

The Blizzard of 1978 and Student Unrest in the '60s.

INT: Interview with Bill Dickson, on Wednesday, June 1st. And the topics are student unrest in the '60s and the Blizzard of 1978.

WD: Well, I want to add something before I go on to those topics. The last interview we had was on the 18th of May. And it was -- discussion was how code, etc., had changed [from] the time when I came MIT [to] the current day and the much more restrictions from the standpoint of earthquake design, etc. However, I left out one very large element. And that is all the environmental concerns. And so I want to add that before I start today's topics.

INT: Okay.

WD: The environmental concerns really take on several areas of concern; emissions from power plants, disposal of hazardous waste, confinement of oil spills or any material -- petroleum materials. And even the disposal of fill that is dug for a Building foundation and found to be contaminated in the current vernacular.

And so I'll give an example or a couple. When we excavated for the biology Building, probably in the late '80s or early '90s, much of the excavation was classified as hazardous waste. And so there are degrees of hazardous waste, but this was because of ashes, etc., that had been used for fill.

INT: Oh?

WD: And years ago, you would have just dug it all out and went and dumped it somewhere. But in this case, we had to have all the fill tested as it was taken out, which is an expense in itself. And then some of it was found to be okay for general disposal as -- for use as general fill, either at a landfill or where somebody wanted to fill instead of excavate. But a large amount of it was considered hazardous waste. And so for the better part of a year, I would guess, we had an enormous pile of earth stockpiled on the site for two reasons. One, to see if exposure to the air would eliminate some of the so-called hazard, but mainly to find a place to truck it that was able to take material that was classified as this degree of hazardous waste.

So it added considerably to the expense of excavation. And since most of MIT on the river side of the railroad tracks is filled land, that really comes to play on most anything that's constructed.

INT: Yeah, I bet.

WD: So, that's one example. A second is, even though we were going to replace [more] inefficient methods of producing steam and electricity, when we designed the co-generation plant, this -- the rules had changed enough so that we were actually in danger of not being able to get a permit for the plant. And the permit -- the permitting process went on longer than the actual construction of the plant.

INT: Wow.

WD: And we finally, with the help of Professor Janos Beer, we got approval from the state for a low NOx system, which allowed us to proceed with the actual construction of the co-generation plant. Once again, a lot of effort and a lot of money in order to achieve the required emission standard. And, of course, even as we speak, they tend to get more and more restrictive all the time.

Of course, the Institute also has a lot of hazardous waste from leftover chemicals, etc. And it became much more stringent, the disposal of this. And we actually -- not only the disposal, but the storage, so that we had to go into a much bigger storage effort of waste materials and then make arrangements [with a] firm that actually comes and packages and picks up the waste every so often.

INT: Yes.

WD: And trucks it away for legal disposal. I'm not absolutely up on exactly how they dispose it all. I think some things can be [incinerated]. And [inaudible] some things - - I don't know, may have to go through chemical processing. But, again, a [much different] era than when we started this major construction after World War II.

So that I just wanted to fit that in and say that that was another area of actually concern and one that affects us more than some of the others because almost everything we do requires excavation of material or monitoring of emissions, etc. Kind of a place MIT is.

INT: Yes.

WD: Okay.

INT: And you had one question after the last session about whether or not the emergency calls now in the housing system and everything --

WD: Yes.

INT: -- still come into Facilities. And they do. I checked that.

WD: Oh, they do?

INT: And they do still go into an operations center.

WD: Okay.

INT: So, that's cleared up.

