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# News & Views

Newsletter of the Office of Public Information

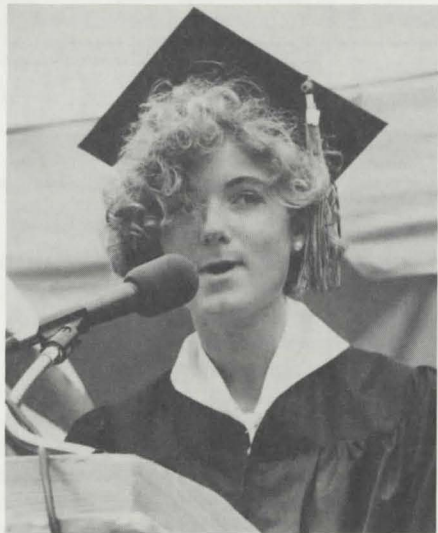
Vol. 3 No. 13 • June 7, 1985

## J • F • K AWARD

Deborah J. Landstrom of Victoria Road, Quincy, won the John F. Kennedy Award for Academic Excellence and delivered the student address at Commencement.

Ms. Landstrom, 23, a senior in the College of Management, made a stirring address, pointing out that the UMass/Boston student profile was a bit different than most. Largely it is composed of older students, many of whom also work or raise families.

Ms. Landstrom stressed English in her undergraduate studies and plans to continue at Harvard University graduate school. She has ambitions of becoming an advertising copywriter.



Winner of the John F. Kennedy Award for scholarship and speaker for the Class of 1985, Deborah J. Landstrom of Quincy delivered a fine address.

# COMMENCEMENT

1 • 9 • 8 • 5



Northern Ireland political leader John Hume has his mortarboard adjusted by TV 5 anchor woman Natalie Jacobson before Commencement ceremonies on the Harbor Campus. Hume delivered the 17th Commencement address. (Excerpts, Page 3.)

Reconciliation—not violence—is the answer to the troubles in Northern Ireland, said John Hume, guest speaker at UMass/Boston's 17th Commencement on the Harbor Campus.

Hume, 48, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party in Northern Ireland, noted the words of American Civil Rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King "that violence as a way of achieving justice is both impractical and immoral...the American civil rights movement gave birth to ours...Their songs became our songs.

"Britain should set about its reconciliation with Ireland so that those two countries can both exorcise the ghosts of their past which still haunt the narrow streets of Northern Ireland.

"Your democracy is resilient enough to encompass the challenge of civil rights, in the unstable political environment of Northern Ireland, our struggle was perceived as a threat to the very survival of the society itself and was resisted by the institutions of the state," said Hume, as a brisk breeze flapped "Old Glory" behind his head and shoulders.

Perceptions led to clashes and non-violent philosophy was rejected by a minority in his own community who followed the old law of an eye for an eye said the moderate leader.

"But quoting Dr. Martin Luther King, that old law of an eye for an eye leaves everyone blind," said Hume, to a thunderous applause.

During the ceremonies held outdoors on the campus plaza 1,693 undergraduate

and graduate degrees were awarded. The University conferred degrees on Hume, Channel 5 TV personality Natalie Jacobson and Judge Joseph Tauro.

Also feted were Stephen J. Sweeney, 57, of South Hamilton, President and chief executive officer of Boston Edison; The Reverend Msgr. Eugene P. McNamara, 56, executive director, Catholic Charitable Bureau; Mrs. Dorothy West of Oak Bluffs, Mass., the lone survivor of the Harlem Renaissance literary movement; Dr. Clifton Wharton, 58, Chancellor, State University of New York, and Dr. Alvan S. Ryan, 73, of Brattleboro, Vermont., professor emeritus of UMass/Boston and among the founding faculty members.

Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan reminded the audience that Massachusetts is the meeting spot for varied ethnic and religious groups arriving in America, and that the campus student body reflects the varied groups who seek new lives and opportunities through education.

"The campus exists to service the children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren of those recent journeyors to the new land," said the Chancellor.

