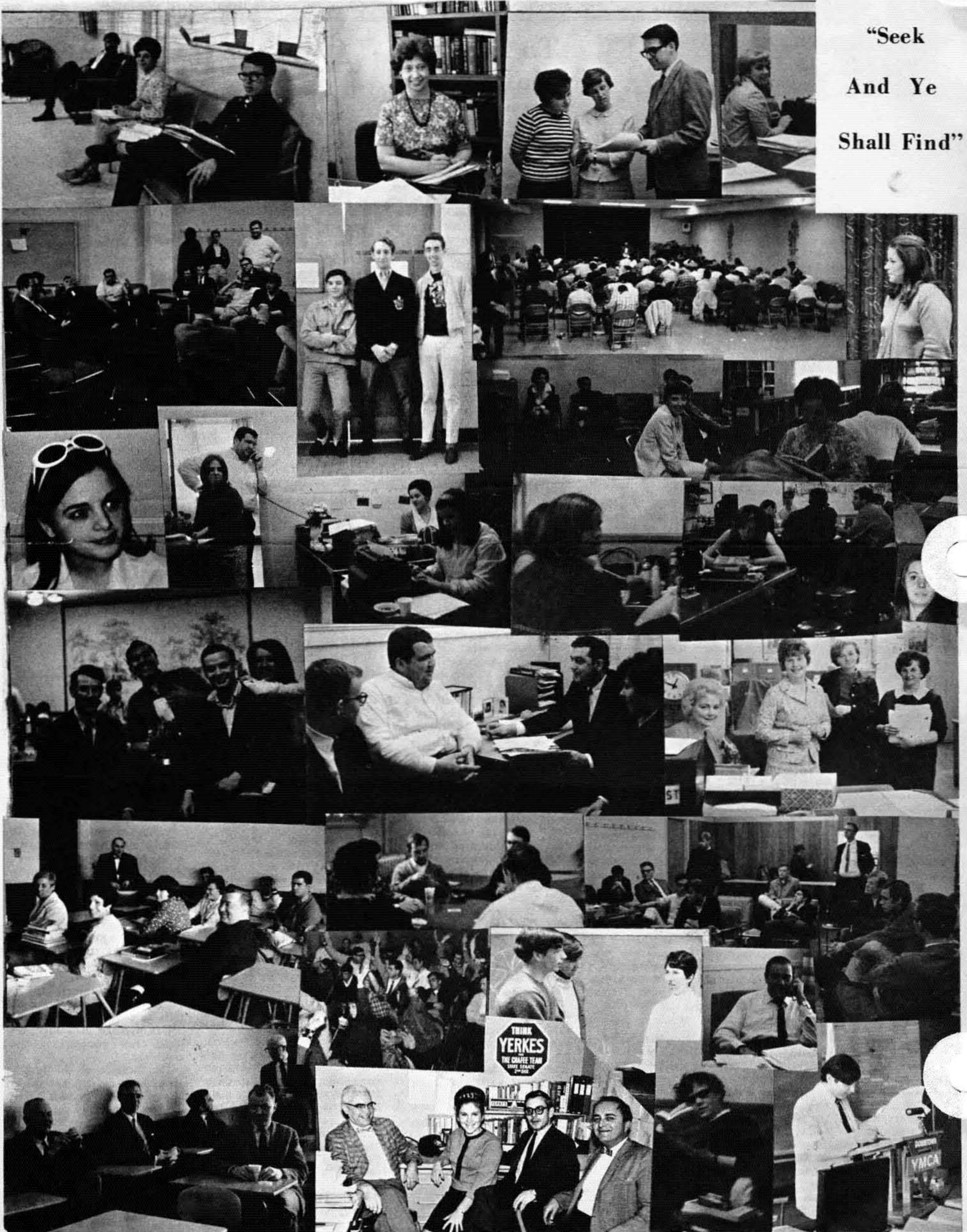
For example, is Vietnam in 1967 the same as Czechoslovakia in 1938? Is it necessary for schools to be standardized? Are state governments archaic and inefficient entities? Does the federal government have the machinery to make enslavement possible? Is prurient interest harmful? Can one possibly live without annual physical check-ups, all kinds of insurance, and guaranteed retirement income? Are abortion and euthanasia morally wrong?

I would love to include an addenda here examining the tyranny of numbers in colleges themselves, but my allotted space is insufficient for the task. And I am certain that you can fill in these blanks for yourselves;

Credit Hours \_\_\_\_\_  
Tuition \_\_\_\_\_  
Years of human history covered in one semester course \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of class meetings/week \_\_\_\_\_

# WILL YOU REMEMBER?

“Seek  
And Ye  
Shall Find”



THINK  
YERKES  
THE CHATTEE TEAM  
1966-67

YMCA