

Lynch speaks on Beaverbrook

BY JOEY KILFOIL
Brunswickan Staff

Graduates at UNB's 27th fall convocation Saturday got to know a little about the late Lord Beaverbrook as convocation speaker Mary Louise Lynch, former legal advisor and confidante to Lord Beaverbrook, reminisced about her days with the benefactor that was so kind to Fredericton and UNB.

"When Dr. Downey asked me if I would give the convocation address I hesitated for a moment and reminded him that while I had made very many speeches from Newfoundland to British Columbia during my 15 years as a member of the National Parole Board, prisoners and parole would not be suitable subjects for this type of audience," said Miss Lynch. A lawyer with a Q.C., Miss Lynch received an honorary doctor of civil law at Saturday's ceremonies.

Explaining the origin of the Beaverbrook scholarships, Miss Lynch said they were suggested to Lord Beaverbrook by the late Dr. Murray MacLaren, a UNB graduate and former Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick. From this time on, UNB had an interested and very generous benefactor in Lord Beaverbrook, said Miss Lynch.

Without these generous scholarships it would have been impossible for these young people to have had the advantage of going to university and thus changing the course of their lives," she said, referring to the fact then that many Beaverbrook scholarships were given to bright and talented young people from low-income families.

It was during a visit by Lord and Lady Beaverbrook to UNB in the twenties that Lady Beaverbrook first showed a great interest in building a men's residence on campus. Lady Beaverbrook, said Miss Lynch, intended the building to be "perfect in every way from the attractive rooms, including several suites, to the spacious lounge and dining hall, complete with minstrel gallery." Sadly, Lady Beaverbrook died before the building was completed.

Miss Lynch recalled an occasion when she received a late night telephone call from Lord Beaverbrook, who was perturbed about the lack of knowledge of Latin on the part of many UNB students, some of them Beaverbrook scholars. He was so angry that he actually considered dropping the scholarships, whereupon Miss

Lynch reminded him that right or wrong, Latin had ceased to be a compulsory subject in the Arts course.

Explaining how Fredericton's Beaverbrook Art Gallery came to be, Miss Lynch talked about the building of the town hall and theatre in Newcastle, the decorating of which she was supervising. She found out that Lord Beaverbrook wanted to hang a full-length portrait of Bonar Law, the only native Canadian to become Prime Minister of Great Britain. Miss Lynch described him as a "homely, sad-looking" man, and refused to let the portrait be hung.

"I heard no more about Bonar Law until a few weeks later when Lord Beaverbrook announced at a large dinner party given by him that he was building an art gallery in Fredericton. Hugh John Fleming was then premier of N.B. and rose to thank him for this magnificent gift. Much to my surprise and embarrassment Lord Beaverbrook replied "don't thank me--thank my strong-minded lawyer. She wouldn't let me hang Bonar

Law in the town hall in Newcastle so I have to build a gallery to put him in!"

Speaking briefly on the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, Miss Lynch said they didn't have one

in 1954, when she was on the UNB Senate. The president, she said, just told the premier

the amount required and he got it. Today, she said, "the federal government feels it



should get more credit for its participation and the present

arrangement is being threatened with cutbacks."

"This would result in a very serious situation for our universities and must be resisted strongly by the provinces," said Miss Lynch.

Miss Lynch directed her concluding remarks at the graduates.

"You young people are living in a most exciting period in the history of our great country. We have no idea what great

discoveries lie before us in the decades ahead. Many of you will contribute to this expansion in medicine, science,

technology and the development of our tremendous resources. It is a momentous challenge--don't fumble the ball."

Convocation

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"Over the years, Madame Robichaud's life has become more and more public, and yet she preserves in it a personal and individual touch that most of us would find impossible."

"To help us recognize that people are what life is all about; something that Madame Robichaud has never forgotten," said Prof. MacGill.

Speaking of Miss Lynch, Prof. MacGill said she is a woman who believes that if something is worth doing, it is worth doing again and again.

"Most people, in pursuing a career, move from position to position as they climb the ladder of ambition, with little thought for the unfinished work and uncompleted projects they leave behind them

on the lower rungs. It is Miss Lynch's willingness to do things again and again that demonstrates the sense of continuity, the sense that a job must be carried to completion, that she shares with Madame Robichaud."

