



Alere Flammam

The newsletter of the Lisgar Alumni Association
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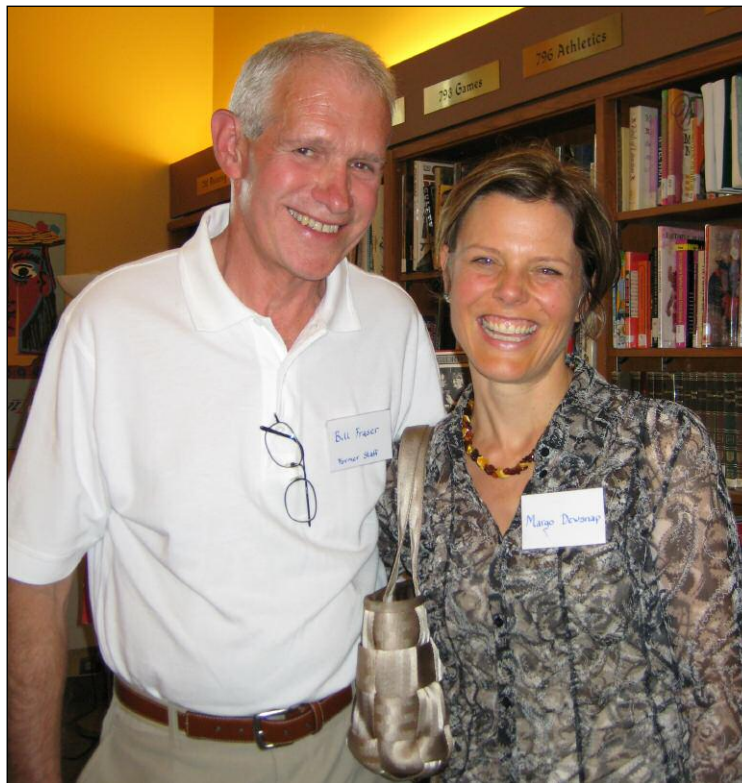
Lisgar Athletic Wall of Fame Grows

An May 26, 2009, the second group of ten members of Lisgar's Athletic Wall of Fame was formally inducted in a moving ceremony in the Alumni Auditorium.

The ceremony was preceded by a reception in the Lisgar Library where inductees, friends, and family were able to meet and learn of each other's exploits. Displays placed around the room showed the accomplishments of each inductee, and there were both smiles and tears in evidence as memories were shared.

The ceremony itself took place in conjunction with the Lisgar Athletic Association's awards night, so young athletes of the school had a chance to see and be inspired by their predecessors. For each inductee a brief biography was read outlining the reasons for their induction, and then the plaque was presented. The plaques will be permanently displayed on the Wall of Fame in the main hall of the Gym building, but each inductee also received a smaller replica plaque to keep as a memento of the occasion.

Of the six living inductees, Barclay Frost (1961, track and field and officiating), Margo Dewsnap (Green, 1991, squash) and Blake Dunlop (1971, hockey) were able to attend in person;



INDUCTED: Retired teacher Bill Fraser poses with Athletic Wall of Fame inductee Margo Dewsnap (Green, 1991), 2000 Pan American Games and 2002 Canadian National Champion in squash.

in Mr. Dunlop's case, his presence required a trip all the way from St. Louis, Missouri. Nigel Stephens (1944, figure skating), our eldest living inductee, was represented by his two

sons. Two other inductees, Leszek and Danek Nowosielski (1987 and 1985, fencing), had planned to attend but were forced to miss the event due to scheduling conflicts and were repre-

sented at the ceremony by Joe Leggett, retired Head of Athletics. For the posthumous inductions, Alex Smith (1924, hockey) was represented by his son David, who also accepted the award on behalf of Mr. Smith's teammate Ralph St. Germain (1923), while Bud Clark (1934, skiing) was represented by his daughter Mrs. Frances MacDonnell. The family of Lt.-Col. Dr. Desmond Burke (1923, shooting) was unable to attend but agreed to be represented by Mr. Alain Marion of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association. Mr. Marion is regarded as Dr. Burke's successor as Canada's greatest marksman.

