

Mike: Turn ON.

Mr. Young, Superintendent Blaine, <sup>teachers,</sup> members of the school board, parents, and friends (and we hope that the last group includes everyone) we would like to thank you all for honoring us with your presence at our graduation. Mothers have a day set aside for them each year and so do fathers, but we've been working--well, we've been in school--for twelve years to get our day. It was worth the effort. Just as surely as it is our day, however, it is your day. Just as this is the day that the fruits of our labor are in full bloom, it is the day that the fruits of your labor for us are in full bloom (or should I say "gone to seed"). If the PARENTAL GENERATION has taught us nothing else, we are at least fully instructed in the arts of debating, arguing, and protecting our interests--you can rest assured that no one will encroach on our rights without a terrific struggle. You parents are well aware of this.

Speaking for the graduating class of 1968, I can honestly say that the past twelve years have been the happiest years of our lives. The fact that they have made up most of our lives, and probably all of our lives which we can remember may have something to do with their being our happiest. And the fact that they have been spent in school may have seemed to make them less happy than they might have been, but all the while we were thinking that our time could certainly be more enjoyably spent, we subconsciously realized that our education was providing a better future and a more worthwhile life for us all. And now as we look back, we are at a loss to think of anything which could have left us with such pleasant memories.

Still, we look for our future years to be no less pleasing. A big reason for our high expectations and self-confidence is the education which each one of us has received at P.H.S.

Lately we've all been indoctrinated with the idea that to get a good education one must go to a school large enough to support a widely varied curriculum. We all agree I'm sure, that a complete curriculum is desirable, but I believe that the opportunities for leadership, self-discovery, and self-expression afforded

by a small school more than offset the advantages of a large school. One must first discover himself and master his own talents before he can deal effectively with a large group. In our school all students must function or the school would collapse, while in a school with many more students, it would be much easier to ride along on the efforts of a few "big wheels". The period of the high school career is the prime time for the development of the individual, ~~and~~ in this, the small school is clearly superior. I am obviously prejudiced toward small schools; however, I ~~XXXXX~~ am truly grateful that I attended a school in which I was able to realize and use my talents to the fullest extent.

At the same time the curriculums provided by P.H.S. and other schools of comparable size are not to be discredited as much as one might think. Personally, I feel that, given the best curriculum which the largest school could provide, I would have chosen the same subjects and learned less because of receiving less teacher attention.

Colleges and vocational schools are available for specialized study and for learning to fit into a large group. Small school graduates have little trouble adapting to college life because they have already been exposed to responsibility in high school. They have had close relations with their classmates and teachers, *and* this has taught them how to get along with people in general. The importance of getting along with others is exemplified by the fact that more people lose their jobs because they can't get along with the boss than because they lack the skill necessary for their job. Still, the move to larger schools is on; therefore a way must be found to allow and cause students to participate fully in a large school program.

Now as we leave our high school days behind, we are for the first time confronted with the question of what we are going to do with our lives. Until now they have been ~~mapped out~~ almost completely mapped out for us, but now the time has come for us to make our own decisions. Appropriately, we have chosen for our class motto "The Difficulty in Life Is the Choice." One of the greatest paradoxes of life is that deciding how to solve a problem is more often than not, much more difficult than completing the solution itself. Fortunate is the person who can readily make a decision and stand by it. Such a person has the means for greatness. Our school, specifically ~~the faculty~~, the faculty, has done as good a job as anyone could have to teach us to make the choice.

You, adults, whom I earlier referred to as the "parental generation," are responsible for the fine education which we have received, and now we have a responsibility to you and to ourselves to make much of it. You are deserving of thanks. And now, before we are off into the future ~~to~~ make much of our ~~talents~~ talents and education we, the class of 1968, bid you ~~adieu~~ *a grateful* farewell. Thank-you.