

# VOICES OF 1968 ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

University of Delaware Library, Museums & Press

## TIMESTAMP DOCUMENTATION

Notes from Shaun Mullen interview

Interview Date: April 19, 2018

Interview Location: One-Button Studio, Morris Library, University of Delaware

Interviewer: John Caldwell

Note taker: Grace Adeneye

### Time H/M/S    Topic/Notes from Interview

11:12            **Introductions**

(0:00:00)

11:13            **Q: Where were you in 1968?**

(0:00:30)

Freshman year, fall of 1965, life in Hockessin with family, cultivation of interest in history. Talked about the changes on campus from "Sunday Dinner" in 1965 (when men were expected to wear a coat and tie) to coed dorms in 1969.

11:15

(0:02:45)

Became editor of *The Review*. Examples of the paper in the context of campus, key people, and operations. "*The Review* 'grew up' because of their coverage of the social issues of the day."

References to working summers at *The News Journal* in Wilmington and bringing those lessons back to *The Review*. Interest in journalism began early, Mullen stated his career by working on his high school newspaper. Delaware had only one journalism course in the English department (E 311), not a full program. Robeson Bailey served as faculty advisor for *The Review*.

11:17

(0:05:04)

Talked about some of the students (many freelance) such as Leo Tammi (photographer) "Living in extraordinary times." References to Vietnam, civil rights, racism, and the climate campus as pertains to politics and race. Mullen also discusses the power dynamics of the University between the conservative Board of Trustees ("Du Ponts or down-state farmers"), administration and some of the faculty (Faculty Senate very conservative) were acting as "parents" for the students.

11:20

(0:07:55)

*The Review* is swept up into women's issues and the "hijack of student government by long-haired radicals" and Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). Talked about George Wolkind. Many students were oblivious to these happenings.

11:23

(0:10:55)

Teach-ins by radical professors, 3 cancelled contracts, sit-in at Hullahen Hall.

11:25

(0:13:00)

SDS members expelled from UD, subscription to SDS, paper's coverage of demonstrations on other campuses (*The Review* used the Collegiate Press Service to run stories (AP for college newspapers).

11:26

(0:14:00)

April 1968 Assassination of Dr. King and the Wilmington Riots. Occupation of National Guard, and publication of Governor Terry political cartoon. Also discusses volatile relationship with the Dean of Students. *The Review* covered what was happening in Wilmington. Everyone was surprised to come back to school in September to find that the National Guard was still in Wilmington. The events in Wilmington were small compared to other cities in 1968, but the reaction was outsized. Reaction from

administration to coverage of Wilmington and meeting with the Dean of Students. Mullen met twice with the Dean of Students, once for an April Fools issue of *The Review* and the second because of the Richard Codor cartoon of Gov. Terry sitting on Wilmington.

- 11:29  
(0:17:20) **Q: How did you run the newsroom?** Makeup of *The Review*, examples of stories, proactive journalistic investigation. Mullen did not know how run a newsroom at first, took lessons from working at the *News Journal* to make changes at *The Review*. A lot of stories were very passive. When Shaun was editor, staff became more proactive in tracking down and covering stories on campus.
- 11:32  
(0:19:45) **Q: How large of a staff?** Discussed specifics of size (15-20 “hard core”), and printing process in Elkton at the *Cecil Whig* (local paper based in Elkton, MD)
- 11:33  
(0:21:00) **Q: How often did *The Review* come out? Were you the only paper in town, or were there others?** Information on *The News Journal* (a looming presence in the area with benign campus coverage) and *Newark Post* (weekly paper, only printed non-controversial stories), history of the *News Journal* and 60s culture of newspaper reading. *The Review* tried to cover a lot of things that were not being covered by a lot of other papers in the area. Talked about where to find *The Review* around Newark.
- 11:38  
(0:24:45) *The Heterodoxical Voice (THV)*: Paper’s “mission of bringing the war home,” exposing American imperialism, idealism, political views, radicalization. The staff of *The Review* and *THV* were friends, but there was not a lot of overlap in staff or in coverage. *THV* had an overt political agenda that *The Review* did not. *THV* also ran poetry and more literary works, which *The Review* did not.
- 11:41  
(0:28:35) **Q: From your time, what stories are you most proud of?** Discussion of takeover of student government, and the antipathy of the Faculty Senate to intellectual/academic freedom. Discussion of journalistic quality of *The Review*.
- 11:43  
(0:30:45) **Q: How did you get into journalism?** Discussion of working on middle school newspaper, followed by his growing interest by working for his high school paper, the *John Dickinson Penman*. Between his junior and senior year at UD, Mullen was accepted to Northwestern University’s Summer Journalism Institute (2 students from each state were accepted). His experiences there impacted his way of running *The Review* and helped form his philosophy of journalism as “a way to give back.”
- 11:46  
(0:33:45) **Q: Any thoughts or memories?** Discussed sharing apartment on Main Street with two *Review* staffers Eric Smith (Managing Editor) and Tom Davies (Writer). Smith and Davies went to work in New Hampshire for Eugene McCarthy’s presidential campaign. They sent back stories for *The Review*.
- 11:47  
(0:35:35) Mullen interviewed Eugene McCarthy in the spring of 1968 after his primary win in NH when he came to Delaware.
- 11:48  
(0:36:10) Biggest lesson from 1968: “When we were young, we thought we could change the world. We didn’t... When it was our turn to run the world, we screwed it up worse.”
- 0:36:35 End of Interview**