WD: I think we'll start with the Blizzard of '78. Massachusetts, as most New England states, are used to snow storms. But this was a significant storm. I think that in many ways we've probably had other storms that approached the overall depth of snow but never a storm that paralyzed the city and the state as this one did. And the main reason, being that not only did it snow significantly, but it snowed very fast so that the duration of the storm, instead of being something like these two-day storms that you sometimes get, all took place in a very short period of time. And so the snow accumulated at a very rapid rate. And -- so rapid that it stranded many motorists on major routes like Route 9 and 128, and -- I don't believe the Mass. Turnpike. I think they managed to keep that relatively open. But with these standard cars and the depths and the inability to plow because of the rate of fall, we ended up -- I think -- on Tuesday morning in a case where the state was at a standstill. Most roads were not plowed. And the governor declared that until further notice, that no one could go out on the roads except for emergency vehicles. So that, if my memory is right, the storm took place -- it started during the day on Monday. And I think wasn't snowing when most people went to work but started shortly thereafter and snowed at such a rapid pace that I believe the Institute had an early closing and most people left in the early to mid afternoon.

INT: Yes.

WD: However, there were some heroes, and of course I was one of them. I decided that since I lived west and the Mass Pike was generally pretty clear, I stayed until five or six o'clock.

INT: Oh?

WD: And then decided it was time to leave. And I don't remember the trip to the Mass Pike. I got there all right. And I got on the pike. And it was in the worst condition I had ever seen it. But I managed to travel the length of the pike to Framingham. However, when I got off in Framingham, I had to go for a short distance on Route 9, which was basically [impassible]. And then down some back streets to my house. And, after many attempts and many times getting stuck, I finally did manage to get home.

INT: So that was an era before all these utility vehicles and all-wheel drive. Right?

WD: Yes.

INT: Yeah, that was [inaudible] old car.

WD: So I did get home rather late on Monday night. And, as I said, it snowed all night but, if I remember again, it was pretty well stopped by the next morning. It depended on where you lived, there might have been thirty or forty inches of snow.

INT: Yeah.

WD: And, as I said, all the highways were unplowed and tied up because of standard vehicles. And one of the first things was to get to some of the standard vehicles to get people out of them [that] had spent the night in their vehicle. And it was in February. It was cold. It was quite an enterprise.

And, as I said, the Governor declared that until further notice, no one could travel on the streets. Now, it's sort of funny, out here in Framingham, where I live, I lived down a long private driveway with four or five other houses on it. And I'm at the end. And we all had the same snowplow. It's private, so it's not town plowed.

INT: Yes.

WD: And we had the same plower, whose main business was Building golf courses. And he had big equipment. And so down in my [?], on early Tuesday morning, came this enormous front-end loader that was much taller than my house. And this whole private drive and my yard, by eleven or twelve o'clock, [was] completely devoid of snow.

INT: Wow.

WD: And it was quite a sight. Now, it didn't do you much good, because when you got down to the end of the private drive, you went around to a public street. And that

hadn't seen the semblance of a plow and I don't think did for a couple of days. People started a different kind of living. They started walking places, walking to the store. A lot of walking on snowshoes, for those who had them. And [that] was quite interesting. After a couple of days, they did get many of the roads so they were passable. I wouldn't say they were clear. And I decided that it was time that I should go to work. So I called the State Police to see if I could get authority or authorization to go out on the highways. And I told them that I was in charge of the power plant at MIT and that it really had to continue in operation for the welfare of the property and all of the students that were housed in the dormitories. Anyway, I talked a good line. And I got permission to go in to MIT. It was a Wednesday. And everything went okay. I can't remember my route. But obviously wasn't the Mass Pike. And I got to the Watertown/Cambridge line, where the Star Market is, or was, and I couldn't get into Cambridge. No matter what I said, Cambridge wouldn't let me in. So I called the Campus Police. And they came to the Star Market and picked me up and took me into Cambridge, where I stayed until, oh, Saturday night, I think, or perhaps Sunday. And got back to Watertown at the time and claimed my car, which was in the Star Market parking lot. And drove home.

