

# AROUND THE

# CORNER

## AND DOWN DOG STREET

BY MELISSA V. PINARD

### STUDENT LIFE IN THE 'BURG

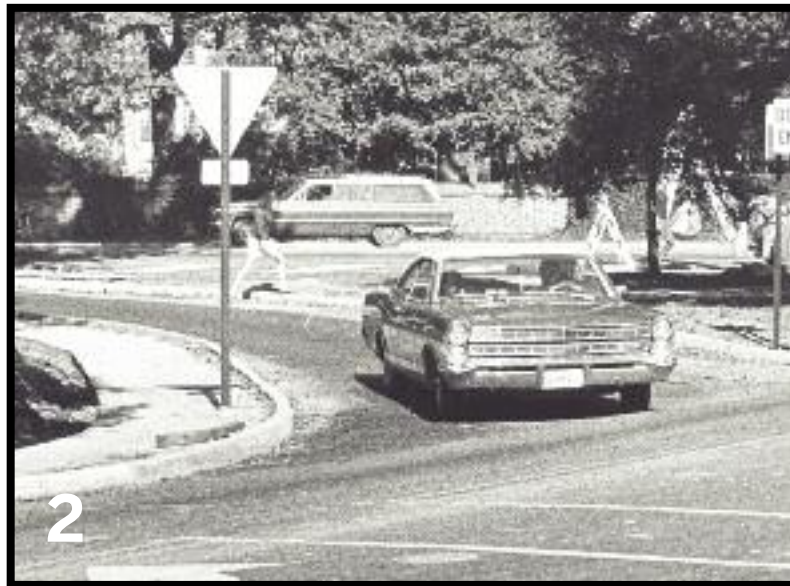
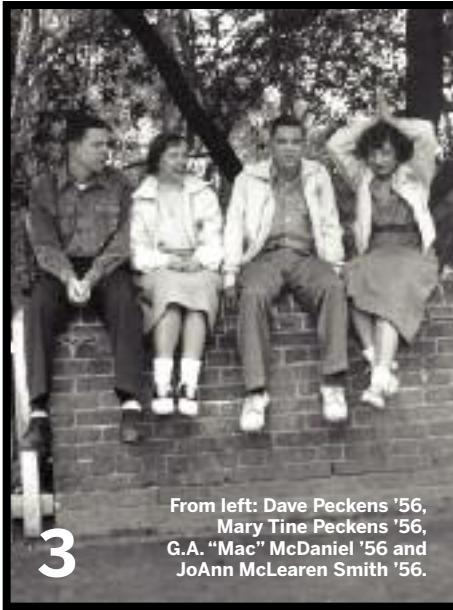
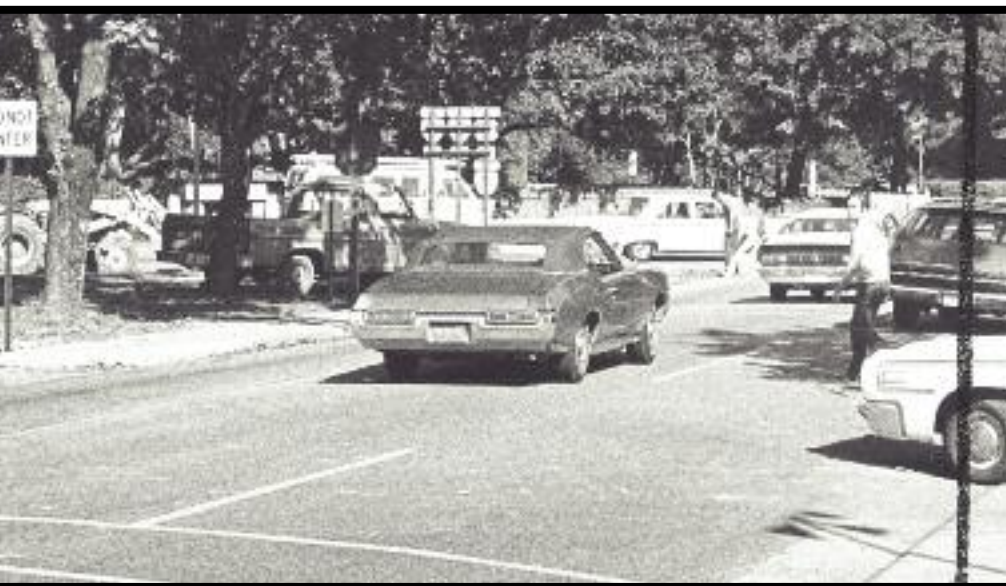


PHOTO 1: BILL GEIGER '77; PHOTOS 2 AND 4:  
COURTESY OF SWEM ARCHIVES; PHOTO 3: WMAA ARCHIVES





From left: Dave Peckens '56,  
Mary Tine Peckens '56,  
G.A. "Mac" McDaniel '56 and  
JoAnn McLearn Smith '56.



