

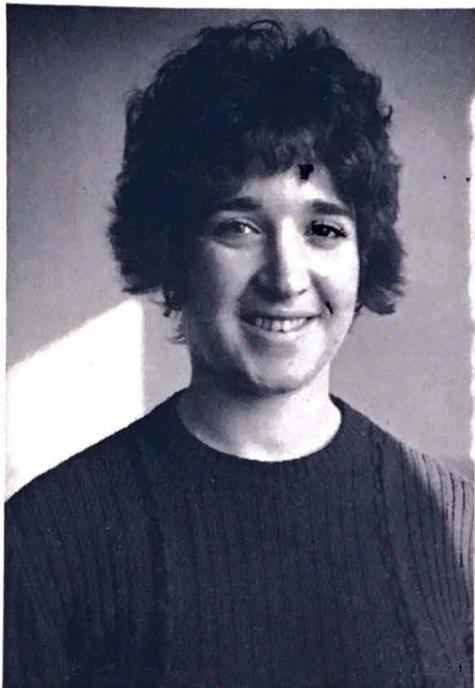
THIS PAST semester at Williams has been such a very exciting experience. I applied last spring not really planning to transfer — I didn't even try the Yale route — but these months in Williamstown would have made it very difficult to return to South Hadley.

I found fine people here, stimulating academics and a beautiful part of the country — all cliches which when they become actualized become very pleasantly livable. I like the atmosphere at Williams, students here tend to be natural. They are so much less self-consciously hung up than at many other schools.

Although most girls enter the exchange program to be in a co-ed situation, this really isn't coeducation, simply because there are so few girls here. But at the same time we are helping make it possible for others. I feel as if we're in the vanguard of a significant movement in American education — it's almost like an adventure.



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UNLIMITED opportunity and diversity are the characteristics of a Williams College education which prompted my application to the first coeducational graduating class. When I came to Williams as a participant in the exchange program in the spring of 1969 I was first struck by the number and variety of lectures, films and programs offered continuously in addition to the regular course offerings. My increasing participation in these activities throughout the spring and again this fall as a special student revealed a new side of the college experience I knew I never wanted to leave behind.

I'm not sure which is the cause and which the effect, but my impression of the student body has also been that of diversity. Here I found that people were accepted and respected for their individuality rather than ostracized for a lack of conformity. The combination of this attitude with the extra-curricular opportunities lend the exciting quality to the atmosphere of the College.

Of particular interest to me were the opportunities for laboratory and research work in biology and psychology. I was interested in doing a project related to the "Coke baby" problem. A Coke baby is one whose mother either drank large quantities of Coca-Cola during pregnancy or who was actually fed Coca-Cola during infancy. Dr. Grant, chairman of the biology department, was very encouraging and arranged for me to work with Dr. Vankin. With the help of both Dr. Vankin and Dr. Tarpay of the psychology department I have become involved in a very satisfying project studying the effects of caffeine on mice.

To me, the particular opportunity is not at all unusual on the Williams campus, although I would not have believed it possible two years ago. The attitude I have developed during my year at Williams has led to my conclusion that at Williams anything is possible.

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MY ATTACHMENT to Williams is necessarily influenced by a romantic appreciation of its uniqueness. I find that Williams is more than an exciting and oftentimes intense academic center, though that is certainly basic. Beyond that, however, I sense what might be called a "spirit." Part of it is the relaxed personal atmosphere in which one feels part of a community, rather than a stranger in an amalgamation of unfamiliar faces. Part of it is the combination of a proud history with a willingness to take new risks, such as accepting women.

It is as impossible to define adequately the Williams spirit as it is to describe why I wanted to be a permanent part of it. It is, I suppose, best represented by such individual vignettes of Williams life as the marching band invading the barber shop during football season; or the kite-flying competitions; or the county sheriff being enrolled as a student; or the female coxswain on a 166-year-long all-male crew; or an ostentatious canine representative sharing the platform with Ted Kennedy at the graduation exercises.

It is because I am infected with the spirit here that I wished to graduate from Williams. The fact that I was fortunate enough to be able to stay allows me to be a participant (in fact, an alumna-to-be!) rather than a visitor; moreover, an inside rather than an outside admirer.