Now, while I was in -- really the only people [at] MIT were the grounds crew and perhaps some limited number of mechanics who probably were held over because you can't have a place with nobody able to fix something that might break that's essential for the operation. But basically, the people that were there were the people operating -- the people operating the power plant, a shift that was on duty and just stayed for the week, and a group of fifty or so grounds people, who had the job of clearing the snow from all of MIT's various lots and driveways and everything else. And they basically worked continuously from Monday through Saturday, with -- they'd get a few hours off to get a nap and -- in an area that was set up with cots. But no eight hours on and sixteen hours off. No sixteen hours on and eight hours off. They might work for twelve hours and then get three or four hours off and then go back to work. It started bothering me that these people were working all this time. And eventually they would be able to leave. But it was clear that it probably wouldn't be until around Saturday that they would have had enough achieved so they

could basically get out of there and school could get back in session on Monday. I should say, school was out for the whole week, as it was in almost every place in the state. I thought that since the grounds people had worked so hard and gone payless for so long, they had missed their payday, that it would be nice if I could pay them something, so that when they got home finally, their families and they could at least get to the store and buy something -- groceries or something. And so I started a crusade late on Wednesday to find cash. And I called -- where would you -- you know, where would you call if you wanted cash? I called the comptroller, who was at home, Phil Keohane -- and of course, a very, very dedicated MIT person. And he said, Bill, I don't know what to tell you. I don't -- we don't store that kind of cash at the Institute. As you know, we had deliveries both in and out everyday. But we haven't been getting deliveries nor have we been sending any cash out, since none is coming in.

And I said, Well, I don't care how you do it. But I need \$37,500 by Saturday morning.

And I haven't asked, to this day, how it happened. But somehow, before Saturday morning came around, I had \$37,500 in my desk drawer.

INT: In cash?

WD: In cash.

INT: Wow.

WD: So, they did leave on Saturday. And before they left, I had every -- [inaudible]

INT: Do you want me to shut it off?

[Note: The interviewee appears to be choked up at this point.]

WD: No.

INT: Okay.

WD: -- every one of them to my office. And thanked them for a job [well done]. And paid them all.

INT: Wow.

WD: One by one. And I [think the rest of the] time -- but I stayed at MIT, the grounds crew is probably the loyalist crew that I had. [Although] I have to say, most people were [sorry, I don't know why it's this way --]

INT: That's all right.

WD: But it's [just] --

INT: A great group of people.

WD: Yes.

INT: How many were there?

WD: Oh, forty or fifty.

INT: Wow.

WD: And -- now some of the [inaudible] strange things that happened during the storm, as we were able to navigate around the campus a little bit, I went for a ride with -- I think it was Larry Piccard and Bill McRichie -- and we went down to the corner of Albany Street -- I'm sorry -- [inaudible] -- not [inaudible] either -- Audrey Street and Memorial Drive. We had plowed Audrey Street. And Memorial Drive was being plowed for the first time.

INT: Huh?

WD: And the piece of equipment was National Guard equipment. There was, again, a tremendous front-end loader. And it had passed just before us, before we had got to -- coming down, going west on Memorial Drive. The front-end loader actually picked up a car --

INT: Oh, my God.

WD: And dumped it into the side of the road. -- not knowing it was there. It was just buried under the drift. And I thought that very unusual until years later I talked to Paul Grey who told me the very same thing happened in front of the president's house. And it may have been the same loader.

INT: Oh, my God.

WD: On the same day. I don't know.

INT: Yeah. That was -- that was one of the questions I had. Back then, was most of the snow removal by [people] shoveling or by snowplow or Bobcat? I mean, now they have much bigger equipment. But back then --

WD: Well, we had our -- some of our parking lots were plowed -- plowed by people that had relatively large equipment.

INT: Okay.

WD: Not this gigantic stuff.

INT: Okay.

WD: But it just took them a long time. And most of the walks and stuff were shoveled.

INT: Yeah. That's amazing.

WD: Yeah. That's one reason why it took a week.

INT: Right. I mean, that's -- that's amazing.

WD: We had snowplows for some of our equipment.

INT: Okay.

WD: And I'm not sure -- we may have even had a sidewalk plow at the time, a little Bobcat. But you couldn't move much with those pieces of equipment.