Much thanks to all the Alumni who participated in making the occasion run smoothly, especially Joy Heft and Tracy Finnigan for the wonderful displays. Thanks also to Principal David McMahon and Athletic Head John Ruff for their cooperation and assistance, and to the parents and students of the Lisgar Athletic Association for their attentiveness and enthusiastic applause.

[Editor's note: short profiles of each new inductee were published in our Spring 2009 issue, which can be found on our website.] ■

Alumni Donations and Fees Hard at Work

Over the past three years, the Lisgar Alumni Association has funded a number of initiatives. In 2009, we provided badly needed curtains for the Alumni Auditorium, and funded the purchase of new cross-country skis for the Outdoor Education program. During 2008, we provided funding assistance to allow the Lisgar Senior Boys Soccer Team to attend the OFSAA provincial championship in

Windsor. In 2007, our funds provided two new media carts for the English, science and art departments, and paid for repairs to the stained glass over the main doors to the school, among other things.

Over \$21,000 in purchases have been made by the school in the past three years which would otherwise not have been possible. The monies were generated by fundraising at the last

reunion, as well as through your regular annual fees and donations. As you know, the school budget is very tight each year, and has very little room for extras. The generous alumni donations help the students to have the best equipment and opportunities, and are much appreciated by the staff and students. Please consider making a donation when you renew your membership, or if you are a life member. ■

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Members' Forum

Tom Huffman (2004) wrote: Calling all Classmates of 2004! Come to the Fifth Year Reunion Party. Location TBD. Look us up on Facebook or email lisgarclassof2004@gmail.com for details. Come spend some quality time with your former classmates. See you there!

Leo Kamen (formerly Leo Ilgacs, 1969) wrote: I recently read about Mr. Behan in *Alere Flammam* (In Memoriam, Spring 2009) and remembered an incident from my high school years. I was a student in his homeroom class in 1969, a tumultuous year in Lisgar Collegiate's history. The following anecdote might well describe Mr. Behan's incredible cool in handling rowdy students at the time. One morning during a Math class, Mr. Behan called Bill Stevenson, who sat at the desk in front of me, to the chalkboard to solve a problem. Bill's face fell at the prospect. He knew his classmates would swipe anything on his desk when he left it. Bill grabbed whatever he could and walked up to the board. The rest we filched and passed around the room. In one final disappearing act we stole his desk as well! Two rows of students moved up to fill the gap. During the heist Mr. Behan did not once pause from his

task at the board. When Bill returned—now to no place in particular—he plaintively muttered, “Sir, my desk is gone.” Mr. Behan finally turned around, paused to consider the gravity of the situation, cleared his throat and spoke most sternly. “All right, boys,” he declared. “Give Bill his desk back.” We did of course, making a great commotion in the process while Mr. Behan, serene as a monk, returned to writing his lessons.

Paula Pick (1966) wrote: The newsletter is great, read it cover to cover. I love hearing about the wonderful teachers we had in the '60s. I find it amazing to think of the impact so many of them had on me. My university teachers didn't come close.

Dorothy Leith wrote from Australia: Received your Spring 2009 edition of *Alere Flammam* and enjoyed it very much. Keep up the sending the newsletters. I send them on to my sister.

Andrew Anderson (1992) is in Dublin, Ireland pursuing his Master's of Science in World Heritage Management.

Irenka Farmilo (1966) wrote hoping to locate fellow Lisgarite Elizabeth Porter (Meleghy, 1966) but we do not have any information in our database. If you have any information, please contact the Alumni office.

Joe Scanlon (1951) wrote: I found the story on George Toller (Spring 2009) fascinating reading both because of the content and because of the high quality of the writing. I was not at Lisgar when he was there, though my sister was, but I recall him (I think) at Golden Lake, where I was allowed to attend as a 8 year-old because my father, for the second time in his life, was overseas with the Canadian Forces. My counsellor was Bob Craig, another Lisgarite.

