

Freshperson Welcome (9/1/91)

Welcome

On behalf of the faculty of the University, I
would like to welcome you to Michigan...
and to our family of the Maize and Blue!

Some Questions

Are you all moved in yet?
Have you found where your classes are?
Has anyone chosen a major yet?
...anyone...anyone...
Good...because you'll probably change it several
times in the next few weeks...
Have you found Michigan Stadium?
...are you ready for Notre Dame?
Have you met Shakin' Jake?
Have you had your first gourmet experience with dorm food?
Ah, well you still have a few surprises in store for you...

The Adventure Begins

Well, you actually made it!

All the waiting and wondering and anticipating is over

And I promise you that your next few years

will be one of the great adventures of your entire lives.

It has long been a tradition for the President of the University

to give a very, very long talk to new students

...to provide you with some important advice...

Advice such as:

...never...no...

...always...check your references....

...and so on

But since it has also long been a tradition for students to

totally ignore this advice, I think I will dispense with

such a sermon

Particularly on a day such as this.

Let me just talk a moment about grades...

I suspect that you all have come to Michigan determined
to excell academically

To go for "A"s...or at least "B"s...

Let me suggest, however, that there are some important "C"s
that characterize a Michigan education

C #1: Commitment

A commitment to excellence...

...to the achievement of nothng but the best in your
personal performance

A commitment to fundamental values

...truth and intellectual integrity and truth

...freedom of expression and tolerance

...preserving one's rights while accepting one's responsibilities

C #2: Caring and Compassion

There is an important bond that links those of us in the Michigan family together...a bond of caring and compassion for one another...as well as for the society we are destined to serve.

C #3: Community

At Michigan you will encounter a student body of great diversity...
...of different races, nationalities, religious beliefs, political beliefs.
Yet, we are not a "Diversity", but rather we are a "UNiversity".
An important part of your education is learning how to respect others who are different, even as you seek to find the common values and goals which unite us.

C #4: Character

Michigan has a very unique character...
...a "Go-Blue", "let's go for it" spirit that
infects all who become a part of the Michigan family

Throughout its history, this University has been regarded as a leader...and beyond...as a source of leaders of our society.

Consider for example a few snapshots from last year...

- 1) the Sunrunner: US champion, 3rd in the world
- 2) Genetic medicine: cystic fibrosis, neurofibromatosis, breast cancer...polio
- 3) NSFnet, NREN
- 4) NSF laser center
- 5) Students going to Eastern Europe
- 6) 3 women faculty won MacCarthur Prizes
- 7) Palentologist discovered that whales used to have feet
- 9) President Bush decided that he just had to come and see for himself our remarkable graduating class of 1990...and now he and Mrs. Bush are fellow Michigan alumni!

8) 3rd Big Ten football championship

...#1 recruiting classes in both football and basketball

...Schembecher, Nederlander, Tisch

...Brigette Venturi

You can expect a similar year ahead...

1) massive new effort LS&A is making to bring our very best
faculty into the classroom with underclass students

2) Put students in prime basketball seats...to liven up things abit

3) Already the curse of having been ranked by Sports Illustrated
as the #1 team

Introduce Gary Lewis and the Band

Well, I don't know whether the Michigan Football team can hold on to that #1 ranking (we only held it one week last year...)

But I do know one Michigan institution that will clearly be #1 in the nation this year.

In fact, when you think about the C-qualities

...commitment

...caring and compassion

...community

...character

The first Michigan tradition that comes to mind as the embodiment of all of these is the great Michigan Marching Band.

Hence, what better way to launch your adventure as a Michigan student than to introduce Gary Lewis, Director of the Michigan Marching Band, and invite him to introduce this great Michigan tradition.

Concluding Remarks

Just one more word as Gary is coming out...

Michigan is an exciting, challenging...sometimes

frustrating...but always rewarding place.

Let me wish you the best as you start the fascinating
and rewarding process of a Michigan education!

Good luck!

Go Blue!!!