

+ Commencement Notes

+ Welcome

- + Let me begin by welcoming you all to the Spring Commencement
 - of the University of Michigan.
- + A particularly warm welcome to
 - President and Mrs. Bush
 - Governor Engler
 - Regents and Honored Guests
 - To all of you who are graduating today...
- + And...most particularly of all...those of you
 - who as parents, family members, and friends
 - provided the years of support, encouragement
 - ...not to mention funding...
 - so critical to the achievement of those graduates
 - before us today.

+ Let me also take this opportunity to welcome you

- to the "New" Michigan Stadium...
- + ...in fact, this is the first official event to be held in our
 - recently "lowered" stadium...
 - on our new "prescription athletic turf"
- + ...now I know that it feels a bit hard...
 - but by using computer controls, we
 - can adjust the valving and piping underneath
 - the field to control its hardness and speed.
- + Today we've got it turned up all the way...
 - ...just like we're going to have it when
 - we play Notre Dame in the home opener
 - this fall...

+ Extraordinary Memories

- + Commencement is always an emotional time...
 - with memories of your years at Michigan flooding
 - your consciousness.
- And what extraordinary experiences you've had at Michigan...
- + In the accomplishments of your University during your years
 - + ...the extraordinary efforts of Michigan medical scientists
 - which have resulted in the identification of the
 - genetic causes of some of the most dreaded diseases
 - of our time...cystic fibrosis, neurofibromatosis,
 - diabetes...with the new possible of gene therapeutic
 - cures for these diseases
 - + ...or successful efforts of Michigan physicists to build
 - the world's most powerful laser
 - + ...or Michigan's leadership in building the National Research
 - and Education Network, the computer network that
 - now links together over a million users world-wide
 - + ...or last week's ranking that singles out Michigan as the
 - one of only three universities in the nation--and the
 - only public university--with all of its professional
 - schools ranked among the national leaders.
- + In extracurricular activities
 - + A team of over 100 Michigan students won the national
 - solar car race from Florida to Michigan...
 - ...and then went on to finish 3rd in the world
 - champions held in Australia, only by factory
 - teams from Honda and Switzerland.
 - + Or the MBA students who have traveled to Eastern
 - Europe to help these nations in their efforts to
 - move to free-market economies
- + In athletics...
 - + ...three Big Ten Football Championships
 - ...including three bowl wins...

- ...a national championship in basketball
- + ...individual national championships...
 - ...even Olympic Gold medals
- + ...indeed, during your years at Michigan one
 - of your fellow students--a woman engineer,
 - I might add--won the American Gladiators
 - competition!!!
- + It is clear that the "Go Blue spirit" that so enlivens
 - our University is alive and well in you as our graduates.
- + **A Stadium of Champions**
 - + In a sense, it is most appropriate that your
 - commencement should occur in that
 - home of Champions, Michigan Stadium.
 - + The great tradition of Michigan athletics
 - permeates and enlivens much of the life
 - of our campus...the Michigan spirit
 - only gives us all a sense of pride...
 - ...but it teaches us that winning,
 - achieving, being a champion
 - requires extraordinary effort,
 - courage, and determination.
 - + It teaches us that very important lesson of life:
 - Goals worth achieving will be attained only
 - through effort, hard work, and sacrifice
 - ...and sometimes even these are not enough.
 - + What better way to kickoff this event by
 - introducing to you an individual who
 - has exhibited all of the attributes and more...
 - ...who was one of the really big winners of
 - 1990...
 - and who now is providing leadership for
 - our state during a time of unusual challenge
 - and opportunity.
 - + Governor of the State of Michigan
 - Governor John Engler

+ CLOSING REMARKS

- + Before we conclude our program, I would like
 - to address a few final words to the graduates.
- + There is little doubt that college has as much impact as
 - anything in our lives...
 - It sets us on a career course...
 - Many of your college friends will remain close throughout your lives.
- + Many of us meet our lifetime companions in college...
 - roughly one-third of Michigan graduates meet their
 - spouses at Michigan
- + Throughout our career and our lives our college experience
 - provides us with an anchor, a tie to the values and
 - understanding that guide our lives...
- + And, of course, provides us with something to do on
 - Saturday afternoons in the fall...
 - ...and on New Year's Day!!!
- + Although most of you will be leaving Ann Arbor following
 - your graduation, I suspect you will find yourself
 - returning time and time again.
- + You know, one of the most meaningful moments on this
 - campus occurs in early September when the Ann Arbor
 - merchants put up banners along State Street and
 - South University welcoming back students at the
 - beginning of the fall term with the simple phrase:
 - "Welcome home"...
- + In a very real sense, this University has become your
 - home...you will forever be a member of the Michigan family.
- + Today you are joining that long line of maize and blue alumni...
 - over 350,000 strong, one out of every thousand Americans...
- + And if there is single common theme that seems to characterize
 - the lives of Michigan graduates, it is the theme of
 - leadership...
- + And an unusual commitment to both intellectual and humane
 - values while achieving excellence that we are proud to see governing the
 - lives of our graduates as they take up leadership roles
 - in our society.
- + As a Michigan graduate, as a leader, you will face a
 - future of great challenge and responsibility...
 - but it will also be a future of great opportunity
 - and excitement.
- + Today we celebrate your accomplishments...
 - but even more, we look forward with great anticipation
 - to your achievements in the years ahead.
- + You know, it has been said that there are really only
 - two types of folks in this world:
 - Those who always say "Why?"
 - And those who always say "Why not!"
- + I hope that your years here Michigan have prepared
 - you to always answer in the latter spirit...
 - the "let's go for it" spirit of the Maize and Blue.
 - We welcome you to the Michigan family.
- + We wish you health, happiness, and the satisfaction of
 - a rewarding and meaningful life...
- + Congratulations...
 - + Godspeed...
 - ...and Go-Blue...