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VALEDICTORY

by Mary Ellen Corwin
**COMMITMENT, INVOLVEMENT,
 PURPOSE**

Dr. Kane, Rev. Wolter Members of the Board of Education, Mr. Kessler, faculty, friends, and class mates:

When confronted with the honor of addressing the Commencement audience, I found it necessary to choose from a number of alternatives, a subject which was at once current, pertinent, and crucial. In 1854 Henry David Thoreau recorded, in his *Walden* journal, what he believed to be the dilemma of the great majority of his fellow Americans. He said, "Most men lead lives of quiet desperation." His words, while written over one hundred years ago, are equally applicable, I believe, to the present day apathy observable among a majority of Americans today.

To Henry Thoreau, as to the observer of the contemporary American scene, it was and is apparent that people care most for themselves and their own welfare. While we Americans have always preached concern for others, our actions show little effort in this direction. Today, it is questionable whether people care even for themselves. Why is this the case, and why, in the 1960's is this indifference to the crucial issues facing Americans today so evident? Why do most Americans do so little, and perhaps care so little, about the problems of poverty, racial prejudice, violence, and the sundry other political, social, and economic problems which surround them? To ask the question in another way, "why are Americans uncommitted?"

Perhaps the answer lies in the word belief. To believe is to be committed. It is to translate one's ideas, one's principles into action. The empty life is one in which belief is absent. The life fulfilled is the one in which belief is central, the one in which ideas and principles become translated into action.

Unfortunately, for our country and its people, not to mention all those fellow human beings who live beyond our borders, most men do lead lives of quiet desperation, which is to say that they lead lives without belief. Day upon day repeats itself endlessly in a monotony of routine — a routine of apathy. For what purpose do these people lead their lives? To what are they committed — to two cars, television, food, drink or the next day's party? Perhaps. But these are not the commitments of which I speak. These are the trivia of life, the routines which may have their place; but these are not the things which decide our country's fate or the fate of our fellowmen.

The commitments of which I speak concern those issues which affect us as a people, which are the concern of all, not merely the concern of one. Most prominent of these issues in the 1960's is that issue of dissent. America was founded upon the right to dissent, to say and to do what one knows to be right, regardless of what tradition or conformity dictates. Our intellectual history is a history of individualism, and individualism which recognizes the rights and freedoms of individuals to follow the path of reason, of justice, of equality, and of freedom itself. It is this heritage of individualism which reaches out to us in our search for commitment.

It is fortunate for us that our heritage of individualism offers meaningful conformity as well as to us a way to combat apathy and the political threats of state socialism or Communist party dictatorship. Our heritage of individualism offers us, too, a way to combat meaningless violence and the threat of anarchy, for it is the heritage of individualism and individual rights which serves to protect against any infringement upon these rights. When we reject the ideas of individual freedoms and rights, we reject our only protection against the viola-

SALUTATORY

ORIGINALITY OF CHARACTER
 by Rosemary Baker

Dr. Kane, Mr. Kessler, Reverend Clergy, Members of the Board of Education, faculty, parents, and friends. The Class of 1968 extends a warm and sincere welcome to you at these commencement exercises.

Tonight is filled with reflections on the part of this class, who within the next few hours will be official alumni of Andover Central School. Of course, we are not the only ones at this hour who reflect on the sometimes happy, sometimes sad events of the past. Undoubtedly, our parents are seated out there thinking that it was only yesterday when they sent their "big, grown-up five-year old" scampering off to Kindergarten, thinking, "Where does the time go?" Also, many faculty members are saying to themselves, "I must be getting older. I remember when I had to corral that girl one day in the hall for being in too much of a hurry."

But without these parents and teachers, we would certainly not be on this stage tonight. Time and time again, each has said to us — "Be yourself, follow your own dreams and don't be afraid not to follow the 'in crowd'." In other words, be original.

Originality of character did not begin when we were born, although at times we wonder if this phase was intended just for us. However, we are not the only

ones. Our own freedoms and rights. Our heritage of American individualism gives us the capabilities to establish order within our society — order based, not upon arbitrary authority, but upon the principles of justice, equality and individual freedoms.

In a democracy, dissent is a necessity. Without it, the party in power would simply dictate its policy. This has not happened to us — yet. But it can, and will. These dissenters have a purpose, a cause. They are fulfilled. Dissension should not be labeled as treason, and on the other hand, treason should not be labeled as dissension.