In any case, over the weekend, the approval was given to once again use the Massachusetts highways. And it was still very congested and the roads weren't in the best of shape. So MIT decided to [run] a bus from Wellesley, where a lot of people lived, or in that area, and/or to the further west, where they could come and have a shorter drive to Wellesley -- and -- from the Congregational Church, at the intersection of Route 9 and 16. And we had a bus master, who was Howard Miller. And the buses went from there to the Sloane parking lot, where people were discharged and then they went by foot to where else -- wherever they worked on campus. And we had the same thing on the return. People would return to the Sloane parking lot by a set time, probably five-thirty or something. And then the bus would take them back.

INT: Now, this was the following Monday?

WD: This was the following Monday.

INT: Did people have to come in that way?

WD: I don't believe so.

INT: So if you wanted to drive, you could?

WD: I believe so.

INT: Okay.

WD: Except the --

INT: Right.

WD: The parking lots were still in need of a lot of work.

INT: And public transportation was up and running by then, right?

WD: Public transportation --

INT: Yeah.

WD: Was running.

INT: Wow. And school was in session?

WD: School went back in session. In most places, the next Monday, including the Institute.

INT: That must have been right after the [term] started, right.

WD: Yes.

INT: Wasn't it right after --

WD: Yes. I can't remember whether the term had started.

INT: Huh?

WD: I can't remember whether twenty-seven years ago, whether we had this IAP or not.

INT: Oh, okay.

WD: If we didn't, the term would have started shortly after New Year.

INT: Right.

WD: And we would have been in the third or fourth week. That, I don't remember.

INT: Okay.

WD: So, that's something you might check.

INT: Okay.

WD: So, that we can get on the books with the right answer to that question.

INT: Okay.

WD: The bus ran, I think, for two days. It didn't run for a long time. But Dr. Grey once told me that after we did that he was deluged with requests for the Institute to run a permanent bus service.

INT: No kidding? Really?

WD: From Wellesley to the Institute.

INT: Wasn't there one, sort of, in the north, [?] the 93 direction.

WD: That I don't know.

INT: Because I thought I remember [Jane] Griffin said that she drove to some place, like, Medford.

WD: It's possible.

INT: To, like, a shopping center parking lot. And the north people got on a bus.

WD: I don't know. You might check that, too.

INT: Yeah.

WD: Now, the only other thing I have to say about the snowstorm was -- it was one of the more amusing things -- Professor Dertouzos, God rest his soul, was scheduled to go somewhere, either the day after the storm or -- I think it probably was on the Tuesday. Of course, none of the planes were flying because Logan Airport was tied up for a long time. But I think there still was limited train service from Boston, [like], to New York and Washington. But how did you get there? [And he lived] in one of the suburbs, I'm not sure which. Well, Mike decided to call an ambulance.

INT: No, really?

WD: And he did call an ambulance. And they came. And they got him. And they took him to the train station.

INT: Oh, my God.

WD: Now, I don't believe that when he called them he said that he wanted to go to the train station. I think that was probably [a thought] after they had picked him up and he got partway into Boston. Anyway, it worked. He got a train. And --

INT: [Inaudible]

WD: It would only be someone like Mike Dertouzos who would think of something like that. Unless you have any questions, I think that's probably all there is to say about the storm.

INT: No.

WD: It snowed a lot.

INT: Yeah. Quite a time. Quite a time.

WD: Now, student unrest. I'm going to talk about three or four episodes.

INT: Okay.

WD: I -- I can't go into every single detail.

INT: Okay.

WD: One, because there were many. And two, because I don't remember them all. But I can say, [in] starting, [there are all of] a couple of things happened we wished hadn't.

MIT, for that period of time, which was in the late '60s and maybe 1970, was nowhere near under siege [like many places were. There was a lot of talk, a lot of [?] rhetoric, a lot of marching, a lot of chanting, but not much destruction. I can't say the same for our associates from Harvard, where everything seemed to center around Harvard Square. And, of course, Harvard is right in the middle of Harvard Square.

