

Westlane graduation will be held Oct. 27

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With the ever-increasing attention paid to and participation in (hopefully) extra-curricular activity at Westlane, the immediate purpose of the edifice on Pitton Road is often relegated to some dark corner of our minds. I speak, of course, of Education.

This coming week will feature what comes closest to being the climax of the educational process. True, the actual achievement phase probably peaks during exams, but there must be a reward for all of a person's efforts in the four or five (or six or seven!) year period at Westlane.

The rewards, alas, are most probably intangibles which each person must evaluate and appreciate within the closed quarters of his own mind. But recognition is another matter.

Formal recognition is provided by an event called Commencement. This year, Commencement at Westlane is Friday, October 27. Recipients of the Ontario Graduation Diploma, awarded after successful completion of Grade 12, and of the Ontario Honors Diploma, awarded after successful com-

pletion of Grade 13 will be presented. Scholarships and related awards will also be recognized.

One seemingly insignificant thing about Westlane's Graduation strikes me very deeply. Notice that it is called, paradoxically, Commencement. What a profound statement this one word makes. After five years at Westlane, I think most appreciative persons would be saddened at the thought of having to leave.

And when their last official appearance at Westlane occurs, it is called "Beginning". It throws the future into a different light for anyone willing to contemplate it. I can't imagine who's responsible for this name, but it is a remarkably small but vastly important piece of genius.

This past week Westlane was honored by having the four candidates in the swiftly upcoming federal election at our school. Naturally, we are in the unique position of having one of the candidates, Mr. Hueglin, on the staff. This certainly must have some effect.

Mr. Hueglin himself acknowledged this, by saying in the introduction to his speech, that the Westlane audience probably knows him, person-

ally, better than any audience he has ever addressed, or is ever likely to address.

Dr. Jamieson, another candidate, also must have recognized the significance of the situation, for he wisecracked that he was in "Hueglin country".

The immense number of Joe Hueglin stickers showing up on non-voters is proof positive of this. (Not to say we are absolutely Liberal-free, of course.)

Something I noticed at the debate, which, since I'm not voting anyway, isn't really any of my business, is the attitude of the candidates. Since a few of my voting-age friends agreed with me, I'll print it, anyway.

It seems that virtually every candidate, and I'm sure this applies equally well in every constituency across this great land of ours, is bent on convincing voters that the other candidates are NO GOOD (for lack of two better words), rather than that they themselves are sincere about their devotion to our country. What do you think?

Last week, as some will remember, was Westlane Week. Each of the

clubs which participated had an opportunity to set up a booth in which to display descriptive material concerning their club, the idea being, of course, to promote involvement in extra-curricular life.

Now it's over, and, to appraise the results, I talked to Marsha Bean, who was the head of the Westlane Week Committee, and in charge of the whole shooting match.

Marsha said first that the entire thing came off quite well, considering that it was the first time we have ever had such an event. When asked to specify, she said the best thing about it was that "it made the place look busy: there was 'something' instead of 'nothing' to do in those usually empty halls." She feels that a type of "Carnival" atmosphere was conveyed to the students, and that they enjoyed this.

And as Joe Sparty said to me the other day as we sat watching a basketball game, "Gee, Pete, I know everybody can't have too much spirit, but you'd think we could get more than a couple dozen out to these games!"