Two of the causes in which people are involved today are civil rights and the brotherhood of man. There is a great deal of action being taken by the groups which feel most the inequities of the racial problem. Some of this is illegal, such as the looting and rioting, in the cities; some is legal, such as the peaceful demonstrations and the recent building of "Resurrection City" in Washington, D. C. This is not enough, however. More must become committed to the cause of brotherhood. It is especially important that the people who do not directly feel these inequities become involved. Only through a cooperation which brings individuals of opposing points of view together can true unity be attained. More must become committed to the cause of love for one's fellow man and realize that before God, all are equal. Only then can peace of any kind be reached.

These things will make the difference between an America committed to justice, equality, and freedom and a party dictatorship committed to tyranny and the subjection of the individual to unjustified authority. Peace or war, hardship or prosperity, love or hate; are what we decide by our commitments. This graduating class will help make these choices. This class, with the other graduating classes of this decade, will shape the future of America and humanity. We have the decision of whether to be committed or to remain apathetic.

Commitment, involvement, purpose — these three words will shape our nation's immediate and future destiny. We will make some impression upon this world. Let us hope, for our nation's sake, that impression is for the better, and that we commit ourselves to a better world.

Thank you.

group of people to hear these words. Centuries ago, before everything was conveniently at hand, discoveries had to be made. Where would we be today if Newton or Copernicus had followed the crowd — if they had been afraid to go out on their own and set their inquisitive minds at rest? Oh, you say, someone would have discovered the fact that everything that goes up must come down, as is in so many words, stated in Newton's Law of Gravity or perhaps someone else would have saved Copernicus a great deal of time and trouble and discovered that the Sun, and not the Earth is the center of our Universe. But whom? Even by saying this, you're implying that someone has to dare to be different — that someone has to have originality of character.

After tonight, and for the rest of our lives, we shall be in a different world. We shall leave the shelter of the warm classroom where we have been "spoon-fed" so many facts over the past thirteen years that, at times, it all seemed like a jumbled, confused mess. We shall leave the surveillance of our parents, who have kept us from harm and who have made so many decisions for us. In these places, school and home, where originality was preached, it did not seem too meaningful because we were not, as yet, in dire need of our competence to be ourselves.

But what happens when we leave these places? There will be no one to make these decisions for us. We shall have to be ourselves in order to survive — we shall have to follow our own reasoning. All at once it will occur to us that Mr. Kessler, our teachers, and certainly our parents were right — "Be original", they said. At the time we scoffed these words — they meant little to us because we could not fully understand their significance. But perhaps tonight, they're beginning to appear in a new light.

It really is not difficult to be yourself, when you realize that God made no two people exactly alike. So you see, He realized the need for originality.

Of course, in the beginning, there weren't enough people to form an "in crowd", but as a forerunner of situations to come. He realized that each person has to have his own individual traits — and these traits should be exploited to the best of each person's ability.

In the grades, there is a mark for effort — for your own effort based on your own capabilities; not that of your best friend or worst enemy. It is said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, but only to the person being flattered.

Originality will always be stressed, but words mean nothing unless they are met with equal action.

If, within the next few years, at least one member of this class is described as "original", the words "Be original", will not have been said in vain.

Thank you.

