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Concluding Remarks at Honors Convocation, delivered on June 3, 1970

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CONCLUDING REMARKS
HONORS CONVOCATION - JUNE 3, 1970

TODAY WE RECOGNIZE TALENT IN MANY FORMS. DOES ANYONE REALLY KNOW HOW TALENT IS FORMED? HEREDITY, BODY CHEMISTRY, WILL, ENVIRONMENT; WHAT ROLE DOES EACH PLAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TALENTED PERSON? WE DO KNOW, HOWEVER, THE EFFECTS OF TALENT ON OUR OWN LIVES. THE PEOPLE HONORED TODAY HAVE PROBABLY DONE MORE THAN MOST TO CREATE THE ATMOSPHERE, THE ETHOS, THAT GIVE CHARACTER TO GRAND VALLEY STATE COLLEGE, AND, IN THAT WAY, AFFECTED ALL OF US. THEY, TO A LARGE DEGREE, MAKE THE SPIRIT OF THE PLACE.

AS A COMMUNITY, WE SINGLE THEM OUT, THIS DIVERSE GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS, TAKE TIME TO SAY NICE THINGS ABOUT THEM, ASK THEM TO STAND IN THEIR INDIVIDUALITY, BECAUSE THEY REPRESENT TO THOSE WHO SELECTED THEM THE BEST IN HUMAN QUALITIES AT GRAND VALLEY STATE COLLEGE. IN THEIR DIVERSITY, AND WITH THEIR WEAKNESSES AS WELL AS STRENGTHS, THEY ARE EXAMPLES BOTH OF WHAT WE ARE AND WHAT WE STRIVE TO BE.

ONE CHARACTERISTIC THEY ALL HAVE DEVELOPED -- THE ABILITY TO CHANNEL THEIR INTERESTS AND TALENTS IN A POSITIVE WAY. THEY APPARENTLY HAVE PERSONAL REBELLION ENOUGH UNDER CONTROL OR WORKED OUT SO THAT THEY ARE NOT FOLLOWING PATHS OF SELF-DESTRUCTION OR
INTIMIDATION OF THOSE AROUND THEM. BY MASTERY OF A COURSE OF
STUDY OR CAPABLE LEADERSHIP AND EXPRESSION IN THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY
AND ITS ACTIVITIES, THEY DISPLAY A DESIRE TO ENRICH THEMSELVES AND
THE PEOPLE WITH WHOM THEY COME IN CONTACT. IT IS THROUGH ATTITUDES
LIKE THEIR THAT TALENTS LIKE THEIRS BUILD A SANE SOCIETY, ONE THAT
CHANGES WHEN CHANGE IS NECESSARY, AND PRESERVES AND CONSERVES
WHEN PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ARE NECESSARY.

IT IS TIME NOW TO CLOSE OUR HONORS CONVOCATION. WE HAVE
SALUTED MANY OF YOU TODAY BECAUSE WE NEED YOU. MAY YOUR MATURING
INTELLECT BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ABILITY TO ACT, AND MAY YOUR ACTION
ALWAYS BE TEMPERED BY KINDLY CONSIDERATION OF OTHERS SO THAT
WE WILL ALWAYS NEED YOU.

THE CONVOCATION IS ENDED.