My sister, now Kathleen Pederson, living in Skagen, Denmark, and I are not the only family connections with

In Memoriam

BLOOM, William (1941)
BRUNT-THOMPSETT, M. Isabella (Steeds, 1942) on May 23, 2009. She is survived by 3 children, 12 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.
HAMILTON, Bill (1961, teacher 1967-68)
HUTT, Marie (O'Callaghan) on

December 7, 2008 at the age of 89. Both Marie and her late husband Jack were students at Lisgar. She was very active with alumni affairs and Lisgar always remained close to her heart. She is survived by her two daughters and four grandchildren.
JONES, Janet (1964), in July 2008. ■

Lisgar. My mother, Edna Coulter Scanlon, did her 5th Form (grade 13) at Lisgar. Her favourite teacher was Elizabeth “Sis” Tomkins who taught Maths. The next two Scanlons at Lisgar were my daughters, Leslie and Meaghan.

My own memories of Lisgar are myriad and vivid. I recall “Curly” Proctor and the pleasure of playing in the orchestra every morning at assembly. He saw to it that I became President of the Orchestra and thus, to my surprise, a member of Student's

Council. A number of the orchestra were very gifted including Evelyn Greenberg who I did not realize was sister of our former Mayor Jacquelin Holzman.

I recall Mr. Meng, who never taught me, but who asked me and two friends one day at noon if we would like to learn to shoot. He took us regularly to the rifle range on the top floor. I suppose today that would cause a reaction from most parents but my family thought nothing of it. After all, my father was a decorated veteran and



LISGAR CHEERLEADER: Cameron Hughes (1990) has made a career out of getting fans riled up at sporting events across North America. Most recently, he was hired by Pepsi to be one of the faces of their "Join The Cheer" campaign to find a cheer for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

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my sister belonged to a rifle club. I don't suppose I told them that one bonus was looking down through the skylight at the girls' gym when we retrieved targets. Strangely my ability to handle a weapon came into use when Canada Packers had me guarding the payroll (in those days everyone was paid in cash).

I recall the sadness of our teachers when three classmates signed up to fight in Korea. Our teachers had really hoped that WW II was the war to end all wars. I remember Alex Grey scoring a touchdown—he was a lineman in the high school football semi-final at Lansdowne Park—and later learning that he had died in Korea.

I recall Mr. Carruthers making a mark on the wall insisting all junior basketball players were tall enough to reach that mark. Don Peters was not tall enough so did not make the team. He did make the senior team the next year and was top scorer as Lisgar went to the provincial championships.

I also recall Eric Nichols bringing some peach baskets in the dressing room at half time during a rainy Friday afternoon at Varsity Stadium, suggesting they might help players stop fumbling the football. They didn't help.

I recall Maitland Flood and John Kilrea (there may have been a 3rd player) playing country music one day a week at morning assembly. It was years later before I realized they were invited to the stage not because our principal, John Dunlop, liked their music, but because they were very good at what they did. At Lisgar we were taught to recognize all forms of excellence and achievement. Little did I know that my first out-of-town assignment for the Toronto Daily Star would see me at the Grand Old Opry in Nashville with Hank Snow.

I recall the Thursday morning skits by David Blaisdell and Bob Barclay, our male cheerleaders. They were Lisgar's own Wayne and Schuster. They performed on Thursday because there was no assembly on a football Friday. I remember "Maw" Brown who taught Latin explaining one of their lines to us. It was that Caesar's last words were a sneeze—"Et tu



IT WAS LIKE THAT WHEN WE GOT HERE... REALLY!: 1978 grads pose on the Lisgar field for their 30-year anniversary (photo courtesy of Chris Shearly).

Brute!" (Just try saying it quickly).

