



ADDRESS TO NEW STUDENTS : 19 FEBRUARY 1980 BY VICE-CHANCELLOR
OF RHODES UNIVERSITY, DR. DEREK HENDERSON

MY FIRST, PLEASANT AND MOST IMPORTANT TASK THIS AFTERNOON IS TO OFFER YOU ALL A WARM WELCOME TO RHODES UNIVERSITY. WE ARE ALL VERY PROUD OF OUR UNIVERSITY, OF ITS BEAUTIFUL SETTING, ITS HISTORY AND TRADITIONS, ITS SCHOLARSHIP, ITS STAFF AND STUDENTS, BOTH PAST AND PRESENT. IN A VERY SHORT TIME EACH ONE OF YOU WILL BEGIN TO FEEL THIS SAME SENSE OF PRIDE AND BELONGING, FOR IT IS A VERY INFECTIOUS VIRUS, AND YOU WILL BECOME AS ZEALOUS FOR THE REPUTATION AND GOOD NAME OF RHODES AS ANY RHODIAN OF AN OLDER VINTAGE. YOU WILL WANT TO CONTRIBUTE YOUR FULL SHARE TO THE ACCUMULATED ACHIEVEMENTS AND SHARED EXPERIENCE THAT LINK RHODES UNIVERSITY WITH SUCH

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STRONG BONDS OF AFFECTION AND LOYALTY IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED THROUGH ITS PORTALS.

MY NEXT TASK IS TO INTRODUCE YOU FORMALLY TO THE GENTLEMEN ON THE PLATFORM WITH ME

PROFESSOR BROMMERT

VICE-PRINCIPAL

MR ASKEW

REGISTRAR

MR BEST

DEAN OF STUDENTS

PROFESSOR SCHUTTE

DEAN OF ARTS

PROFESSOR BAART

" " SCIENCE

PROFESSOR BEUTHIN

" " LAW

PROFESSOR NOBLE	DEAN OF EDUCATION
PROFESSOR V D WATT	" " COMMERCE
PROFESSOR HIGGINS	" " SOCIAL SCIENCE
PROFESSOR COOK	" " DIVINITY
PROFESSOR POTGIETER	" " PHARMACY
MR BUTLER	PRESIDENT, SRC.

TWO PEOPLE I HAVE SO FAR NOT INTRODUCED, AND I SHALL DO SO PRESENTLY.

AT LEAST ONE, THE DEAN OF YOUR PARTICULAR FACULTY, YOU WILL HAVE MET AT REGISTRATION. MAKE QUITE SURE WHO HE IS AND WHERE HE IS TO BE FOUND, BECAUSE IF YOU HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY WITH YOUR CURRICULUM, OR FEEL YOU MAY NOT HAVE CHOSEN THE RIGHT SUBJECTS, HE IS THE ONE WHO WILL ULTIMATELY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU TO PUT

THINGS RIGHT. THE DEAN OF STUDENTS, AND THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH HIM, HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO DO WITH HELPING NEW STUDENTS, AND YOU MAY WELL HAVE HAD DEALINGS WITH HIM ALREADY. DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL AT HIS OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS. NO MATTER HOW UNUSUAL OR UNEXPECTED YOUR DIFFICULTY IS DO NOT WORRY : HE HAS PROBABLY DEALT WITH A SIMILAR SITUATION BEFORE AND WILL BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH THE APPROPRIATE INFORMATION OR ADVICE. AS PRESIDENT OF YOUR REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL YOU WILL COME TO KNOW MR BUTLER VERY WELL. THAT LEAVES THE VICE-PRINCIPAL, THE REGISTRAR AND MYSELF. THE NATURAL HAZARDS OF OFFICE TEND TO LIMIT OUR CLOSE KNOWLEDGE OF STUDENTS TO THE TWO EXTREME ENDS OF

THE SCALE : THOSE WHO DESERVE PARTICULAR CONGRATULATION FOR MERITORIOUS PERFORMANCE, AND THOSE WHO COME TO OUR ATTENTION FOR THE OPPOSITE REASON. I AM SURE THAT IN THIS BENEVOLENT GATHERING THERE WILL BE VERY FEW IN THE LATTER CATEGORY. IN ANY EVENT, WHETHER YOU GET TO KNOW US WELL OR NOT, PLEASE DO NOT NEGLECT TO OFFER US A CHEERFUL GREETING IF OUR PATHS DO HAPPEN TO CROSS : NOTHING LIGHTENS A VICE-CHANCELLOR'S CARES MORE THAN A CHEERFUL GOOD-MORNING AND A READY SMILE.