INT: Yes.

WD: So I think the first thing that I recall was that we had an AWOL military person, soldier. And I think he was not a deserter at the time. I think he was AWOL. But anyway, he didn't want to go back into the service. And a student group decided to grant him asylum on the top floor of the Student Center, which was a library at the time -- or a reading room. And so -- it really took [it off the ?] as a reading room. And from that point of view, was detrimental [to some] of the students who wished to use it. However, they did shelter this guy for several days. And the Institute was reluctant to [?] siege of the top floor. And so we kept open a dialog. It seems to me that one of the principle dialoguees was Walter Rosenblith. And eventually, I'm not sure how it ended -- but it ended peacefully. And they marched out. And I don't know what happened to the guy that they were protecting. But -- and that was called the Sanctuary. And I think that was the first --

INT: How did he end up at MIT? [Did he] just happen here?

WD: Well --

INT: [Did he know] somebody?

WD: I don't know the answer to that question.

INT: I never had heard that story.

WD: So, that -- then, as I said, there was a lot of marching and chanting. One of the phrases was, "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh, the NLF are gonna win. Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh, the NLF are gonna win." And the marches generally took place around noontime. And they would pick a spot on campus to assemble, maybe down by a dormitory or something else. And they'd march up through the -- past the Student Center, across Mass Ave, into lobby 7 and then always to the second floor, where they would go in front of the president's office and continue until they went down the stairs, and either elsewhere on campus or stopped.

My job, during these times, I was director of Physical Plant then -- my job was to -- when we heard one of these were taking place -- and they were well announced, so it wasn't as if you had to have your ear to the ground -- was to assemble staff people and line the corridors in front of the president's office and other executive offices, just to avoid temptation on the part of the marchers to [somehow] stop [and break into] one of those offices. And so we did it several times. I remember I was very popular because I would interrupt no matter what they were doing and tell them to be at the president's office in ten minutes.

INT: [Oh, God].

WD: And, as I said, that was generally a -- say a tactic that worked. And we didn't have any real trouble. We were always, of course -- I was always afraid that someone -- one of the staff people would become agitated and want to take on some of the student marchers.

INT: Yeah.

WD: However, it never happened. People behaved themselves very well. However, one day, when we didn't have any announcement of a march -- and I think there [wasn't a march], a couple of kids were hard at work down at Tom [Eagan's] welding shop in the basement of Building 4. And I don't know whether Tom was there helping them or not. But the device they welded was a battering ram. And they marched up the Building 4 stairs, from basement to second floor, and quickly appeared at the front of the president's office, which then [harbored] the president and the chairman. And using their battering ram, which was quite a nice device, they broke down the door. [Inaudible] the door was locked. And the minute they broke down the door, people appeared from everywhere. And they actually took over.

INT: [The] students [did]?

WD: Students.

INT: Okay.

WD: They actually took over the chairman's office.

INT: Okay.

WD: And they didn't take over the president's office for some reason -- which is now the [inaudible] office. But they took over, I think, the chairman's office. And they -- of course, whoever was there, probably -- Jim Killian was chairman. He left. And --

INT: So, the people working in the office got out?

WD: People -- everybody got out. There was not -- Betty Whitaker got out. And the president got out. I think Betty Whitaker was not the same person for ten years after that.

INT: Yeah.

WD: But in any case, the concern was one that they had taken over the space. This is the first time we had had an actual takeover. And, as it turned out, really the only time, other than the student sanctuary. And there were file cabinets -- a row of them, right inside the door to the office, if I remember. And there was some concern about the people who had gone into the office getting hold of this material. There was something that I don't realize -- don't know today [what it was], but it was relatively important that it remain out of the hands of the students and probably anyone else for that matter. And so as they had long sessions trying to plot how to get this material. And it wasn't a lot. You didn't have to take out a whole file cabinet. You had to know where it was and get it. Jerry Wiesner finally said, Why not just walk in and take it? And people thought he was a little cuckoo. But that was exactly what he did. He walked into the office, all the students were sitting around talking and yelling and everything else. He opened the file drawer, took the material out, turned around, walked back out of the office.