I recall Betty Joe singing a solo at the annual concert. I was also awed by the singing talent of red-headed George (I can't recall his last name) who sang "The Trail of the Tumbling Tumble Weed" and "Rocking Alone in My Old Rocking Chair." Of course I also recall Ron Gould organizing a Spike Jones orchestra (it was "tooth-paste being squeezed out on the rail," "cabbage by a head," and "maple is leafing alone fine"). Ron is now internationally renowned for his knowledge of elections.

While some of the memories are vivid, I am less sure of the spelling of names. However, I am sure classmates will fill in the gaps and correct some of my errors.

Wynn Quon (1978) wrote: The Spirit of '78 is alive and well! On Victoria Day weekend, a hearty crowd of graduates from the Class of 1978 gathered together to reminisce, catch up and have an all-around festive time. Named the "Reasonable Facsimile 30th Anniversary Reunion" by our tireless organizer, Janet Fraser, the festivities began with Coffee "After Class" at the Mayflower Restaurant (yes, it's still

there) followed by a group photo op at Lisgar and the Canal. But that was just a prelude. Saturday evening saw us raising our glasses at the Fox and Feather Pub, swapping war stories and letting the thought of thirty years sink in. Then on Victoria Day, Janet and her husband Chris (also a Lisgar grad!) hosted a barbecue at their house that mellowed into an evening party featuring fine wine and well-thumbed *Vox Lyceis*. Thirty years! Holy cow!

For those who missed the party, here are some stories: someone received a cheque for a million dollars, someone was in a movie with Tori Spelling, someone sings in a choir, someone argued a case in the Supreme Court of Canada, someone built a house, someone was in Kuwait, someone lived in Hong Kong, someone is a child psychologist, someone started and sold a dot-com, someone is a vice-principal, someone is a VP at a tech company... but if you want to know who, you need to come to the 35th anniversary celebration!

Donald Wolochow (1950) wrote: With the increasing prominence of social networking websites, e.g., Facebook, it occurred to me that even

if we didn't have actual class reunions, with your help we might be able to put together "virtual reunions" in which class members could reconnect on a dedicated Facebook page, for example. I managed, through Facebook to reconnect with a classmate, but there must be many others still around (class of 1950) who might be traceable and, if contacted, might be willing to go onto Facebook and join the class page. Other classes may have already started this (the younger ones especially).

Next year will be our class's 60th anniversary and I doubt if there would be time (or interest?) in organizing an actual physical reunion. But a "virtual" one would be practically free except for the time and effort to track down e-mail addresses and send out a mass mailing inviting alumni to join their class web page. What do you think?

[Editor's note: We do have a group page on Facebook that everyone is welcome to join: search for Lisgar Collegiate Institute Alumni Association. Also see the note elsewhere in this issue about the Class of 2004 reunion being organized with the help of Facebook.] ■

From the Lisgar Archives: Notes from “Down Below”

From Joy Heft

The long-term project of providing complete copies of the printed *Vox* for the school library, the Lisgar Archives and the Ottawa Public Library is nearing completion. Eighteen editions dating from 1929 to 2009 were delivered to the library in the Spring. Since then, a yearbook from one of the missing years has been donated by an anonymous donor. We are still lacking seven editions, however: 1922, 1925, 1928, 1939, 1960, 1973 and 1990. The Alumni Association has also paid to have fifteen of the Lisgar library copies rebound to replace copies that had torn or missing pages. It was also the year to create a composite copy of the five *Vox* from 2005-2009 for the collection housed in the principal's office—these date back to 1910. The newest volume is inscribed to honour Principal Karen Gledhill, who retired in January of this year. The inscription reads: “This volume is dedicated to Principal Karen Gledhill by the Lisgar Alumni Association in grateful recognition of her dedicated service to Lisgar Collegiate.”