STARTING FROM THIS YEAR THOSE FEW WHO EARN THE ACTIVE DISPLEASURE OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY ARE NOT SO LIKELY TO HAVE TO FACE ME DIRECTLY UNLESS THEY HAVE DONE SO TO THE NTH DEGREE. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE SRC THE UNIVERSITY HAS DECIDED TO AMEND ITS DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES, AND IN THIS

CONNECTION I SHOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE

MR LANG

DISCIPLINARY OFFICER

MR SCHÄFER

INVESTIGATIVE OFFICER

MESSRS LANG AND SCHÄFER ARE BOTH SENIOR LECTURERS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND ARE WELL VERSED IN MATTERS OF DISCIPLINARY AND LEGAL PROCEDURE, AND THEY ARE CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LOOKING INTO QUESTIONS OF A DISCIPLINARY NATURE THAT ARE NOT THE PROPER PROVINCE OF THE SRC, THE SPORTS UNION OR THE HALL COMMITTEES. AS I LOOK ABOUT ME I AM CONFIDENT THAT THEY WILL NOT BE KEPT VERY BUSY, BUT IT IS JUST AS WELL TO NOTE THAT THEY CAN BE RELIED UPON TO PERFORM THEIR FUNCTIONS WHEN CALLED UPON TO DO SO.

AT RHODES WE ARE STRIVING AT ALL TIMES, WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US, TO PROVIDE OUR STUDENTS WITH THE BEST PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, SPORTING AND ABOVE ALL, ACADEMIC FACILITIES OF WHICH WE ARE CAPABLE. WE LOOK TO OUR STUDENTS, FOR THEIR PART, TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO HIGH STANDARDS OF ACADEMIC ENDEAVOUR, SPORTSMANSHIP, BEHAVIOUR AND CONSIDERATION FOR THEIR NEIGHBOURS, WHETHER THOSE NEIGHBOURS BE FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY OR CITIZENS OF GRAHAMSTOWN OR OF ONE OR OTHER OF THE EASTERN CAPE COMMUNITIES WHICH YOU MAY VISIT FROM TIME TO TIME. MOST OF OUR STUDENTS MAKE EXCELLENT USE OF THESE FACILITIES AND DERIVE FULL BENEFIT FROM WHAT RHODES HAS TO OFFER IN DEVELOPING THEIR INTELLECTUAL, SOCIAL AND LEADERSHIP POTENTIALS. UNFORTUNATELY A SIGNIFICANT MINORITY, PERHAPS AS HIGH AS 20%, DERIVE ONLY LIMITED BENEFITS FROM THEIR (SOMETIMES

PREMATURELY TRUNCATED) SOJOURN HERE. WHY IS THIS? AFTER MANY YEARS OF PONDERING THIS COMPLEX QUESTION I AM FIRMLY PERSUADED THAT ONLY A VERY SMALL GROUP ARE NOT INTELLECTUALLY CAPABLE OF SUCCEEDING IN THEIR STUDIES. THE ANSWER IS RATHER TO BE SOUGHT IN THAT MOST DEEP-SEATED AND MULTI FACETED QUESTION - MOTIVATION.