INT: Good for him.

WD: The whole thing was uneventful.

INT: Wow.

WD: Now --

INT: Was he resident then?

WD: No. He was -- Howard Johnson was president. I think he was [provost].

INT: Oh.

WD: And I think he -- he had a way with the students because I think -- although he couldn't say so, I think he sympathized with much of what they were doing.

INT: Right.

WD: So I think they also had some respect for him, and that's probably why he got away with it.

INT: Yeah.

WD: But it shows you, sometimes the best-laid plans are the simple ones.

INT: Lots of guts to go in, too.

WD: Guts to go in. I thought so. I wouldn't want to [do] that.

INT: Yeah.

WD: So, I think they stayed there a couple of days. Lots of discussion. And finally marched out --

INT: On their own?

WD: Yeah. [No] arrests, I believe. Nothing like that. And then, at that time, my job [flipped] changed because I hadn't become director of Physical Plant again. And I was bound and determined that that office would be occupied the next morning by its occupant. And we did a cleaning and construction job overnight that I would tell you today, [if it pays be], it would be impossible. But the next day, Jim Killian occupied the space.

INT: Had they damaged it at all?

WD: They had done a lot of damage -- most of it was superficial. It wasn't -- you wouldn't call it malicious damage. They hadn't totally wrecked anything.

INT: Okay.

WD: So, that was a -- I'm not sure what happened to the guys who used the battering ram. They probably got disciplined -- because it wasn't any secret as to who they were.

Another instance was on Mother's Day [inaudible] '70 or '71, I'm not sure which day -- which year. There was a big discussion in Kresge Auditorium about divesting Draper Lab, which, of course, was [inaudible] in one sense because all their work was classified. And the students [didn't?] want any classified work on campus. So -- [or else] they didn't want a riot. So, my job became, on Mother's Day, to recruit as many staff and other employees at MIT as I could so that we could enforce the fire laws in Kresge and give only the remaining seats to students. And so, I was happy, I'm sure, the talk of the town, about half the mother's of employees who

worked -- or wives of employees who worked at MIT. Because I don't remember how I did it. We probably had something set up like a chain, where one person calls a couple of people and they each call some more.

INT: Yeah.

WD: At any event, we had most of a whole auditorium filled an hour or so it was to start with employees and the employees from the Draper Lab. [Some of] the few students, most of whom had to sit in the upper balcony -- and the [inaudible] uneventful. Some words were spoken, but that's to be expected. And, in any case, I never -- that was the day [of the vote] or what, but Draper did then [divest] with MIT and become [its own] entity.

A thing about the unrest is that it took place at the same time that there was some concerns for apartheid in -- in South Africa. And I could tell you how I know the two overlapped because the Corporation appointed a committee to look at shareholder responsibility. In other words, how should we -- should we hold shares in companies that worked in South Africa, etc.? And Jeff [inaudible] was the first chairperson. He was a Corporation member. And, naturally, I was on the committee. I got on every committee that was ever appointed at MIT where anything bad could come out of it. Every single committee. And, as a matter of fact, before this group disbanded, I was the only member that had served on it for the entire duration of the committee.

INT: [Is that] right?

WD: Yeah.

INT: Wow.

WD: We had people -- Walter -- Walter Milne used to take notes. And --

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

INT: Wednesday, June 1st, tape continuing on about student unrest.