In the last newsletter you were informed of our communication with author Linda Granfield regarding Alexis Helmer in connection with her forthcoming book *Remembering John McCrea*. The school has received a copy of the beautiful publication of the book in recognition for services provided. It will be included in this year's Remembrance Day display. We have also received an anonymous donation of several *Vox* dating from the '50s and '60s, as well as a small gym bag bearing the Lisgar crest and a poster advertising the play *The Death and Life of Sneaky Fitch*. Through a bit of sleuthing I was able to identify the donor but since he chose not to identify himself, I do not feel free to divulge a name. However, the items are gratefully received! We also received from Elizabeth Sullivan Ruch three pins: a Students' Council pin from 1947, a Hi-

Y pin, and a *Vox* pin, and several athletic crests and a beanie from Brenda Clarke Lailey. Thank you both.

Several displays were created using archival material to feature the exploits of those honoured in the spring for the updating of the Athletic Wall of Fame. These displays formed a rotating display in the archival showcase for a number of months, but have now made way for a Remembrance Day display which highlights the life of Alan

Hague (1939), whose family has loaned some of Alan's memorabilia to the school. Alan was an exceptional student and athlete, track star in particular, and head of Students' Council in his graduating year. An album on loan chronicles his exploits as an airman in many parts of the world after his enlistment and includes a note of condolence from King George VI at the time of his death on October 27, 1943 at age twenty-two. One interesting

newspaper article is entitled “Finds Lisgar Yell in N. African Book.” The article speaks of a letter which was written from India on Sept. 3, 1943 by IAC. A.E. Wilcox, a former Lisgar student who was being moved from England to India and who had visited North Africa en route. At a visit to a club for Canadian and American servicemen, he signed the visitor's book in which he found the signature of Alan Hague, a former schoolmate; beside the signature was inscribed “Phi, Chi, Psi,” the opening line of the Lisgar cheer. Alan's death occurred shortly after the receipt of the letter.

Another Lisgar alumnus from the same era, David Rouleau (1938) was the subject of a presentation during the Remembrance Day Assembly. David was also an airman during the Second World War—a Spitfire pilot. A recently found jacket belonging to a Spitfire pilot was traced back to David, who also lost his life during the Second World War, and inspired Dave O'Malley of Vintage Wings to write an account of historical fiction based on his last flight entitled *All the Things Never Done – The Last Day and Final Sacrifice of Ottawa's Son – David Francis Gaston Rouleau* (available online at <http://www.vintagewings.ca/page?a=66>). This was brought to our attention by Mike Purdy, former Lisgar teacher, who suggested it as an appropriate subject for this year's assembly. The jacket was on display and the school was the recipient of a plaque honouring David Rouleau. On hand to accept the plaque was Joe Leggett, former Lisgar student and teacher, and Head of Physical Education for many years. Joe was a contemporary of both Alan and David, played on some of Alan's teams, and was a Spitfire pilot himself during World War II. It was a fitting tribute to honour the loss of these promising young lives. More extensive coverage of the school's Remembrance Day Assembly, including photos, is available on our website at <http://www.lisgar.net/newsletter/>.

