

Frosh Welcomed at Convocation



President Eric A. Walker

University President Eric A. Walker and Undergraduate Student Government President Ted Thompson were on hand to welcome 1220 new freshmen and transfer students to the University Sunday night in Schwab Auditorium.

Before the welcoming speeches by Walker and Thompson, the new students were treated to a slide showing titled "For the Glory" which pictures many of the traditions that make up Penn State.

Following Walker's and Thompson's speeches, James Perine, Instructor of Community Services in the College of Human Development and Director of the Upward Bound Program spoke to the students and explained the purposes, problems and functions of the Upward Bound Program which will be taking place at the University this summer.

After the welcoming speeches, the new students were invited to a faculty reception in the HUB Ballroom where they could talk with members of the faculty from all the colleges.

Following are the complete texts of Walker's and Thompson's speeches:



USG President Ted Thompson

Thompson: 'Speak Out Where You Can Be Heard'

Walker: 'Confident Humility Leads to True Wisdom'

"Welcome—all of you—to University Park.

"Some of you are just beginning your college careers. Some of you have transferred from Commonwealth Campuses. And some of you have already had a year or two of college experience at another institution and are now Penn State students for the first time.

"But all of you are new to the University Park Campus and all of you will find life here somewhat different from what you may have been accustomed to in the past.

"You are beginning a new journey in higher education, and if it seems a bit overwhelming to you at the moment, just remember that the longest journey begins with a single step. And you have made that step here this week at one of the finest institutions in the Nation. I hope it is a path that you will follow all of your life—for you will find that education is indeed a life-long process.

"Whenever I stand in front of a group of newly arrived students such as you, I feel that I ought to have some words of wisdom which by their very vitality and forcefulness would set each of you on the road to success at University Park. I have the feeling that somehow or other I ought to be able to conjure up a few well chosen words that—if they don't actually inspire you—could at least serve as realistic reminders of some of the pitfalls that probably lie ahead of you. For I'm afraid that as the next few years pass, one thing is certain: a number of you will encounter difficult problems of one kind or another. And when this happens, I will ask myself whether there was a way that something I might have done to prevent it—some words of advice that I might have given you that would have prevented you from making the wrong decision that caused the trouble.

"Actually, I don't really believe there are such words. I'm afraid that the decisions you make in the next few years, the activities you engage in, and the general course of your conduct, must, in the nature of things, be pretty much your own affair. How you conduct your personal life as a Penn State student, and what you accomplish in the years ahead of you, is pretty largely your own responsibility.

"I suppose that if I asked you why you are here, most of you would say that you are here to learn a profession and prepare yourself for a job. Few of you would claim otherwise, and I'm sure that most of your predecessors here at University Park had the same general objective. Now there is nothing wrong with such a goal. Purposeful dedication to getting an education that will prepare you to make an effective contribution in

your special field of interest is a worthy and admirable aim.

"Undoubtedly, today's world needs people who are fully trained and well educated in technical, scientific, and other specialties.

"But perhaps an even greater need is for people with broad humane interests. People who can recognize the interactions and inter-relationships of human affairs. And who have the capacity and the initiative to use this knowledge for the common good—people, in short, whose knowledge has given them understanding, and whose understanding manifests itself in active recognition of the rights and needs of their fellow man.

"Today most educated men have no difficulty getting a job. There are enough jobs to occupy the talents of almost anyone who has any specialized training at all. But the world you are entering is a world in which the challenges are broader and much more demanding than those involved in merely finding an appropriate niche and settling down to a comfortable and prosperous working life.

"And because of this, your education, your preparation to take your place in this challenging world, has itself become much more demanding than the kind of education which served well enough a generation ago. Our objective is no longer merely to train you as competent professional workers but to educate you to become responsible citizens of a complex world.

"For learning a profession is really only part of your job here. Your real profession is not only that by which you will eventually earn your living—your true vocation should be, above all, that of citizen.

"I'm sure you will find, both now and in the world ahead, that the quality of your citizenship will far exceed in importance the manner in which you seek to earn your daily bread.

"And because of this, we feel that we have a right to expect more of you. And we expect more of you because you are a more select group than your predecessors of a decade or two ago. On the whole, you were probably better trained in high school. And there is every indication that in your approach to learning, most of you are more serious and more eager than they.

"I think that if I had to single out one characteristic which most clearly distinguishes the world in which we live

today from the world into which I graduated, it would be this emphasis upon human relationships, this growing concern with the rights and needs and responsibilities of ordinary human beings in their daily affairs.

"As Penn State students, you have come to the University to prepare yourselves for such leadership in this modern world. All of you, as I said, are probably better trained and educated than were students just a decade ago. Most of you have already acquired some understanding of the problems and difficulties and inequities of modern society. Many of you have begun to form opinions about how these problems might be solved, and some of you are eager to do something about it right now—to put your thoughts and beliefs into concrete action. Certainly another of the significant characteristics of your generation is your eagerness to act, your desire to attack the problems that your elders have failed to solve, and you are to be commended for this kind of interest and enthusiasm.