**C**onfusion Corner, College Corner, Jockey Corner — confused? I know I am. I also know I will probably get some letters from this article, and I welcome them.

This isn't meant to be an exhaustive list of then-and-now changes to the College and Williamsburg, but a glimpse at the way William and Mary students over the years have interacted with the community they live in. During the Alumni Medallion Ceremony on Feb. 6, Nicholas St. George '60, B.C.L. '65 mentioned "Jockey Corner" in his acceptance speech. This sparked the question from a 1984 alumna: "Where is Jockey Corner?"

Different generations have different names for this infamous corner, where Richmond Road meets Jamestown Road and North Boundary Street at the beginning of Duke of Gloucester Street (**photo 1**). Today it is known as "Confusion Corner," even though it is not the original Confusion Corner. Because of that, you will hear some of the earlier grads refer to it as "College Corner" (**photo 2**).

Anyone who has had to drive through this area has witnessed tourists who have no clue what to do once they get to this intersection. To add to the chaos, people are crossing the road in every which way, so the name is apropos. Interestingly, Confusion Corner used to be at the other end of Colonial Williamsburg, where Lafayette Street meets York, Francis and Page streets. Now, that intersection has traffic lights and doesn't live up to the moniker as well. Perhaps today's Confusion Corner used to be known as College Corner because Jamestown Road was then named College Avenue.



College Corner was also known as Jockey Corner and got its name in the 1950s, when students would sit on the wall and watch young ladies walk by on their way to the post office. In **photo 3**, two ladies from the Class of 1956 decided to stop and pose on the wall with a couple of lucky gentlemen.

“There was no campus post office,” says Will Molineux '56, “so everyone after supper would go downtown to check their mail (**photo 4**). It was one way where students interacted daily with townspeople. It made students feel like part of the community.”

Other fixtures on DoG Street from the 1930s until the 1950s and 1960s were the Williamsburg and Capitol restaurants, better known as the “Corner Greeks” and the “Middle Greeks”

respectively (**photos 8, 9 and 10**). These were the local hangouts for students, where rumor has it one could get a meal in the 1960s for \$1.95. The Williamsburg Drug Company was in the Corner Greek spot from 1978 to 2002, where the Williams-Sonoma store now resides. The Scotland House now occupies the building of the former Middle Greeks.

With the post office now on campus and no Corner Greeks, there are different reasons to go down DoG Street than there used to be — Cheese Shop house dressing and the College bookstore, to name two.

A favorite for over 35 years, the Cheese Shop was originally in the location where the *Virginia Gazette* was housed on Prince George Street, pictured here in 1972 (**photo 5**). In 2004, the

Cheese Shop moved to DoG Street (**photo 7**) and the Blue Talon French restaurant (**photo 6**) became the new inhabitant of the Prince George location. In 2000, Barnes and Noble opened on DoG Street and became home to the College bookstore, while the old location on Jamestown Road was eventually taken over by the Undergraduate Admission office.

Students may not have the Greeks on DoG Street any longer, but they still love the delis on Scotland Street (**photo 11**), which have been around since the 1970s. The Green Leafe, Paul’s Deli and the College Dely are packed on weekend nights with students lined up outside to get in. More students have cars nowadays too, so they are able to drive to High Street or New Town to grab lunch or dinner or go to a movie (**photo 12**).



PHOTO 5: COURTESY OF SWEM ARCHIVES; PHOTOS 6,7 AND 11: BILL GEIGER '77



With the changing face of Colonial Williamsburg and the expansion of the city itself, students today have more options. You probably won't see them hanging out at the wall on Confusion Corner, but locals may see them standing in line at one of their favorite lunch establishments or maybe even at the grocery store, because one thing is for certain — students still have to eat. ■

*If you have any interesting stories about the Greeks or other stomping grounds you would like to share, please send them to [alumni.magazine@wm.edu](mailto:alumni.magazine@wm.edu).*

*To learn more about Williamsburg's rich history, visit the Williamsburg Documentary Project Web site, <http://wdp.blogs.wm.edu/>. The project is run by the American Studies Program at the College, featuring research from American Studies undergraduate students.*

