

CLASS OF '57 LIFE OFFICERS

President



Murray Fraser

Vice-President



Orville Pulsifer

Treasurer



Max Croucher

Honourary President



Dr. G. E. Wilson

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

by John Nichols

Mr. President, Honourable Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Graduates:

Each year at this time during graduation week some person like myself has the honor, and it is indeed a high honor, of being selected as valedictorian of the graduating class. From the study of past records I find the honor is usually given the senior scholar of the class, so today I feel a bit like George Bernard Shaw when he received a letter addressed to George Bernard Shaw—with an added m. "They have sent this to the wrong person," he said to his wife. "There is no such person or thing." His wife assured him there was and showed him the word in the dictionary. A shawm was "an old wind bag type of musical instrument."

I presume I qualified as recipient of this honor under the same classification as Mr. Shaw.

The valedictorian in past years invariably talks at length about Dalhousie University and what it has done for him and for his classmates. He extolls at even greater length the physical side of the university, and the excellence of the faculty members whose long suffering efforts in years past, as again today, were sufficient to place many of us in this room, and he continues in a humble tone to acknowledge Dalhousie University that has given his classmates much for which to be thankful. The best years of our lives he will say have been spent in the pursuit of learning and in attaining a degree better to equip us for the "battle of life"—life usually is classified as a battle rarely as a game. Not too often does the valedictorian say anything that has not been said in some manner or other, with varying accents.

In my laborious research I have found valedictory addresses of past years of Dalhousie that say so many similar things—the progress made at Dalhousie academically, the success of the athletic teams—or lack of success—and the new buildings constructed or expected to be constructed. In the valedictory address of the class of 1925 mention is made of the possibility of the erection of a men's residence—something which 33 years later is not yet on our beautiful campus, though it may be in the near future.

I too could say similar things such as the volumes of valedictory addresses contain, and when I have finished I will not doubt find that I have, but if I did I would have to sit down now—so with your indulgence I would rather take a more optimistic tack. Though most of us were born in the breadline, weaned in World War II, reached adolescence in the atomic age and are presently seeking maturity in a world run amok, we are the members of a class with an average age less than that of any class of a decade or more. We as graduates should and can face the world with unparalleled optimism as part of our understanding of the blueprint for the brave new world.

As we came in here tonight I noticed one of my legal friends with rather a depressed look. I said to him, "You are looking depressed. Why? What are you thinking of?" "My future" he replied. "What makes it seem so hopeless?" I said. He replied tonelessly, "My past."

We of this graduating class have no reason to feel depressed. Our past for most of us has been a pleasant association with the university and the faculty. Most of us know what the old Murray home-stead looked like. Today the new Arts and Administration building stands on that site. Most of us knew the Forrest Building when it housed not only Science students, Med and Dent men and women but the lawyers as well. Today the lawyers and the faculty of law are ensconced in their own building, built originally for them in the late twenties but into which they did not move until 1953. The new Dental building emerging from its plastic cocoon is a familiar sight to all of this graduating class.

Our past at Dalhousie gives us cause for deep seated optimism—we have lived and studied in an era at Dalhousie University of its greatest growth. We are bidding farewell to a university that has guided some of us in our undergraduate days as well as in our days in the graduate schools, and we are stepping out into a Canada that is growing not only nationally but in the international scene as well.

Many of the graduates here today—tomorrow—will be scattered across this Dominion—into many states of the Republic to the south, into the islands of the Carribean, many parts of Europe and even into the newest nation of all—Ghana.

We carry with us the traditions of and respect for Dalhousie University. Cynics that we are now—having a little knowledge which has often been declared a dangerous thing—we acknowledge Dalhousie University not with the fondness of an Alma Mater perhaps, since many of us came only to the graduate schools, but rather as a school of hard knocks of which we are glad to see the last. In time to come however Dalhousie University I think will stand for us as a bulwark in the rough times in the game of life. Like so many of the pleasures with which we associated in college days, age matures our appreciation of the greatness of Dalhousie.

We graduates in bidding farewell are mindful of the responsibility that is ours as Dalhousie graduates. We are the leaders of tomorrow, the scientists, engineers, nurses, doctors, teachers and lawyers from which Canada and other countries expect much—since we are Dalhousians. "To whom much is given, from whom much shall be required," the Scripture tells us.

