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238 receive degrees at convocation

By JOEY KILFOIL
Brunswickan Staff

his wife Susan, and daughter
Laura."

Two hundred and thirty-eight degrees were conferred at UNB's 27th fall convocation at the Altken Centre Saturday. Two honorary degrees were conferred during the proceedings, which saw Mary Louise Lynch, Q.C. receive a doctor of civil law degree and Gertrude Leger Robichaud receive a doctor of laws degree.

Invocation by Rev. Barry Hollowell of the Campus Ministry was followed by remarks from President James Downey. Noting the proximity of fall convocation to Thanksgiving, Dr. Downey said convocation should be a time to "...reflect humbly upon our good fortune in being able to participate in an occasion that celebrates intellectual effort and attainment."

"It should be as well an occasion to remind ourselves of the splendidly rich tradition of knowledge in the arts, the sciences and the professions which we have inherited and to which, in our several ways, we seek to contribute," he said.

Dr. Downey said it was not the time or place to try and estimate or enumerate what Lord Beaverbrook has done for UNB and he noted that Lord Beaverbrook is not lacking in monuments to his generosity.

"This is a fitting occasion, however, to be grateful that his interest in UNB has been carried on by his son, Sir Max Altken, our chancellor. It is, as always, a matter of regret to all of us that Sir Max's health will not permit him to be with us at convocation. Today, however, we are singularly honored and pleased that he is represented here by four members of the Altken family: Lady Violet, son Maxwell and

While admitting that UNB, like many universities, is going through a period of financial retrenchment in which many difficult adjustments are being made, he said it is "...nevertheless carrying out its manifold mission with commendable vigor and dedication."

"There is a strain in restraint, and I cannot pretend that the current funding levels for universities are not taking a toll on programs, services and morale."

Referring to the recent report of the Parliamentary Task Force on Federal-Provincial Arrangements, Dr. Downey quoted from a section of the report which spoke on post-secondary institutions in general. The report said that "the enduring strength of a society ultimately rests more on these institutions than on economic, industrial or military power. They are avenues along which people pursue knowledge of themselves, their values, their goals as individuals, their reasons for existence."

"If that indeed be true," said Dr. Downey, "then it behooves all of our governments - federal, provincial, and municipal - to grant our post-secondary institutions higher priority than they have been doing."

"But ... our governments cannot be expected to carry all of the load themselves. Support from the private and corporate sector will also have to increase if universities are to continue to fulfill the expectations our society has of them." UNB, he said will attempt to gain such support next year when it launches its third-ever national fund-raising campaign.



Dr. Downey said it is best for a university president and his institution if he is an optimist, "even if he must at times be an optimist without hope."

"Yet not to take pride and hope from our own and others' achievements; not to feel gratitude and take heart from the help and support we have received in the past; not to resonate to the excitement of the challenges that frequently disguise themselves as adversities is surely to bury our heads in a slough of fashionable despond and pretend we're being realistic," he said.

Memory, said Dr. Downey, has a way of oversimplifying the past. He warned the graduates not to believe people who say things were simpler when they were growing up.

"Life has always been what it is now: an incomprehensible matrix of raw materials -- emotions, ideas, images, ambitions, fears, and dreams -- out of which we weave, if we

can, a mosaic or meaning.

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Dr. Downey concluded his remarks by addressing Lt.-Gov. Robichaud.