EACH INDIVIDUAL USUALLY HAS A COMPLEX BAG OF MIXED MOTIVATIONS FOR HIS ACTIONS, SOME SERIOUS AND SOME SUPERFICIAL. AMONG SOME OF THE MORE SUPERFICIAL REASONS FOR COMING TO VARSITY MIGHT INCLUDE GETTING AWAY FROM HOME, BECAUSE YOUR FRIENDS ARE GOING, ITS A PLACE TO HAVE A GOOD TIME, TO MEET MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITE

SEX, TO PLAY SPORT ETC. ETC. LET US DISCOUNT THESE FOR THE MOMENT, AND CONCENTRATE ON TWO CLASSICAL MOTIVATIONS, BETWEEN WHICH THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TENSION.

THE FIRST MOTIVATION ONE MIGHT SUMMARISE AS "THE WELL-STOCKED MIND" ARGUMENT. A PERSON WITH A MATURE TRAINED MIND, SO THE ARGUMENT GOES, MAKES A BETTER CITIZEN, CAN GET MORE OUT OF, AND PUT MORE BACK INTO LIFE THAN A PERSON WITHOUT SUCH AN ASSET. JUST AS A WELL-TRAINED BODY, OR A WELL DEVELOPED TALENT FOR ART OR MUSIC IS GOOD IN ITSELF, SO IS AN INFORMED, AWARE AND WELL TRAINED MIND.

A USEFUL EXEMPLIFICATION OF THIS APPROACH IS AN ACCOUNT I SAW REPORTED OF WHAT SIR HAROLD MACMILLAN, FORMER BRITISH P.M.,

HAD TO SAY OF HIS FIRST LECTURE AT OXFORD. "WHAT YOU WILL LEARN HERE", SAID THE PROFESSOR "WILL BE OF NO CONCEIVABLE USE WHATEVER IN ANY WALK OF LIFE YOU MAY CHOOSE TO FOLLOW; BUT IT WILL HELP YOU TO DISTINGUISH WHEN SOMEBODY IS TALKING ROT".

BEFORE WE DISMISS THIS TOO LIGHTLY, THE ABILITY TO DISTINGUISH WHETHER OR NOT SOMEBODY IS TALKING ROT IS AN ATTRIBUTE NOT TO BE HELD AS OF NO ACCOUNT. IN THESE DAYS WHEN MISINFORMATION, EVEN DISINFORMATION, IS ALMOST A WAY OF LIFE, IT IS VIRTUALLY PART OF ANY INTELLIGENT PERSON'S SURVIVAL KIT. ONE IS ASSAILED BY IT IN ADVERTISEMENTS, WHETHER OR NOT DRESSED IN SPURIOUS STATISTICAL ARGUMENTS, IN POLITICAL SPEECHES, COMPANY REPORTS,

EDITORIALS (EVEN IN STUDENT NEWSPAPERS), LECTURES AND IN SRC MEETINGS, VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SPEECHES ARE OF COURSE A SPECIAL CASE : THEY ARE IMMUNE.

AT THE OTHER EXTREME, IT IS ARGUED, ONE GOES TO UNIVERSITY SIMPLY AND SOLELY FOR THE TRAINING IT PROVIDES TO SECURE YOU A GOOD PROFESSIONAL JOB, WHETHER IT BE IN PHARMACY, ACCOUNTING, JOURNALISM OR COMMERCE - OR EVEN IN THE SCHOOLS OR CHURCHES. ALL THIS TALK OF A LIBERAL EDUCATION IS SO MUCH LUXURY : SURELY THE IMPORTANT BUSINESS IN LIFE IS TO GET A GOOD JOB, AND IN MANY, IF NOT MOST CASES, UNIVERSITY IS A PREREQUISITE. AS AN EXAMPLE OF SUCH AN ATTITUDE I RECALL SOME YEARS BACK A GOOD STUDENT, SOMEWHAT OLDER THAN MOST, TO WHOM I WAS LECTURING PART OF COMPUTER SCIENCE III. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT HE WAS GOING TO

GET A 1ST AND I WAS ENDEAVOURING TO PERSUADE HIM TO DO HONOURS. HE COMPLETELY DEFLATED ME ONE DAY WHEN HE SAID "YOU KNOW, PROF HENDERSON, I HAVE BEEN THINKING VERY CAREFULLY ABOUT WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN TELLING ME, BUT I HAVE DECIDED TO GO TO BUSINESS SCHOOL INSTEAD AND GET AN MBA. YOU SEE, I WANT TO MAKE MONEY, LOTS AND LOTS OF IT!" I HAD TO ADMIRE HIS CANDOUR, BUT I DID FEEL A CERTAIN SENSE OF DISAPPOINTMENT.