The trivia question in the last

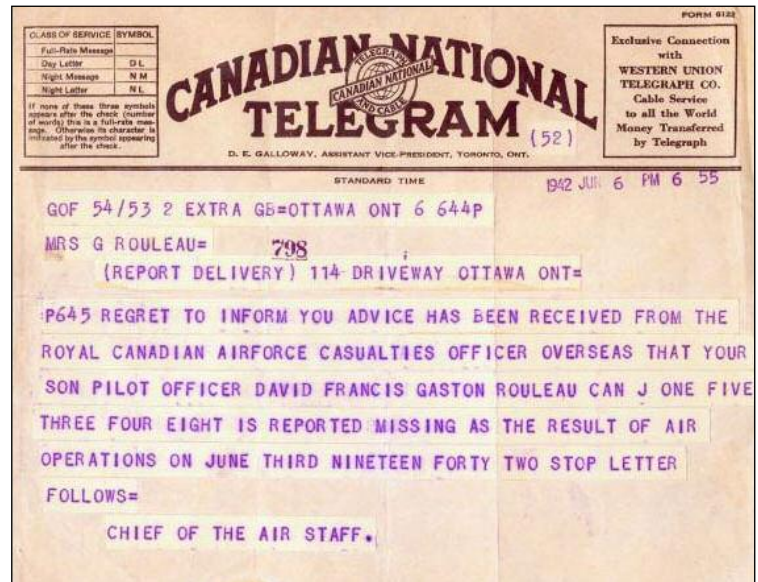


LISGAR PILOT: A jacket belonging to Spitfire pilot David Rouleau (1938), who lost his life in the Second World War, was on display at the school's Remembrance Day assembly this year.

newsletter was “What Lisgar teacher was a forerunner in championing women’s rights and how?” There were no responses to this question to which the answer is Jesse Muir. Miss Muir taught Modern Languages at Lisgar from 1909 to 1939 and was head of the Moderns Department for part of that time. Finlay Hood’s diary for the year 1920 indicates that “The Collegiate Board raised the salaries of teachers almost to the schedule in force in Toronto Collegiate.” An April 27 entry states: “Lady Teachers’ request for salary schedule equal to male Teachers’ salaries was refused to the Coll. Inst. Board.” Jesse Muir’s sense of justice and her mettle is evidenced by the May 7 chronicle “Miss

Muir resigned as a protest to the O.C.I. Board’s refusal. Her salary was raised to that of male heads of departments and resignation was withdrawn.” Several years later on April 29, 1939 Jessie Muir died. A final entry about her indicates the regard in which she was held: “The school suffered a severe loss in the death today of Miss Jessie Muir. She taught Moderns in the school from 1909 and was head of the Moderns Department from 1919 when she succeeded Miss Marty. The school was closed on May 2 to allow teachers and students to attend the funeral.”

The trivia question this time is “Who was Lisgar’s longest serving principal?” Send your answers in to alumni@lisgar.net. ■



AIR OPERATIONS: A 1942 telegram informs Gertrude Rouleau that her son David (1938) is missing.

Prolific Author Joan Finnigan Remembered Message from School Council

In honour of the late Joan Finnigan (1944), a memorial lecture and dinner were held at Queen’s University on October 22 and 23, 2009. Joan was Lisgar’s 1944 *Vox* editor, and edited the History published in conjunction with our 150th reunion (readable on our website; copies remain available for purchase through the Alumni Association). A delegation of Lisgar Alumni attended the events including Pat Hood, Doug Arrand, George Toller and Rod and Wendy Hagglund. Joan was famed as a poet, folklorist and historian of the people of the Ottawa Valley.

The memorial lecture, delivered by

Sean Conway, long-time MPP and Joan’s close friend of many years, movingly covered her life and achievements, from her turbulent childhood as daughter of hockey star Frank Finnigan, through personal tragedy and hardships, persevering with wit and intelligence to carve a unique place in the hearts of those who knew her personally and/or grew to love her through her many books. Joan’s vast collection of books, audio recordings and notes now resides in the Queen’s archives.

George Toller, long-time member of Lisgar’s Alumni Association executive, thanked Mr. Conway for his

address and recounted his own memories of Joan dating from their birth on the same day in the same hospital, through their years together at Lisgar and their lifelong friendship.

At the memorial dinner it was announced that subsequent to Joan’s death a supply of many of her classics, now out-of-print and thought to no longer be available, has been located and can be obtained through General Store Publishing House. Alumni wishing to obtain more information or purchase copies of these unique works can visit the publisher’s website at <http://www.gsph.com> or phone (800) 465-6072. ■

The Lisgar School Council (LSC, <http://lsc.lisgar.net>) is Lisgar’s Parent Teacher Advisory Committee. LSC would like to forge more connections with alumni. A few ideas for joint projects that have come up around the LSC table include:

Participating in Doors Open Ottawa. This city-wide event is held every year on the first weekend of June, and the LSC organizes parent and student volunteers to lead tours of Lisgar. This task fell into the LSC’s lap when the Alumni Association had its hands full with the 160th reunion. Since that is no longer a distraction, we would welcome any and all alumni volunteers who would like to join us.

