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VALEDICTORY SALUTATORY

by Elizabeth Ulah

by Peggy Tuttle

THE REALITIES OF LIFE

THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

Mr. Smith, Mr. Kessler, Members of the Board, Parents, Faculty, Friends - Tonight another year has passed, and another group of people will graduate into adulthood. For this, everyone in our class can thank many people. We are on this stage as a product of American Education and American environment. How we feel and think about many things comes out of this. The ideas we hold about success and our goals are all a part of the American way of thinking. At this time, most of us will experience a branching from many of our old patterned ways. Many of us have finally realized how to think, and from this comes freedom of thought. The freedom to think against what is an established way of thinking.

During the past year, my mind has been opened to many terrible and wonderful thoughts. I am only just beginning to see life. I feel as though I have been led blindly through life disguising the truth for a beautiful dream. My only consolation is that life MAY be more beautiful than a dream because of its realness. The thought of the power that my peers and I possess inspires me to great heights - but as I look at the world around me, I feel a great deal of sadness. How will we react to our new awareness of life? To either follow in the footsteps of our forefathers, or depart so completely that we have no understanding of what has come before us, would only be foolish.

When we are very young, perhaps we see the world most clearly. We feel an extreme closeness and unity with nature and life. Our cares are simple, but very important to us. We need affection, food, shelter, and sleep - yet we are able to express our feelings openly and freely. As we grow older and begin our ascent to adulthood, we tend to make every thing we do so complex. At the thought of seeming foolish to our fellow men, we deprive ourselves of so much freedom of expression. We become selfish and hold back all we have to offer to the world.

The education of each of us has been and will be a very important part of our lives. "Ignorance is bliss", but once we leave ignorance there is nothing that can ever convince us to return to that stage. The people who teach us hold a mind within their hands. They can inspire us to become anything they wish, or turn us against the world. We are like a block of clay, constantly being molded into different shapes, but as we sit longer in the air we become harder and it is less easy to manipulate us. We begin to use the logic and sense which education has given us, and are able to form our own opinions without being told what is beautiful or what is good. It is to teach us independence of thinking that we receive an education - yet somehow this education becomes twisted into a device which we use against ourselves. We turn ourselves against the possibilities brought about by education, and find in its place poverty of thought. Somewhere along the way, we become a group of unappreciative, competitive conformists. We hold a great deal of control over our thoughts and actions, and believe that the only way to make sure we are doing right is to follow in the footsteps of someone with the courage to be an individual. The important part of our education is the individual - because after all he is the real product of education. He has independent thinking.

During the fastest learning period of our lives - our youth - two main groups of people hold a great deal of influence in our lives: parents and teachers. Through either love or hate of them, we become what we are. The quality of these individuals is important to the quality of future generations. I have always held

On behalf of the class of 1969, I wish to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Smith, Mr. Kessler, members of the Board of Education, faculty, relatives, parents and friends.

Most of you have known the members of this class for quite some time. You also know that after tonight we will be leaving you and AOS behind. But actually this is only a beginning. For tonight we, along with many other seniors are stepping out into the world on our own for the first time. Each one of us might be compared to an aircraft on the runway. Just as the pilot of a plane must have a flight plan; all of us need to decide what course we will take in the future. Of course, we all hope to follow the path which leads to success. However, there are many obstacles which we must face along the way. Almost everyone of us will face disappointment, failure, or sorrow in our lifetime. It is often said that only the strong survive, so it is up to the individual to take heart and continue on his way toward a well earned success.

Commencement exercises have been going on in this school and in thousands of others for many years. But never before have a group of young people been faced by a more complex and confusing world. Some people protest war

teachers in the highest regard. Most of them sacrifice their lives for the prosperity of this country, but they receive few rewards for their efforts. If we could listen and put understanding, not just hearing, into our listening - they could open the world to us.

Parents receive the credit for all the evil in the world. It is because of our not being able to understand their position of responsibility and inexperience that we can blame them so easily. Each of our experiences as a person is a completely new experience to them as a parent. In the first learning processes of our lives, they are our only guides. There are certain parents, along with certain teachers, that make more of an impression on us than others. These people, we have to thank for their guidance. They were the individuals we followed, and through them we were able to learn the true meaning of individualism.

Now we are standing on the threshold of life, gazing in on different professions as if they were garments to be worn that we may cast away when we are finished with them. Seriousness has given way to the mystery and excitement of the unknown, and we hold in our hands all of the dreams and confidence of future victories that so many graduating classes have held before us. So many times we will be defeated and destroyed, that it is almost sad that we can look into the future with so many promises - but if we attain only half of our goals, we can be proud of our lives. The frustrations and anxieties of past years diminish with the thoughts of confidence and power we possess for future years. Our lives here experienced a beginning. Now we will take what we have learned, and use it again and again. We are this country's future. What happens to us will affect what happens to it.