WHICH OF THESE ATTITUDES IS THE RIGHT ONE? AS WITH SO MUCH IN LIFE THERE IS NO SIMPLE AND CLEARCUT ANSWER. THAT IS ONE OF THE REASONS YOU NEED A WELL-TRAINED MIND. THE PURE, "18TH CENTURY

GENTLEMAN" TYPE PROPONENT OF A LIBERAL EDUCATION IS SURELY SOMEWHAT OUT OF TOUCH WITH REALITY. EVEN THAT SMALL MINORITY OF US WHO HOPE TO BE INDEPENDENTLY WEALTHY WILL FIND OURSELVES FORCED BY SOCIAL PRESSURES TO HAVE AN OCCUPATION. THE REST OF US, QUITE SIMPLY, HAVE TO EAT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS NOBODY QUITE SO DEADLY DULL, TO HIMSELF, HIS ASSOCIATES, HIS PROFESSORS, AND ULTIMATELY HIS EMPLOYER THAN THE SINGLE-MINDED PURSUERS OF TECHNICAL OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING, WHO REJECTS AS SUPERFLUOUS BAGGAGE, ANYTHING NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO HIS CHOSEN PROFESSION. HE BECOMES IN FACT A GLORIFIED TECHNICIAN, AND IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY TO RISE ABOVE THAT LEVEL. HE FORGETS THAT IN TO-DAY'S FAST MOVING WORLD THE HALF-LIFE OF FACTS AND TECHNIQUES IS ABOUT FIVE YEARS. HE WILL BITTERLY REGRET HIS DENIGRATION OF FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES, NECESSARILY ABSTRACT AND

NOT OBVIOUSLY AND IMMEDIATELY APPLICABLE. HE WILL HAVE NEGLECTED ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL ATTRIBUTES OF A SUCCESSFUL UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR, THE MASTERY OF LEARNING HOW TO LEARN, AND HE WILL HAVE EXCHANGED THIS FOR A MIND CRAMMED WITH FACTS, FACTS THAT WILL MELT AND BECOME IRRELEVANT BEFORE HIS EYES, AS THE ADVANCE OF HIS SUBJECT LEAVES HIM IN A PROFESSIONAL BACKWATER. TO MY MIND IT IS A GREAT PITY THAT PROFESSIONAL COURSES HAVE A TENDENCY TO BECOME SO CRAMMED THAT THERE IS NO CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING FOR THE SHEER MENTAL PLEASURE, LIKE TAKING A COURSE IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, OR HISTORY. IF ONE REALLY HANKERS AFTER KNOWLEDGE THAT IS "USEFUL TO THE EMPLOYER ON DAY ONE" THERE ARE INSTITUTIONS THAT PROVIDE IT, BUT THEY ARE NOT UNIVERSITIES.

I WELL REMEMBER A CONVERSATION WITH A LEADING BUSINESSMAN, AS HARDHEADED AND SUCCESSFUL A MAN AS YOU WILL FIND IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE KIND OF PERSON HE WAS LOOKING FOR TO GET RIGHT TO THE TOP IN HIS BUSINESS WAS NOT THE ACCOUNTANT, THE LAWYER OR THE M.B.A. THE SERVICES OF TOP PROFESSIONALS IN THESE FIELDS, HE COULD ENGAGE FOR SPECIFIC PROBLEMS WHENEVER THEY AROSE. RATHER, HE SAID, GIVE ME THE MAN WITH A TRAINED MIND, WHO HAS HAD THE CHANCE TO DEVELOP AND EXERCISE SOME IMAGINATION - THE POET, THE HISTORIAN, THE GREEK AND LATIN SCHOLAR. FOOD FOR THOUGHT IS IT NOT?