Arranging a mentorship program that matches students with particular interests with alumni who work in those fields.

Matching students with alumni who have interesting jobs and can offer to host them for the annual Take Our Kids to Work day. Not all parents are in a position to take their children to work on the appointed day, and not all jobs offer much to watch.

If you are interested in any of these ideas, or have some of your own, please send an e-mail to the LSC Secretary at secretary@lisgar.net. ■



Finnigan, Joan—

Editor of *Vox*. Writes poetry which is published. Spends winter weekends at Let’s-get-away-From-it-Hall. Forward on the basketball team. A temperamental Irishman.

A TEMPERMENTAL IRISHMAN: Joan Finnigan’s grad writeup from the 1942 issue of the *Vox Lycei*.

vox lycei student survey

These are the results of a recent survey taken among the Lisgar fifth formers.

EVERY DAY LIFE:

- (1) Do you read Shakespearean drama aside from that on the school curriculum?
Yes — 33% No — 67%
- (2) Do you read poetry aside from that on the school curriculum?
Yes — 48% No — 52%
- (3) Have you ever gone steady?
Yes — 53% No — 47%
- (4) Did you follow the recent election closely?
Yes — 86% No — 14%
- (5) Do you attend most Lisgar dances?
Yes — 46% No — 54%
- (6) Do you think the overall effect of T.V. is good or bad?
Good — 58% Bad — 42%
- (7) Do you like Lisgar's "Calypso Blue and Grey" school song?
Yes — 19% No — 81%
- (8) Do you sing in assembly?
Yes — 61% No — 39%
- (9) Have you yet decided upon a career?
Yes — 70% No — 30%
- (10) Do you smoke?
Yes — 33% No — 67%
- (11) Do you drive a car?
Yes — 57% No — 43%
- (12) What hit parade song did you like best this year?
"Tammy" — 10%
"Arrivederci Roma" — 10%
"Around the World" — 5%
- (13) What subject do you like best?
Science — 42%
Math — 30%
Languages — 18%
History — 5%
- (14) What is your favourite television programme?
Perry Como — 13%
Zorro — 6%
I Love Lucy — 5%
NHL Hockey — 5%
Disneyland — 5%
- (15) What famous person do you admire most?
Churchill — 32%

Schweitzer — 8%
Einstein — 5%

- (16) How many extra-curricular organizations at Lisgar have you belonged to, this year?
1.2
- (17) What time do you usually get to bed during the school week?
11.20
- (18) At what age do you want to get married?
24.3
- (19) Do you like "Elvis Presley type" singers?
Yes — 31% No — 69%

CURRENT EVENTS:

- (1) Should France continue her colonial policy in Algeria?
Yes — 38% No — 62%
- (2) Should the West ban the H bomb tests?
Yes — 63% No — 37%
- (3) Do you believe there will be a third world war?
Yes — 49.6% No — 49.4%
- (4) Should Canada have a distinctive national flag?
Yes — 79% No — 21%
- (5) What Canadian political party would you support?
P.C. — 52% Lib. — 33% CCF — 11%
- (6) Next to Canada of what country would you most like to be a citizen?
USA — 31% Great Britain — 14%
Australia — 12%

SCIENCE:

- (1) Were you surprised when Russia put the first satellite in orbit?
Yes — 54% No — 46%
- (2) What country do you think will first land a human on the moon?
USA — 38% USSR — 62%
- (3) Do you believe in flying saucers?
Yes — 30% No — 70%
- (4) Do you believe intelligent life exists somewhere other than on earth?
Yes — 65% No — 35%

EDUCATION:

- (1) Are you in favour of co-education?
Yes — 93% No — 7%
- (2) Should Russian be offered as a language in Canadian high schools?
Yes — 63% No — 37%