

Secretary of Defense Cheney recognized for political achievement



By Marty C. Padilla
Alumnews Editor

His enthusiasm for the political arena began in 1965 as a young intern for the Wyoming Legislature. His work that year would be the benchmark for a career in politics that has now placed him in the top slot at the Pentagon, following a decade of service to the people of Wyoming as their lone congressman. For 1989 Distinguished Alumnus, Richard B. Cheney, BA '65, MA '66, heading one of the United States government's largest and most complex departments is yet another challenge in a most distinguishing political career.

Cheney was older than the average student when he came to the University of Wyoming in the fall of 1963, having already attended Yale for two years and worked for a time following that.

He holds fond memories of sharing a one bedroom apartment with his Casper, Wyoming, high school friend, Joe Myer, now the state's attorney general. Cheney also recalled another unique friendship he formed during his days at UW with David Nicholas, who was attending law school at the time. Nicholas was recently appointed as Cheney's advisor to NATO, in Belgium.

This was the early '60s, there was relative prosperity in the

country at-large. "Living was cheap by current standards," Cheney said. His share of the rent was \$22.50 a month.

Cheney recalled the first fall he spent in Laramie and a visit to campus by then President Kennedy, a few months prior to his assassination in Dallas. He noted that his political career was to develop as a direct result of his experiences at the University. He would eventually earn a bachelor's and a master's in political science.

"There were some good professors who took a personal interest in me," he said. Cheney specifically noted John Vloyantes, who taught foreign policy and international relations. Cheney recalled that during a particular semester he read Winston Churchill's six volume history of World War II, and following discussions on the reading with Vloyantes, his interest in politics would be stimulated for decades to come.

Ralph Wade, another instructor Cheney credits as having had a good deal of influence upon his education, taught public administration. He persuaded Cheney to sign on as an intern in the Wyoming State Legislature in January 1965, the job that started it all for the nation's defense chief. Former Wyoming Governor Stan Hathaway, then Republican party chairman, also encouraged the young Cheney to enter the realm of politics.

Following a successful internship, Cheney wrote a paper that earned him a national prize. Wade immediately came to Cheney with an application for an internship sponsored by the National Center for Education in Politics. He encouraged him to vie for one of the slots, saying no one from Wyoming had ever received admittance to the program. Cheney was selected to intern on the staff of former Wisconsin Gov. Warren Knowles. The internship was for six months, Cheney stayed on with the governor for more than a year, while completing the course work for his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin.

In the fall of 1968, Cheney was selected for a fellowship to work on Capitol Hill as an aide to the late U.S. Rep. William Steiger, R-Wis.

Following that assignment, he began association with an Illinois congressman named Donald

Rumsfeld, who would later join the Nixon administration and take Cheney with him as a special assistant.

Cheney was given the opportunity to work in the Nixon White House, at the Cost of Living Council on wage and price controls and with the Office of Economic Opportunity and its war on poverty. He left government following the 1972 presidential election and entered private business for a year and a half. When Gerald Ford became president he appointed Rumsfeld to the Chief of Staff slot. Rumsfeld sought out Cheney to become his deputy. One short year later Ford promoted Rumsfeld to the Secretary of Defense post and moved Cheney up to the top slot as Chief of Staff at the age of 34. Ford said of Cheney in a letter of nomination, "he was one of my most trusted, constructive and effective presidential advisors."

In November 1978, Cheney was elected Wyoming's congressman, serving 10 years and rising in the leadership to become the Republican Whip, the number two post, prior to his appointment as Secretary of Defense in March 1989.

"Being Wyoming's congressman for so many years was a special privilege. Every congressman will tell you that his district is absolutely unique, mine really was. The thing I came away with is a sense of privilege in getting to know the state, its people in every community and all of the people that I worked with on my campaigns over the

years. The relationship I formed with Al Simpson and Malcolm Wallop, you know you grow very close when the three of you represent the exact same state and people in it, and work on a common set of problems for a decade." Some notable legislative accomplishments Cheney recalled during his tenure in Congress were the passage of the Wyoming Wilderness Act in 1984, authorizing the improvements on the Buffalo Bill Dam in Cody and rebuilding Jackson Lake Dam, in Teton County -- "a whole raft of those kinds of issues that I worked on over the years that are important to the state -- I'd like to think I've improved conditions and dealt with the problems of the state," he said. "I could spend a lifetime writing and thinking about those ten years."

Cheney said he relished the thought of eventually completing his political career in the U.S. House of Representatives and was not seeking a post in the Bush administration. When the Tower nomination fell through, Cheney was called to the White House by Chief of Staff John Sununu and National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft, to "think about the job basically," he said. That evening was one of soul searching for Cheney. "It was a very tough call, because of my love for Wyoming and the satisfaction of being Wyoming's congressman," he said. Discussions were taking place in the Cheney family and he recalled having a long phone conversation with his close friend, Secretary of
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Wyograms



By Toni Cervenka
Alumnews Editorial Assistant

Editor's Note: Following is a key for the degree abbreviations which you read each month in the Wyograms.

