Mr. Chancellor, it is an honour to present Len Norris, an editorial cartoonist who for almost four decades has made us laugh at our all too human foibles and endearing idiosyncrasies. His cartoons have lightened our loads and brightened our days; their unassuming creator has captured our hearts.

Born in England, he came to Canada in 1926 and was educated in Port Arthur, Ontario. During the Depression he worked on the Toronto docks and did illustrations part-time. In 1940 he enlisted with the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. After the war, Len Norris was artist and editor with Bus and Truck Transport and Canadian Homes and Gardens magazines. In 1950, to our everlasting gratitude, he moved to British Columbia and joined The Vancouver Sun.

Alexander Pope wrote, "True wit is nature to advantage dressed, what oft was thought, but ne'er so well expressed." For 38 years at the Sun, until his retirement in 1988, Len Norris expressed those thoughts brilliantly. He has been called the greatest in the business by Walt Kelly, creator of the comic strip Pogo. Pierre Berton declared that Len Noms had single-handedly changed newspaper cartooning in Canada, and Bruce Hutchinson called him a genius. To Hutchinson's description we might add the word gentle, for Len Norris's wit, though often piercing, is always kind.

British Columbians know that to gaze upon a Norris is to enter a unique world, every corner crammed with detail: the ubiquitous bureaucrat wearing pince-nez glasses; the construction worker standing nonchalantly, foot en pointe; kids brawling; Rodney complaining. We recognize them all and love them all because Len Norris's nib transforms the particular into the universal and reveals our commonality.

His work has won many honours. Just one year after joining The Vancouver Sun, he received the National Newspaper Award as best cartoonist in Canada. Norris is enshrined in the Canadian News Hall of Fame and the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. At least one Norris original graces a wall in Buckingham Palace. He has also received the Bruce Hutchinson Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding contribution to British Columbia and Canadian Journalism.

As his colleagues will attest, Len Norris works for the fun of it, and we, of course, follow his cartoons for the pleasure of it. In 1973 the University of Windsor gave Len Norris an honorary degree, thus confirming the national significance of his work. It is time, Mr. Chancellor, for Simon Fraser University to recognize Len Norris, who through laughter has enriched our lives beyond measure. I am delighted to present Len Norris for the Degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.