WD: Anyway, we had -- we used to meet in the [inaudible] room. And we were meeting this day -- we always met late. Nobody ever left at five o'clock. And between five-

thirty and six o'clock, every possible siren in Cambridge and Boston was blaring. And I think I said, "Boy, that must be one hell of an accident somewhere." And so, we broke up at six. And Walter and I marched -- marched -- walked down to lobby 7 on the second floor and looked over the balcony. And right before our eyes, there was a pitched battle going on across Massachusetts Avenue and in front of the Student Center. And this was one of the days that the students met at Harvard Square, marched to the Common, picking people up at the time, and then eventually came back. And every other time they had continued to Harvard Square. And some may have. But a lot more decided it was time to stop at MIT. And so there was tear gas being emitted and all sorts of stuff. Some of the students set the lumberyard on fire at [inaudible] Lumber Company.

INT: Wow.

WD: And there was a fairly good battle. Again, I can't [think] -- I don't know how -- how the arrests went or anything. But it was the first, and really only, sort of, pitched battle that took place involving the Cambridge Police and [the] Special Squads and stuff like that. So it was something that I hope we'll never have to look at again.

INT: So they never had any significant injuries or anything from -- I mean, nobody got really hurt or anything?

WD: Not -- not that I know of.

INT: Okay.

WD: I don't believe I can ever --

INT: Well, that's good.

WD: -- I can remember anyone really getting injured. And -- and we tried to use the Cambridge Police as little as possible. Trying to maintain it with the Campus Police, who were a lot more sensitive to [a] student.

INT: [And then] what did you say, too -- MIT has always had, kind of, a liberal attitude about that kind of stuff. I mean --

WD: Well, I --

INT: Giving them a lot of -- I don't mean this in a bad way, but a lot of leeway and --

WD: Well, I'll tell you what it is.

INT: Well, because, you know, in other colleges, they [came down hard] --

WD: Well, [engineers] -- I mean, MIT was still basically an engineering school. And you hardly ever found a student engineer participating heavily.

INT: Oh?

WD: In any of this stuff.

INT: Okay.

WD: You got people that majored in the humanities, which there weren't many. But you got people that majored in the sciences, particularly physics.

INT: Okay.

WD: Mike [Albert] was a particular [thorn] in everyone's side. He was a [inaudible] physics major.

INT: Yeah.

WD: Not sure whether he was a graduate student or a regular undergraduate. So that -- I think that's the reason. [When you're going to have a] Harvard, you have mostly liberal arts people. So, I think that the fact that we had so much of engineering, actually saved us from some of the problems that other people experienced.

INT: But don't you think the administration was tolerant, I mean, fairly tolerant?

WD: Yes.

INT: More so than -- yeah.

WD: Yes.

INT: Okay.

WD: As long as -- as long as [it was talk].

INT: Yeah.

WD: And not destruction.

INT: Okay.

WD: I mean, then you -- you could talk for a long time.

INT: Yeah.

WD: And as long as it maintains a dialog, it's sometimes the best [route].

INT: Yeah.

WD: Another humorous thing was the day that they took over ROTC in Building 20.

[There] was humorous in the end but humorous from my point of view because I was standing over there, in front of Building 20 with Bill [Coombs]. And [Coombs] says,

“You notice that everybody’s looking at us?” These are all the student people that were hanging around outside the building.

INT: Yeah.

WD: They actually took over. They went in and they took the building over. And they so startled one of our Campus Police that he actually fired a shot.

INT: Really?

WD: In the air.

INT: Oh, wow.

WD: To my knowledge, that’s the only time a shot was fired.

INT: Yeah.

WD: Ever while I was at the Institute. I could be wrong. [Inaudible]

INT: Wow.

WD: But then [Coombs] looked at me and I looked at him. And he said, “Could you describe us?” And he said, “We both have blue pants, blue shirts, black shoes. If that isn’t the dress of a cop, I don’t know what is.” So they thought the two of us were undercover policemen.

INT: [Inaudible due to speaking too softly]

WD: So, I’m sure there are many other stories but those are some of the highlights of student unrest.

INT: How long did that go on? A couple of years?

WD: A couple of years -- I would say.

INT: Wow.

WD: So I think that’s what I have to say.

INT: Okay.

[End of interview]