To lead is not to follow and in these days of close conformity in most things, there has arisen a time where as one writer wrote, "the bland are leading the bland." Ever mindful of this we have an onus upon us far greater than on any other university graduates for this university has a reputation that is world renowned for its exportation of intelligent capable people. We as the class of 1957 must continue to personify that tradition of this "little college by the sea."

Sophocles once wrote "Much wisdom oft goes with fewest words" . . . so benefitting from this sage comment I draw to a close. However we graduates must not feel that much wisdom is attained in few years. Our education begins now as we step out into the game of life in which the vagaries of time, tide and talent will mould us into true representatives of Dalhousie University. We are only "hollow sheepskins" as Dr. Bradwin of Frontier College described graduates who were unwilling to share their knowledge with the lowliest of their fellows—if we, too, do not make an attempt to benefit those less fortunate than ourselves.

We have a double duty not only to the citizens of this citadel city who have withstood our various onslaughts, but also to the whole community of Canada who depend on us as the men and women of the next generation in a time when Canada is growing and expanding culturally and productively and needs us. We must cultivate our imaginations in such a way to help not only this nation of ours but the whole of this world that is seeking unification and peace. As my father said to the graduates of the class of 1926, "The world is fairly well stocked with people who know facts; but those are scarce who can handle the facts in such a way to arouse interest and to help make life worth living."

This class contains men and women who in their own right may make life worth living and will we hope be world famous and distinguished Dalhousie alumni. In years to come when we as the class of 1957 met for our Golden Jubilee, God willing, it will be as Dalhousians who, though today bidding fond farewell, will remember in our hearts and minds the University that gave us life and nurtured us—a memory that will mellow our cynicism with the passing years and cause to shine even brighter—a memory of our Dalhousie University.

With the training and assistance given us by this Dalhousie University we are able to bid farewell to the some-what ivy covered walls not with tears and regret but with the determined smile of confidence bred from experience gained on the Studley and Forrest campi—the campus of Dalhousie University. To say good-bye often implies a sadness, but with the youthfulness that Shaw said "was wasted on the oung," and optimism and tradition of Dalhousie University carrying us forth we leave proudly to make a "life not just a living" and to enhance the provinces and nations that give us the opportunities that lie before us today.

Valedictorian



John Nichols

Secretary



Janet MacLachlan

Historian



Peter Fillmore

University President



Dr. A. E. Kerr

MUNRO DAY AWARDS

THE MALCOLM HONOR AWARD. The highest award which can be conferred on any Dalhousian was won jointly by Dave Janigan and Dave Bryson. It is awarded to that student or those students who have shown in high degree the spirit of unselfish service which always inspired the life of James Malcolm.

THE PAN-HELLENIC AWARD, given to the outstanding Freshette, went to Joan Herman.

THE LITTLE AWARD, to the outstanding member of the football team went to Don Nicholson.

THE CLIMO TROPHY, awarded to the Dalhousie student who embodies

the qualities of athletic ability, clean sportsmanship and team spirit went to Gordon Rankin.

THE MARJORIE LEONARD AWARD, won by Marcia Kelly, the best all-round good sport and most helpful to the DGAC during the year.

THE INTERFACULTY BLOOD TROPHY went to the Pharmacy faculty.

THE GAZETTE BLOOD TROPHY was won by the Arts and Science faculty.

THE NEIL MACKINNON AWARD, awarded to the student most outstanding in integrity and sportsmanship, to Don Tomes.

Al Plans JV Football, But Does Own Laundry

Coach Al Thomas has announced that Dalhousie will field a Junior Varsity Canadian Football team next fall, "if there is sufficient interest".

The JV team if it is set up will not enter a league but will play two or three exhibition games through the year and, it is hoped, will provide experienced players for the Varsity team. Sounds like a good idea, especially after last year's debacle.

Right now, Coach Thomas is as happy as a Lux girl with a new cake. He's rolling up his sleeves and doing all sorts of washing over in the Gym. A Council committee consisting of Jack Davison, John Stewart and Murray Dewis investigated the laundry situation and decided that it would pay the Council to install a washing machine in the Gym. This has been done and it is hoped that the bills for laundering sports equipment will be much reduced.