THESE TWO MAJOR REASONS FOR STUDYING - HONING YOUR MENTAL ABILITIES, AND LEARNING SOMETHING USEFUL - ARE THUS NOT IN CONTRADICTION, BUT ARE DIFFERENT FACETS OF A WHOLE. SOME WILL

BE MORE INFLUENCED, DEPENDING ON THEIR TEMPERAMENT, BY THE ONE RATHER THAN THE OTHER. EITHER POINT OF VIEW, IF HELD SO EXCLUSIVELY THAT IT LEADS TO TOTAL REJECTION OF THE OTHER, WILL RESULT IN A VERY LOPSIDED EDUCATION. EVEN THEREFORE IF THERE IS NO TIME IN THE CURRICULUM TO STUDY SOMETHING TOTALLY OUTSIDE YOUR NARROW PROFESSIONAL GAMBIT, USE YOUR OPPORTUNITIES TO MIX WITH FRIENDS WHO ARE STUDYING IN DIFFERENT FIELDS, AND ATTEND NON SPECIALIST LECTURES BY PROMINENT SPEAKERS.

WHILE WE ARE ON THE SUBJECT OF PREPARING FOR A CAREER IT IS AS WELL TO ENQUIRE WHY A PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER IS INTERESTED IN YOUR

DEGREE. THE OBVIOUS REASON IS THAT IT CERTIFIES THAT YOU POSSESS A CERTAIN MINIMUM LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCE IN AN AREA THAT HE IS INTERESTED IN. BUT THERE IS A SECOND, NOT SO IMMEDIATELY OBVIOUS REASON, WHICH IN MANY CASES IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN CERTIFICATION OF KNOWLEDGE. YOUR DEGREE CERTIFICATE TELLS YOUR EMPLOYER THAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF ACCEPTING A DIFFICULT, DEMANDING AND LONG-RANGE GOAL, PACING YOURSELF, AND ACHIEVING THAT GOAL SUCCESSFULLY, LARGELY WITHOUT DETAILED SUPERVISION. THIS IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE. EXCEPT IN THE MOST MENIAL TASKS, NO EMPLOYER WANTS PEOPLE TO WHOM HE HAS TO SPECIFY IN GREAT DETAIL WHAT HAS TO BE DONE, AND WHO WILL NOT WORK UNLESS HE IS WATCHED ALL THE TIME. IF YOU ARE PROMOTED, AND YOUR FUTURE BOSS SAYS "GO AND RUN THE BRANCH OFFICE", (OR THE SCHOOL OR THE PARISH), HE DOES NOT WISH TO SPECIFY EVERYTHING

IN DETAIL. HE WANTS TO BE ABLE TO TAKE FOR GRANTED YOUR DILIGENCE, YOUR ABILITY TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES AS AND WHEN THEY ARISE, TO CONTROL STAFF, AND TO KEEP THE DISTRACTIONS OF YOUR PRIVATE LIFE IN CHECK. THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE A DEGREE TELLS HIM THAT YOU ARE A GOOD BET FOR JUST SUCH AN ASSIGNMENT.

THE BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SCHOOL AND VARSITY LIFE, WHICH IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS WILL ENGULF YOU LIKE A TIDAL WAVE, IS JUST THIS POINT. YOU ARE NOW A STUDENT, NOT A PUPIL. YOU MUST SET YOUR OWN STUDY PATTERNS AND OVERCOME THE DIFFICULTIES. YOU WILL NOT FIND SOMEBODY BREATHING DOWN YOUR NECK EVERY DAY REGULATING YOUR LIFE. YOU ARE EXPECTED TO COPE. HELP IS THERE

FOR THE ASKING - FROM YOUR HALL WARDEN, DEAN OF STUDENTS' OFFICE, LECTURERS, HEADS OF DEPARTMENT OR DEANS - BUT YOU HAVE TO ASK. IT IS A HARD AND DEMANDING THING TO LEARN, BUT YOU WILL NEVER BE A MATURE ADULT UNLESS YOU DO, AND YOU WILL BE OF LITTLE USE TO YOURSELF OR ANYBODY ELSE. IF YOU CANNOT ORGANISE YOURSELF, YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO ORGANISE ANYTHING ELSE.