Notice Of Collection Of Taxes

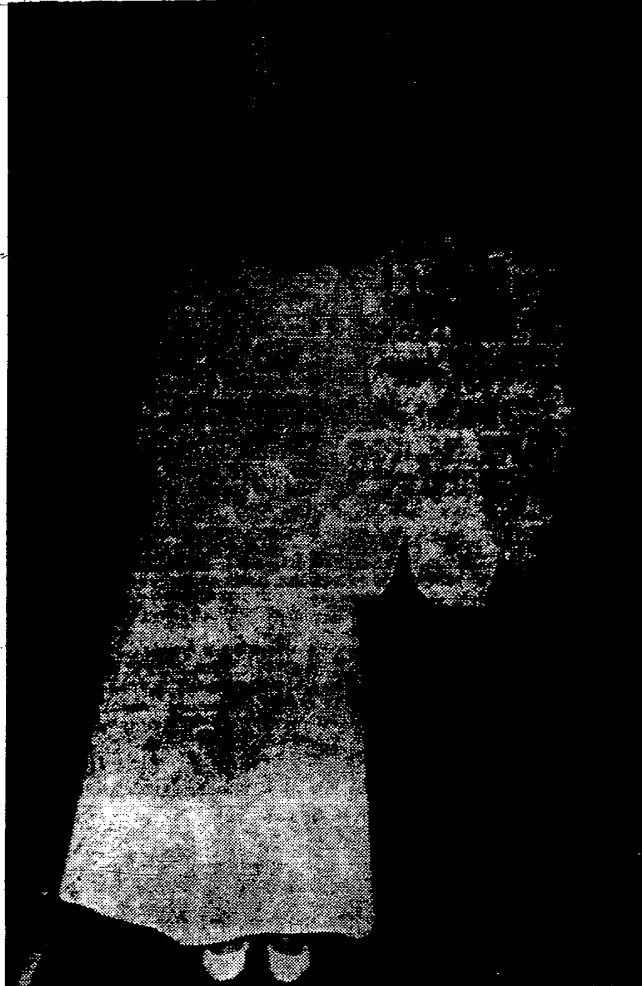
The Tax Roll and Warrant of the Village of Andover have been left with me for the collection of 1968 taxes, therein levied.

I will receive such taxes at the Village Office on the following days and hours; Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8:00 A. M. until 5:00 P. M.; Wednesdays, 8:00 A. M. until 12:00 Noon and Fridays 8:00 A. M. until 4:00 P. M. and 6:00 P. M., until 8:00 P. M. from June first to and including July first.

On all such taxes remaining unpaid after July first, interest of 5 per centum shall be added for the month of July and an additional one half of one per centum for each month and fraction thereof thereafter until paid.

LANDIS C. KIRBE
 Collector 26

See the Classified Ad Section



Queen, and Tom Kent, King, were chosen Queen and King of the Junior - Senior Prom held at Andover Central School June 21st and are dressed in attire fitting the situation.

News Photo

Notice of School Meeting Andover Central School

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting of the inhabitants of Central School District No. 1 of Andover, Allegany County, qualified to vote at school meeting in said district will be held at the school house in said district on Tuesday, July 9, 1968 at 8:00 o'clock p. m., for the transaction of such business as is authorized by the Education Law.

And notice is also given that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required for the ensuing year for school purposes exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any taxpayer in the said district during the seven days immediately preceding the annual meeting except Saturday, Sunday or holidays at each of the following schoolhouses in which school is maintained during the hours designated:

Andover Central School, 9 - 12 a. m., and 1 - 4 p. m.

And notice is also given that petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the board of education must be filed with the clerk of the district not later than June 25, 1968.

The following vacancies are to be filled on the Board of Education:

Term: Five years (Name of last incumbent: Alan Tuttle).

Term: Two years (Name of last incumbent: Robert Common).

Each vacancy requires a separate petition to nominate a candidate to each separate office. Each petition must be directed to the clerk of the district, must be signed by at least twenty-five qualified voters of the district, must state the name and residence of the candidate and must describe the specific vacancy for which the candidate is nominated including at least the length of

Announce Regents War Service Scholarship Competition

Commissioner of Education James E. Allen announced today that the Education Department has begun preparation for the new program of 300 Regents War Service Scholarships for Veterans authorized by the Legislature.

This scholarship competition will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 1968, in major locations throughout New York State.

Following are the major features of these new awards:

Eligibility — Candidates must (1) be veterans who served in the armed forces after January 1, 1963 and who have been released from active duty under conditions not other than honorable, and (2) have been residents of New York State at time of induction into military service and must be residents of New York State at the time of making application for the scholarship.

Benefits — Scholarship holders will receive up to \$350 a year toward tuition, for up to four years of study, full-time or part-time, at any approved college nursing school business school, or trade or technical school in New York State.

Applications and informational circulars providing full details can be obtained by writing to the State Educational Department, Regents Examination and Scholarship Center, 800 North Pearl Street, Albany, New York 12204. Applications should be filed by July 31, 1968.

Keep On Buying Savings Bonds.

the term of office and the names of the last incumbent.

Dated: June 13, 1968.

MARY K. SLADE, Clerk 27