KEY FOR DEGREE ABBREVIATIONS

BA	Bachelor of Arts	MBA	Master of Business Administration
BFA	Bachelor of Fine Arts	MED	Master of Education
BM	Bachelor of Music	MFA	Master of Fine Arts
BS	Bachelor of Science	MM	Master of Music
BSW	Bachelor of Social Work	MP	Master of Planning
BTD	Bachelor of Theatre and Dance	MPA	Master of Public Administration
EDD	Doctor of Education	MS	Master of Science
EDS	Education Specialist	ND	Normal Degree
EX	Expected Graduation Date	PED	Professional Diploma in Education
JD	Juris Doctorate	PHD	Doctorate Degree
MA	Master of Arts	SD	Secretarial Degree
MAT	Master of Arts in Teaching		

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Wyograms

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1920s

JAMES H. KNIGHTS, BS '29, has been retired for 24 years and celebrated his 83rd birthday in Copala, Mexico, on Jan. 16, 1989. He and his wife, Vera, celebrated their eighth anniversary in Telluride, Colo. on May 18, 1989.

ZEVA LOIS SMITH, BA '25, is retired and living in San Francisco, Calif.

Spider silk: steel strong and nylon soft

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"The expertise will be here, we might as well keep it at home," says Randy Lewis, professor of molecular biology and department head. He adds that hiring UW students who already have experience with the project will save time and money when training begins.

Training for what, you ask? Why, the manufacture of spider-clothes, so to speak. Yes, clothing may someday be made of the same substances found in the common cobweb. Spiders produce a supple fiber that is just as soft as that produced by silk worms and since the fabric will be created by bacteria, it will probably prove to be more economical. Hospitals can use medical sutures made of spider silk rather than nylon because the silk will not slacken even when it is wet, providing a more secure closure to open wounds.

John Flowers, a marketing consultant for Protein Polymers Technologies, Inc., in San Diego, says that other marketing applications are impossible to predict since the research is still in its early stages.

"We have to know how the silk protein is generated before we can make any kind of speculation," Flowers says.

He adds, however, "(UW) is one of the foremost groups in the country.... in the world, for that matter, that is undertaking this difficult task."

UW, in conjunction with a grant

from the Office of Naval Research, will continue to investigate economical ways of mass-producing large quantities of spider silk. The Navy, which began funding the research in 1986, recently extended the grant to 1992 and probably will purchase any resulting data. Lewis says that the Navy has "foreseen a use for bio-materials in the future....possibly militarily."

Military personnel speculate that the Navy may be interested in such a unique substance for a number of reasons. Aircraft carriers could use the silk in both catch cords and catch nets for landing planes on-deck, and planes and submarines could be lined with the silk to prevent detection by radar and sonar. ✎

Alumni Board Director named

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Weston County



Douglas B. Hughes - BS '74, of Newcastle, graduated with honors in zoology from UW; he went on to

the University of Oregon Dental School and graduated in 1979. While at Wyoming, Hughes was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Epsilon Delta and played intramural basketball. He has served as Troop 66 Boy Scouts of America - Troop Committee Board Member from 1981-1988. He also served a term as president of the Troop Committee in 1985-1986. He is a member of the United Methodist Church, the Northeast District Dental Society, American Dental Association and the Newcastle Cambria Lions Club, serving as president in 1983-84. He and his wife Virginia Petersen Hughes have two children Kyle and Jordan. ✎

DA Cheney recounts defense job acceptance

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State Jim Baker. Cheney has known Baker and Scrowcroft many years since the Ford Administration.

"I think that when the President of the United States asks you to take on a major responsibility such as being Secretary of Defense, you have an obligation to give it very serious consideration. It is obviously a fascinating assignment, one of the more interesting jobs in the country," Cheney said.

Later the next day he meet with President Bush in the family quarters of the White House to discuss the job at length. Cheney's name

was not figuring in the press speculations at this time as to whom would succeed Tower, so the meeting was kept very confidential, with Cheney entering the White House through a side entrance. Moments after he returned to his office on Capitol Hill, "the phone rang. It was the president; he formally offered me the job and I formally accepted," he said.

"My education at the University was first rate -- the opportunities I was given to advance both my academic and political interests and my participation in internships

provided me the skills I would need later in my political career," Cheney said.

"UW reflects the state to a large extent. It crops up several times in your life even after you leave with your degree well in hand. Some other important things come to mind when I think of UW. While I was there I got married," he said. Cheney married high school sweetheart Lynne Vincent, also of Casper, who now serves as chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Cheney's have two daughters. ✎