The day had special meaning for many among the 1,693 graduates and their families. Natalie Jacobson, of Channel 5, WCVB-TV, it was her daughter Lindsay's fourth birthday. The proud youngster and her dad, Chet Curtis, co-anchor on Channel 5, watched

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# COMMENCEMENT PROFILE

Dr. Alan S. Ryan, 73, now of Brattleboro, Vt., was a popular recipient of an honorary degree in humane letters at UMass/Boston's 17th Commencement. He is one of the "original" faculty members.

Ryan, who lived on Marlborough St., Boston from 1965 to 1983, joined UMass prior to the opening of the Boston campus. The University wooed him from Notre Dame University to be chairman of the Humanities Department at the new campus and to help recruit faculty.

"Some of my colleagues at Notre Dame thought I was crazy to leave South Bend. But I knew all about UMass.," said Ryan with a chuckle.

Born in Needham Heights, Ryan graduated from Needham High School in 1929—the year of the Stock Market Crash. He entered Mass State College, the forerunner of UMass, graduating cum laude in 1934. He earned a Master's degree at Harvard (1938) and a Ph.D. from the State University of Iowa (1940).

His long personal connection with the institution—as a student and member of the faculty—makes him an unofficial historian of UMass. (He is quick to point out the school was originally known as Mass. Agricultural College until the Spring of 1931).

He also recalls the accolades the College received from the American Council on Education for the institutions' education program for World War veterans conducted at the Army's Fort Devens.

Ryan, a specialist in 19th century literature, has a broad base in the humanities: philosophy, theology and classical literature spanning the ages. He is the author of numerous works including *Newman's Conception of Literature*, *Catholic Social Thought* and *The Great Victorians, Frost and Emerson*



**Dr. Alvan S. Ryan, Professor Emeritus, receives hood from Associate Chancellor Donald Babcock at Commencement ceremonies.**

and *The Brownson Reader*.

Ryan noted for his work dealing with Orestes Brownson, founder of the *Boston Quarterly Review* (1837-42) and the *Brownson's Quarterly*, publications printing essays of leading thinkers of the 19th Century. Ryan compiled selections from Brownson's *Quarterly* and wrote lengthy introductions for the literary

works preserved in a 20-volume history of Brownson and his publications.

Ryan continues to write, although retired from full-time teaching. He is active in the Windham World Affairs Council, a forum sponsoring panel discussions with experts on national and international issues.



**Hon. Robert H. Quinn, Chairman, UMass Board of Trustees, adjusts hood on Natalie Jacobson along with Associate Chancellor Donald Babcock while Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan reads citation.**

## COMMENCEMENT 1 • 9 • 8 • 5

• continued from page 1

as Jacobson had the white hood of Humane Letters draped over her shoulders.

Graduate Deborah J. Landstrom, of Quincy, was given the John F. Kennedy Award for Academic Excellence. She gave the greetings from the Class of 1985. She said "most students at UMass/Boston were older, wiser and attended the University "because we wanted to."

John Hume represented that whole-worldness of the University; he is the first non-American to give a commencement address.



# COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

*(Following are highlights from the 17th Commencement address delivered by John Hume of Northern Ireland, co-founder of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) in that country.)*

The story of Northern Ireland is the story of a conflict—not I must explain a religious conflict, even though the two communities who live there draw much of their character and their coherence from their religious traditions.

It is rather a conflict between the aspirations of ordinary men and women—600,000 Nationalists, 900,000 Unionists—who have been trapped by a tragic error of history which saw their hopes and fears as mutually exclusive and irreconcilable within an Irish state but which obliged them nonetheless to live and compete side by side in one small corner of Ireland.

These two communities in Northern Ireland, Catholic and Protestant, Nationalist and Unionist, both behave like threatened minorities and only by so regarding them and only by removing the fears which they both feel can a just and durable solution be found.