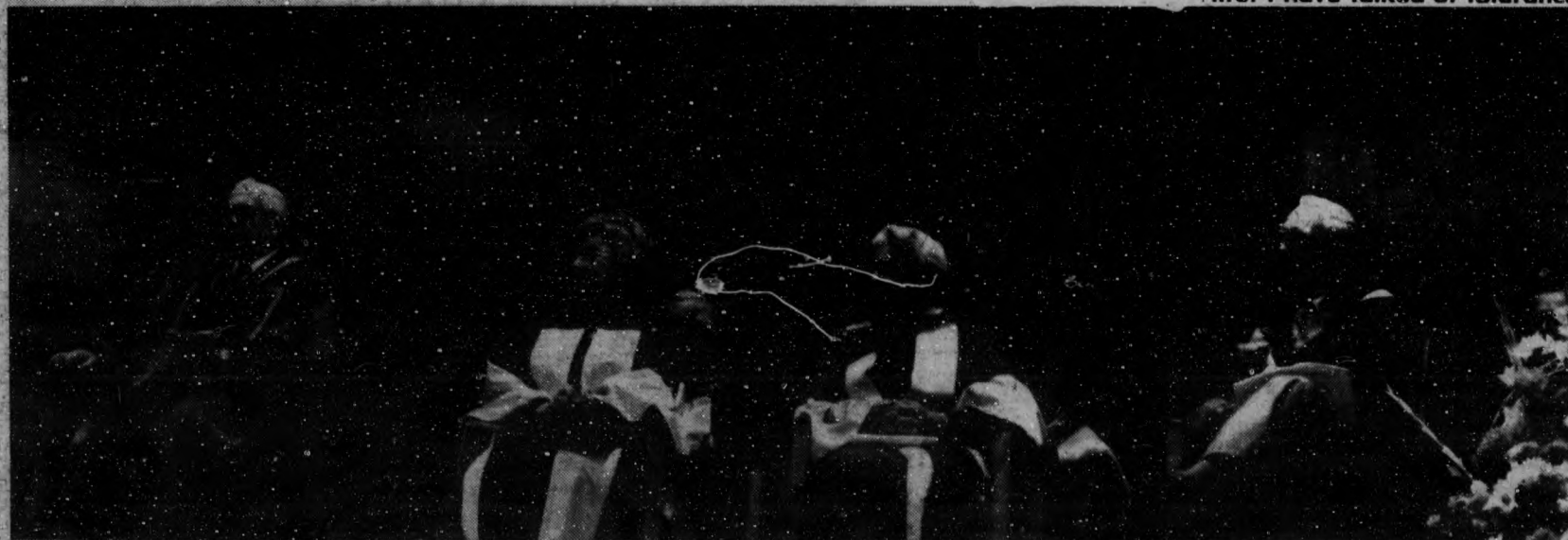
"Your honor, it would be remiss of me if I ended these remarks without making reference to yourself. I have talked about the value to UNB of our special friends; I have spoken of integrity and the need for it in public and private life: I have talked of tolerance

as an antidote to cynicism. In all these matters, sir, you have been exemplary. You have brought to our graduation ceremonies, as you have to your office, a dignity and dedication that are altogether admirable. We cannot allow you to take your leave of us and of the Lieutenant-Governorship of New Brunswick without tell you so."

Candidates for honorary degrees were presented by Neil MacGill, university orator. He introduced Mme. Robichaud by quoting a remark she made a few years ago: "Men will realize the importance of women and the contribution they can make - it should have happened a long time ago. But I think women must not lose sight of the need to do things not only well, but graciously."

Prof. MacGill said that even women sometimes feel the only route to liberation is to become just like men. "And yet this, surely, would just be merely replacing one form of bondage with another. Madame Robichaud's words should remind us that as women take up new roles in society they will fulfill them in a new way, bringing a graciousness to them that we men in turn must strive to emulate."

Prof. MacGill outlines the difficulty of being the wife of Hedard Robichaud and said for eleven years, the "joy and burden" of bringing up their nine children was largely her concern, as her husband was occupied elsewhere.



Special guests at last Saturday's fall convocation, UNB's 27th, included Lt.-Gov. Hedard Robichaud, Mme. Gertrude Robichaud, Mary Louise Lynch, Q.C. and Reg Tweeddale of

UNB's board of governors. Mme. Robichaud and Miss Lynch received honorary degrees at the ceremony and Miss Lynch gave the convocation address. Greg Morrison photos.

(Continued on p. 7)