Ladies and Gentlemen, I have been asked to propose a toast to Dan.

Groups. It is all about groups. The management have required me to define all technical terms that I use. A group is a category with one object, whose nerve is a Kan complex. During this conference a new filtration has been introduced into the class of all groups (Martin Bridson). Oh dear, filtration. Well a filtration is what you get when you filter something; but it is not like coffee. This filtration consists first of the class of all groups, then of the class of groups that you understand, and then of the class of groups that you really and honestly understand; this latter class being roughly the class of groups studied by Dan. But there is more to the filtration than this. You would like to understand the theorems that let you understand the groups, and then to understand the mathematicians who understand the theorems that explain the groups. Dan has many delightful properties, both as a mathematician and as a person, that are easy at least to recognise. I was visiting him in All Souls, and asked the porter, an excellent and somewhat austere man, to direct me to the rooms of Professor Segal. He informed me that All Souls was well supplied with Professors Segal, and asked whether I wished to express a preference for one Professor Segal rather than another. I said that I should prefer the man who (joint work with Nikolay Nikolov) had proved the Serre conjecture. 'Ah' he said, 'you mean Dan', and a smile spread three times round his face.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I give you a toast to Dan.