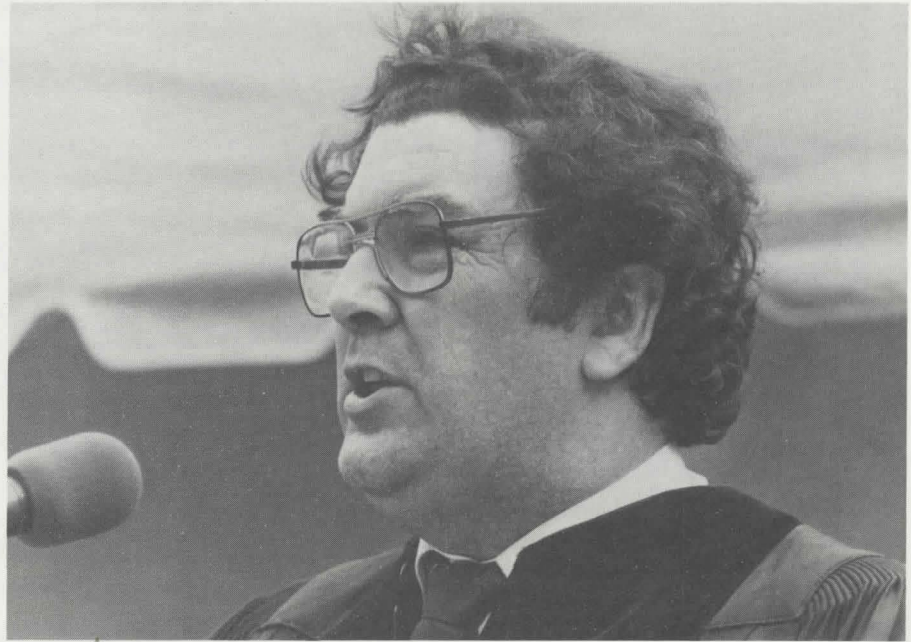
Northern Ireland was born out of the insecurity of the Protestant-Unionist minority in Ireland.

For over 50 years the Unionist majority sought to entrench their position through political gerrymander and discrimination. Though inexcusable, it was inevitable that they should have acted in this fashion—as other majorities have at times acted—since their inheritance was not a land of promise but a policy of insecurity.

This was the case also in the deep South of the United States not too many years ago where an insensitive and insecure white majority held sway. It was inevitable also that in Northern Ireland a new and highly educated generation should have emerged from the nationalist minority, as it also emerged from the black minority in the South, which would not accept intolerance and disadvantage and inequity as their legacy and the legacy of their children.

The American civil rights movement gave birth to ours. Our own history and our own circumstances gave a special power to the counsel of the Rev. Martin Luther King that violence as a way of achieving justice is both impractical and immoral.

For my own community, the nationalist minority, Northern Ireland remains a society still dominated, in its institutions, its security system and its cultural assumptions, by an ethos which they see as hostile to their interests and aspirations so that many have now withdrawn for all practical purposes from any commitment to engagement within the society as it now stands.



*“The American civil rights movement gave birth to ours. Our own history and our own special circumstances gave a special power to the counsel of the Rev. Martin Luther King that violence as a way of achieving justice is both impractical and immoral.” —John Hume*

When a society produces alienation in the individual, when it cannot provide for the equality and the differences of its citizens, “when the social system does not build security but induces peril,” that society must be reshaped and transformed through new institutions which accommodate diversity and promote equality for minority alike and thus provide the basis for reconciliation.

Reconciliation can be the only solution in my country as integration has been the goal in yours. Reconciliation is the reversal of alienation. Like true integration, it does not entail the suppression of difference; it involves the legitimization of difference which is the essence of mutual respect.

We all know from experience that we cannot overnight change the minds of men and women, or hope to better their circumstances, or end their fears or ease their anxieties or remove their prejudices with legislation alone. But we also know only when democratic institutions are shaped which are responsive to the needs of minorities, and only when intolerance is outlawed and only when full opportunity is provided can the basis for healing in society begin.

In this nation just over 20 years ago, John F. Kennedy had the wisdom and the courage to embrace the vision of Dr.

Martin Luther King and to maintain the march of the nation by laying the basis for equality and justice. In the same spirit, I would call on the political leadership in Britain and in the Unionist community to join with Irish nationalists in creating a framework for the reconciliation of the turbulent and polarized society of Northern Ireland so that the men and women who live there can look, not to the divisions of the past or to any limiting group allegiance, but to a new Ireland of the future which secures them in the protection of the law, gives them confidence in the recognition of their identity, assures them in the respect of their tradition and gives them equal access to all the benefits of partnership within a single community of interest.