You have given us the instruments for life, and now you must have faith in the way that we use them. Wrong or right, all of us will use what we have in a way we believe will be most beneficial to us. We will pass our ideas down to the generations after us, and they will either reject or accept them as we have done with yours, but the faith we ask of you we must also give now and always in order for this nation and the world to survive. Thank you.

in supposedly peaceful demonstrations, yet almost all of these demonstrations cause rioting and fighting. In some areas of this country farmers are paid not to raise crops on a section of their land while in other areas of the world many people starve. Millions of dollars are spent in spectacular voyages into outer space, yet some people can not even afford a decent meal or a pair of shoes. Besides these difficulties there are serious racial problems in many areas of our country and I am sure that we have all

heard about the strife on many of our college campuses. Similar problems do exist in many other countries but I feel that we here in the United States need to work together to help bring about a better understanding between people. If we did this we might set an example for the rest of the world to follow. Then maybe they could find a solution to their problems also. So you see our country can not isolate itself from the rest of the world. We as individuals can not shut out the rest of the world either. As we go along on our separate paths to success, let us not forget about the other people around us. We as young people need to try to understand the feelings of our friends and acquaintances. Also we need to listen to the advice of our parents and teachers for they have encountered many of the problems which we must face sometime during our lives. However, the older generation should take time and do their part to help bridge the "generation gap" which exists today. I believe that most young people of today are very aware of the world around them. Some of the young people do not like the present state that the world is in and they are using violence to bring about sudden change. But the majority of young people just want an opportunity to speak their minds and have the rest of the world listen to them. If we could all work together toward a better understanding between people, perhaps the world might become a more peaceful place to live.

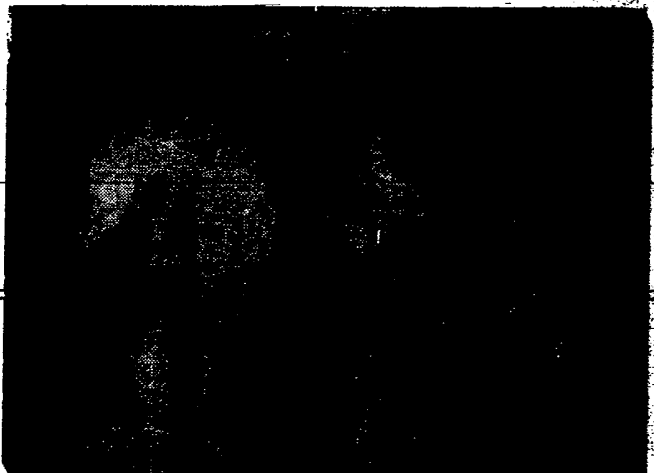
Let us not forfeit happiness and peace of mind as we continue on our search for success. It is the responsibility of each individual to select a career or a way of life which is the best suited for his needs and interests. A career should not be chosen just because it seems exciting or glamorous or because the pay is high. It is also important that each of us try to do the best job possible in the line of work we select. We can not all be great artists, musicians, or scientists, but we can all use the abilities given to us. And in our own small way we too can do our part to help mankind. If we do this we can be rightfully proud of our achievements.

Not all of the problems which face the world and the nation can be solved by this generation or probably even the next. One cannot expect to clear up all problems which have been around for several hundred years, in a few days.

I am sure we all wish to thank our parents and teachers for guiding us and putting up with us for thirteen years of schooling. The help and guidance are greatly appreciated. But now we must take the knowledge we have obtained, go out in the world, and do our best.

Yes, graduation from high school is a big event in our lives but it is only the first step on the long road to success. Let us set our goals high and remember the sky's the limit. Thank you.

SAVE-A-LIFE CANCER FACTS for free booklet write AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY 1010 JAMES ST. SYRACUSE, N. Y. 13203



Tom Kent crowning his sister, Jeanette Kent "Queen" of the Junior - Senior Prom Friday night, June 20th at the Andover Central School Auditorium, and Joyce Ann Dibble crowning her cousin, Charles Joyce "King" of the Ball. Tom and Joyce Ann were last year's King and Queen and are now affianced.

Senior Interview

The last senior to be interviewed this year is William F. Squires, the son of Mrs. Carolyn Squires of Wellsville. "Bill", as he is known to his classmates, was born on March 2, 1950. He has three brothers and two sisters. Before coming to Andover, he attended school in Wellsville.

Bill's activities in Wellsville included: Camera Club, Junior and senior year - President, senior year; Projector Club, all four years; track, junior year.

Bill's plans for next year are indefinite, but we all wish him the best of luck.

Roving Reporter

With final exams only a week away why not test our students' vocabulary and prepare them for their English tests. Our A.C.S. students were asked the meaning of "terrapins" The dictionary defines "terrapins" as a North American fresh water turtle. Here's what we think a terrapins is:

- Peggy Tuttle - A new kind of toothpaste
Tom Dixon - Linda Leon's car
Ruth Shear - Polish safety pins

- Linda Dunham - Fish that go in the ground
Diane Leon - Merry-go-Round that floats on water
Hal Sisson - One of the animals Bob B. says that goes chatter, chatter, chatter
David Schweigart - A yellow Terry Hyland - A lost land

Advertisement for American Cancer Society. Text: WOMEN Why Gamble With Your Future? American Cancer Society

Advertisement for a travel guide. Text: UP COUNTRY ACCORDING TO THE GUIDE-BOOK... SYDNEY HAS SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL FLORA AND FAUNA!!!