

## **Pow Wow-89**

### **Welcome**

Special welcome to the...

Elders

veterans

head dancers and host drum

visiting dancers and visiting drum groups

and all the Indian nations gathered here today.

It is both a pleasure and a privilege to welcome you

and your guests to the Annual Ann Arbor Pow Wow

### **Observations**

Bart Giamatti once described the position of today's

university president as a 17th century

ecclesiastical position atop a 21st Century corporation

While there are undoubtedly many frustrations to the job,

one of the great things about it is the opportunity to

participate in wonderful celebrations such as these...

Events which demonstrate to all of us the importance of

maintaining our own culture, heritage, and values and

sharing this richness of experience and wisdom with others.

Your theme, "In Honor of Our Heritage", echoes the

theme I have put before the University in the days since

I was appointed as its president.

### **The Michigan Mandate**

The University of Michigan must honor its heritage by

providing the best possible education to all of its

students, regardless of their economic status, ethnic

group, race, gender or religion.

In the words of our first president, our role is that of providing "an uncommon education for the common man".

In this role, the University is committed to the goal of

increasing the representation of underrepresented minorities

among our students, faculty, and staff.

Our plan for achieving this goal is called the Michigan

**Mandate,**

and it sets the course for the University that will take us into

the 21st Century--a period in which our nation will become

one of the most pluralistic, multicultural societies in history...

...And learning to respect and honor our various cultural

backgrounds, even as we work together toward common

objectives, will become the key to the future of America.

### **The Challenge...**

The most important challenge of all in our future will be

to provide the best possible educational opportunities

for everyone.

For we will need the talent, experience, intelligence, and the

leadership of every person in our nation.

The education we provide in our schools and at this University

also must increase our knowledge, understanding, and

appreciation of the culture, history, heritage, traditions

and customs of the many different groups in our society.

If America is to thrive--or even survive--we are going to have

to learn to value our differences and learn from them as

well as embracing those values and objectives we have in common.

As the first people of our land, Native Americans have a special

claim on our national attention, and they have much to teach

us in many, many areas...

...how to live in better harmony with our environment...

...how to show more honor to our traditions and our

ancestors

...how to come together...a nation of differing tribes...  
differing peoples...working together

**A welcome to college-day students...**

I am especially delighted to welcome the college-day students  
who are visiting us this weekend.

I am glad you have this special opportunity to participate in  
the Pow Wow and learn about the vitality of Native American  
cultures and traditions.

This demonstrates a great thing about Michigan...a lot of what  
our students learn occurs outside the classroom...and  
from one another.

This University is designed to be a place to broaden one's horizons.

To understand it at a young age you can connect, you can connect.

**2 + People come here Error!**

and they teach us at the same time that they're learning from us.

**2 + We all need to appreciate the fact that this is a place open  
to all.**

where each person and group must be valued for the

head 3(- unique contributins they brixg to our collective life.  
You allbelong,kere just as much ys Ado.  
Everyone □as the right to aspire to attend theUniversxty of  
hchigan...or any otheer uniw□rsity hn this country.

.head 2 , AneÅwe genuiel□ need what each person ✓an contribute.

.`ead 2 - I hopemany ol you will be freshmen here one of these days.

We need you `nd what you have to teach us...and we will do our best to help you get the finest education in America.

### **Conclusions**

Opce again, welsome to all of you.

I congratulate you for putting this wonderful Pow Wow together and allowing us to join with you to celebrate and learn from the greatness of Native American cultures you represent.

This is a real contribution to the life of this University... and I hope it is a wonderful success.

Again, welcome and best wishes.