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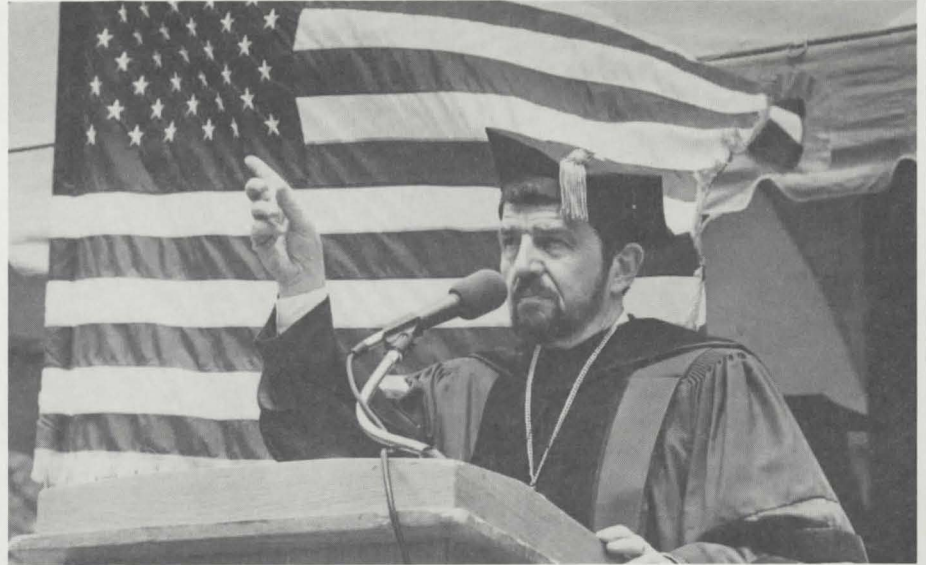
M. Leo Tierney



# COMMENCEMENT SCENES



Dorothy West receives honorary degree while Trustee Thalia Zervas is shown in background.



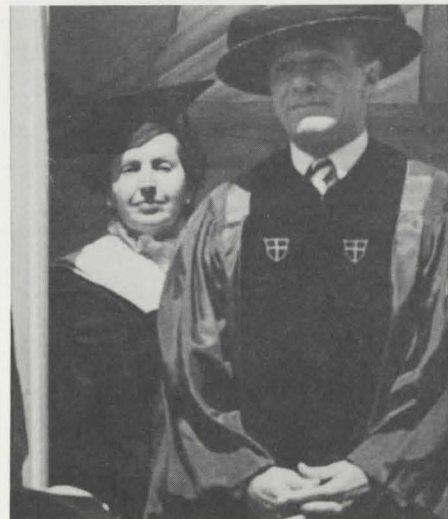
Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan gestures during Commencement address.



Impressive array of faculty on hand for the 17th Commencement. Here are some of them, shown at the Harbor Campus reviewing stand.



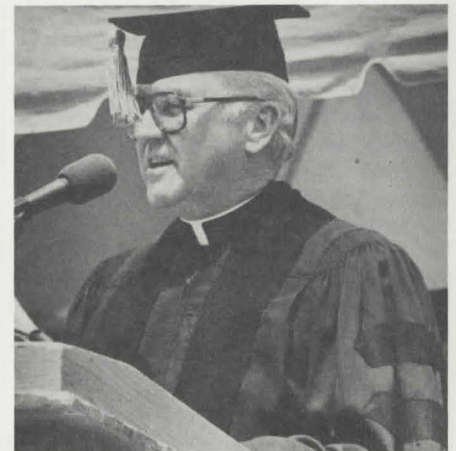
Stephen J. Sweeney, President, Boston Edison, is assisted with hood by Judge John Sweeney, his brother.



Judge Joseph L. Tauro with Trustee Nancy Caruso.



Dr. Clifton R. Wharton, Jr., Chancellor of the State University of New York, listens while Chancellor Corrigan reads his accomplishments.



Rev. Msgr. Eugene P. McNamara