"But in your eagerness to act, do not forget that your knowledge of the world, and indeed any man's knowledge, is rather incomplete and limited. That, after all, is why a university exists and why you are here. In becoming a university student you have signified your willingness to learn, to inquire, to assimilate new ideas, to broaden your understanding. And paradoxically enough, the more you learn the more you are certain to realize how much the wisdom you seek depends upon a recognition that there is very rarely a simple pat answer to any serious problem, that there are always several sides to any question, and that the proper solution is seldom as obvious as it seems.

"Do not forget that it has taken mankind some ten thousand years to get where he is. Our world isn't perfect by any means; we still have a long way to go to perfect our society. But over the centuries, man has succeeded in solving his problems one by one, in devising systems that slowly but surely have made the lot of each generation a little better than that of the previous one.

"And that, let me repeat, is why you are here—to learn, to inquire, to develop your own understanding of the way the world grows, and to grow in worldly wisdom so that you may take your place of leadership in a world that needs your help in finding solutions to man's problems.

"But while you are here, remember that the true worth of the eventual leadership depends not only upon eagerness and enthusiasm, but merely upon willingness to accept responsibility, or even upon courage to act, but more

than anything else upon a depth of wisdom and a breadth of understanding that comes from knowledge gained through humility. The wisest and most respected philosopher of all times, Socrates, once said, "There is only one thing I know, and that is that I know nothing." It is this kind of confident humility that leads to true wisdom and understanding.

"You will have to work hard while you are here. In fact, you will probably have to work harder than you ever worked before. You will find that you will often have to work on weekends, not only to prepare for the coming week, but to catch up on work from the previous one. You will discover that at University Park there is no such thing as a forty-hour week. You will soon realize that your professors expect you to exert yourself to the limits of your capacity.

"And if you approach your work with an open mind and a willingness to learn, find all of us willing and eager to help you. And you will probably find these will be among the most exciting and enjoyable years of your life.

"Good luck to all of you."

Thompson's Speech

"As the President of the Undergraduate Student Government I would like to welcome you, the class of 1973, to good old PSU—this will be your home for the next four years and I hope you will get the best you can from Happy Valley. Many people will take the opportunity to welcome you here and wish you luck. I would like to add my name to that list.

"Reports from around the state and the country say your class, the graduates of 1969, is the most knowledgeable and alert class to come on the academic scene. This may have been true in high school; some of you may have been instrumental in class boycotts, or of a building takeover, or some other form of protest. However, you are now college students - not high school pupils; there is a distinct difference; I hope you will realize this before too long.

"Accepting this and other reports about your class, I would like to bring certain observations and suggestions to your attention.

"From my vantage point in student government, I have seen an over-emphasis by students in non-academic areas. One of your most pressing challenges is that of academic reform. There are many ways this can be approached; one approach is through the structure - U.S.G. We are working on many programs which will effect academic reform, but we need your

minority opinion if that opinion is right. Since I have assumed the Presidency I have been trying to reach as many different groups as I can - sometimes for advice, opinion, or to see what direction they are going where I might be able to assist, but I need your help and your energy to continue this task.

"To those of you who have demonstration and protest in your blood - continue to demonstrate and protest, but, only if it's peaceful, lawful, and with a valid cause. I will defend with all the authority and power of my office your right to protest - and I won't allow any group, be they Administrators or off-campus authorities to interfere with your rights. However, this is what I expect from you - no taking over or occupying buildings illegally, no deprivation of anyone's rights, no interference with the educational process, and most of all no student to student confrontation. Again, I cannot accept any deviation from these guidelines.

"But, neither will I accept any administrative silence or procrastination when silence and procrastination will prove to be detrimental to the University. As of late, different Administrators appear to be reluctant or afraid to speak out. These are men and women who have been delegated with the responsibility of running the University and if they cannot see it fit to answer questions or state their positional policies and statements - then I say to them "move on, we don't want you, your presence and talents are no longer required."

"If the excuse of only willing to talk with a representative of the student body is used - then I will be at the spearhead of every movement to get results and answers. If the fear of the Harrisburg legislature is a point of concern - then I say to hell with them; they won't shut down this University financially; however, if they are going to use the pursestrings to keep this University under their thumb and use it to suppress free expression by students, faculty, and administrators - then I say raise the tuition because I will speak out and so should you.

"I want you to speak out where you can be heard and where you can be most effective; for undergraduates at University Park the answer to that is U.S.G. The Administration, the Faculty Senate, and the Board of Trustees can't ignore our voice, and they must answer us.

"You are now a part of a community of minds; you can raise or lower yourself by what you say, think, and do. Use your minds and your hearts constructively, and the future is yours for the asking.

"Thank you and good luck."

Walker: 'Confident Humility Leads to True Wisdom'

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