

DRAFT

Commencement Address
Roosevelt High School
June 26, 1979

40 years ago

10 years ago

last class of 70's

Introduction: Ironic - Compete with Sonics where tall men in short pants
drop a ball in hoop for \$100 million+/year

Can you remember any European author of 200-300 years ago?? painters, authors, scientist

Quotes

Mark Twain: "Soap and Education are not as sudden as a massacre, but they are
more deadly in the long run."

H. G. Wells "Human history becomes more and more a race between education and
catastrophe."

Congratulations

a) worked hard, able or pushed by parents/teachers--undoubtedly all 3.

Reward tonight, but more importantly,

b) because you are preparing for the next step and for leadership

c) 13 M hours + equal TV time = beginning

d) to this base you must now sort, select,

discriminate, choose

e) from here on education is not forced but chosen

not mandatory, but voluntary

your incr should be involved in designing your educ

Education - continuity, breadth, joy, use

a) lifelong process from cry at birth

when education ceases, we die. physical lit

- b) when we cease to reach out for new knowledge we die intellectually
- c) College & university - conduits of knowledge
miracles of science, wisdom of sages
2000 years dead, music of thousands of composers
all ready for an inquisitive mind
(Base of knowledge - like pyramid, upside down, broadening
strengthening--used badly, can tip
- d) you stand astride all knowledge of the ages and can build new marvels
from that base
- e) those who enter world of work or family--continue apprenticeship--independent
study, leisure education--door to education is open

Education breadth

- a) don't fall prey to the powerful pull of vocationalism (specialization or
authority OK - heart surgeon) but
- b) important to choose direction and become an authority. But one who plays cello
or reads history has advantage over others
- c) artist should know precision & order of science
craftsman should know community service
mathematician should know joyous sweep of painter
physicist should know stately sweep of history
actor, the creative chaos of political science
- d) liberal arts under fire
- e) our forefathers of colonial days marked liberal education as important
- f) constitution written and created by men who studied in wide variety of field.
essential to all Renaissance men.
- g) your job more difficult as world is more complex
- h) 4th grader knows much that Jefferson could not comprehend
cannot yet understand how to us.

Education - Joy

- a) I can do it by myself; it works; eureka; I didn't know that
- b) all representing joy of knowledge
learning cannot be a chore but a challenge.
- c) should be an everyday affair
as adults, how often--for pelasure--do we pick out a classic and read,
listen to serious music, seriously read Bible as history, reread constitution
on which we base our freedom

complaint of TV commentators of ignorance of high school -- equal
ignorance of adults

who's the current prime minister of Canada?

" president of Mexico?

" prime minister of Japan

Education - Use

- a) of no value unless used
- b) teach others
our immortality in what we pass to next generation
- c) Never let second best be good enough
use knowledge to make better life/better community/better future

Quote: Theodore Roosevelt

"It is not the critic who counts. Not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena--whose face is marred by dust, and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes short again and again, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause, who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly--so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

(Same now - add "woman")