"Mary Louise Lynch, by her willingness to serve again and again . . . has demonstrated an ongoing concern. And it is this quality that we honor today," said Prof. MacGill.

Miss Lynch served on the National Parole Board from 1960 until 1975. She was Lord Beaverbrook's confidante and legal advisor from 1948 until

1960, and assisted him in his many good works in New Brunswick and UNB.

Malaysian focus

By B.K. LOW

In view of the growing interest in social developments within and outside our country, there will be a meeting (more like a gathering) this Saturday (24th October) at 2 p.m. in Room 26 SUB. A variety of programs will be discussed and initiated. New suggestions and comments are most welcome. For more information, please call 455-1777.

Movie "The Great Justice" will be shown tomorrow at 7 p.m. Tilley 102. Admission \$1.75 member, \$2.50 non-member.

Closing date for the MSS badminton-chess tournaments will be 23rd October. Please phone to Jimmy Ool for registration.

TO MY FELLOW MALAYSIANS JUST MAKING A POINT

I would like to make the best use of this chance in the MALAYSIAN FOCUS to make a point. And I have been wondering what I should write - maybe the beauty of States that I admire, or maybe my enjoyment of the tranquil but solemn English style countryside, and how beautiful and enchanting it is in West Scotland and Wales, or maybe my experience as an overseas student in United Kingdom and Canada (sometimes getting the brunt of discrimination and at times enjoying the fruits of internationalism). Or maybe I should complain about the uncertain British weather and what a drag it is to extricate oneself from the warmth and comfort of the bed only to be met by a cold and greyish weather outside. At times I have forgotten what it is like to have the sun blazing right over my head and how humidity plays hell with my skin.

These are the memories I shall cherish and the moments of joy and frustrations will be endearments to me when I finally depart from the precincts of the University but to dwell on it does not warrant my article to be publicized in this MALAYSIAN FOCUS. However, more important issue is EDUCATION. From personal observation, I would like to express my opinion. The idea of a university education is to give a man a clear and conscious view of his own opinions and judgement, a truth in developing them, and freely expressing them, and a force in urging them. It teaches him to see things as it is and to distinguish what is relevant and what is not.

Therefore how many of us can claim to be educated in the broadest sense of the word or at least try to educate oneself while we are here in the University. How much have we benefitted from the opportunities offered to us (e.g. this column for us to express our opinion) to at least learn, discuss and basically to educate oneself in the fields other than those covered within the covers of textbooks.

This may be an old point which may sound all too familiar but to say that most of us are apathetic is an oversimplification, but nevertheless, our attitude towards learning and in fact our desire to educate ourselves leaves much to be desired. Apathy may be a reflection of the system where we come from but as a student and especially university student, surely one of our roles is to have the discipline, attitude and even the desires to involve ourselves in learning about our society, environment and above all to seek the truth behind the arguments and opinions expressed. I used to remember that as a kid we are all very inquisitive and I hate to think that this virtue has suddenly abandoned us when we are supposed to be at the peak of our education. Have we suddenly stopped asking questions and accepted things as they are and that has made us apathetic or maybe we are so blinded as not to see through it.

Opportunities are in abundance for us to learn, discuss, educate and through it all be aware of the situations and events at home and also round the world. Yes, I am talking of social awareness which many would classify as politics. Social awareness does not mean that we have to jump onto the bandwagons of political parties and start campaigning for one view or another, but instead have to learn and seek for the truth and are no more awed and bamboozled into acceptance without question the rhetoric and arguments presented to us. How then can we assume our role in society as suppose-to-be leaders of tomorrow when we ourselves are socially unaware and so out of touch with the aspirations and hopes of the people of our society. Do not make a mockery out of ourselves. Maybe we have missed the whole point of education and should it not be at the time for some rethinking.

I do not claim to be an expert but like all of us are still in the process of learning. Why don't we learn together? The purpose of this article is to stimulate some thinking. Maybe it is confusing and even you will appreciate that we are all equal. I do hope this will raise some interesting viewpoint and I am most eager to hear yours.

M.A. student