

THE DEAN

by Al Schalow

They say to get to know a man--the very thing to do
Is to put on his shoes, look around--then walk a mile or two.
So let's take a stroll down memory lane and maybe we can see
If the life of a Dean, like a purple cow, is better to see than be.

He was born just north of Virginia--in the land of waters blue
And a genetic influence by Maryland crabs--simply isn't true.
At Sparrow's Point, his place of birth, they shake their heads and say
Virginia's gain is sure our loss--a big one got away!

An honors graduate at Maryland--a job he had to find
As a chemist found work in Baltimore--the U. S. Government kind.
With several changes in career--the light was finally seen
Why work this hard for years and years--when you can be a Dean?

So he came as a teacher to MCV--and found the time was right
To become the Dean and for twenty-five years be captain of the site.
With wisdom and lots of planning--the course he set to chart
To make the best he'd give his best--an example from the start.

Well, it sounds like fun so far--but you can't please 'em all
Playing the game is kissing babies--while fighting city hall.
An example we know in early sixties--how would you like to be
The one who censored a Senior Take-Off--then hung in effigy?

And we wondered if he knew those pet names--invented by a few
An academic hazard with the tricks that students do.
From Wean Deaver that affectionate underground pun
To (and we're being charitable here)--"that heartless son-of-a-gun."

At his post grades invitational--you expected much abuse
But he gave you his best pep talk--you gave your best excuse.
And that rattling in the hall--as you chatted with the Dean
Was the knees of students, still in line, waiting to be seen.

He's traveled the banquet circuit--taken it all in stride
With organizational service--both state and nationwide.
And while he served--some in school--wondered where he hid
Then realized in later years--the scope of what he did.

He's known for thinking deeply--with reasoning very sound
Once he makes his mind up--he firmly stands his ground.
He also shows persistence--and the endurance of a mule
We know those traits are useful--we're getting a new pharmacy school.

Although his title will pass--to another qualified hand
We know for the good of Pharmacy--he'll still do what he can.
So now we close the chapter--having explored much under the sun
We leave with the thought--when Deans are ranked--ours is NUMEER ONE!