IT IS WORTH NOTING TOO HOW FREQUENTLY EMPLOYERS ASK WHAT YOUR EXTRAMURAL ACTIVITIES WERE. THEY DO NOT REALLY MIND IF YOU PLAYED TENNIS OR SWAM, DEBATED OR PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE ON THE RAG COMMITTEE. THEY ARE INTERESTED IN WHETHER YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT A PLACE LIKE RHODES TO GROW IN LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL. EVEN IN A FULLY DEVELOPED ECONOMY ONLY ABOUT ONE PERSON IN FOUR COMES TO A UNIVERSITY AND

NOT MUCH MORE THAN ONE IN TEN EMERGES WITH A DEGREE. THE VERY POSSESSION OF A DEGREE THUS MAKES YOU A PERSON IN TEN, AND OF COURSE YOUR PERSPICACITY IN COMING TO RHODES RATHER THAN ONE OF THE TEN OR SO PLACES YOU MIGHT HAVE CHOSEN MAKES YOU A MAN IN A HUNDRED. IF YOU FURTHER DEVELOP YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS BY TAKING AN ACTIVE PART IN A HOUSE OR HALL COMMITTEE, A SPORTS CLUB OR STUDENT SOCIETY, THE RAG OR SRC, PERHAPS BECOMING AN OFFICE BEARER, YOU WILL BE A MAN OR WOMAN IN A THOUSAND.

WITH ALL THE COMPETING CLAIMS ON YOUR ATTENTION ONE OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS FACING YOU NOW IS TO KEEP A SENSE OF BALANCE,

PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE CAREFUL BUDGETING OF TIME, YOUR MOST PRECIOUS ASSET. ONE SHOULD AIM AT LEAST 4 HRS PER WEEK OF INDEPENDENT STUDY PER SUBJECT, IN ADDITION TO LECTURES, LABORATORIES, SEMINARS AND TUTORIALS. THEN THERE ARE THE CONSTRUCTIVE EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES TO WHICH I HAVE ALREADY REFERRED. WITH THIS IN MIND ONE MUST LEARN TO KEEP IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE SUCH ACTIVITIES AS YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO RAG FUN, PARTIES, RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX, SPORT AND THE USE OF ALCOHOL. THERE ARE NO SHORT CUTS TO HARD STEADY WORK, IN SPITE OF THE STORY OF THE STUDENT WHO TRIED POT AND SAID HE SAW NO NEED FOR FURTHER STUDY, SINCE ALL THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE HAD NOW BEEN REVEALED TO HIM!

WHAT HELPS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN MAINTAINING THIS SENSE OF BALANCE IS TO THINK OUT A CENTRAL THEME TO YOUR LIFE. WHAT ARE YOU BASICALLY TRYING TO ACHIEVE? TO PLEASE GOD? TO SERVE YOUR FELLOW MAN? TO PUT INJUSTICES RIGHT? TO DEVELOP YOUR PERSONALITY? TO MAKE MONEY? TO GAIN AS MUCH FUN AND PLEASURE AS POSSIBLE OUT OF LIFE? I AM NOT SAYING THAT ALL THESE GOALS ARE MUTUALLY INCOMPATIBLE, BUT NOW IS THE TIME IN YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU, EITHER CONSCIOUSLY OR BY DEFAULT, DO DECIDE WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO LIVE BY.

A FIRM SET OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES TO WHICH YOU PERSONALLY MAKE A COMMITMENT WILL HELP YOU IN THAT OTHER GREAT STUDENT PROBLEM : PEER PRESSURE. IT IS FATALLY EASY (AND COMFORTABLE) TO SWIM WITH THE TIDE. IT IS PART OF THE BUSINESS OF SETTING UP YOUR OWN GOALS AND STICKING TO THEM BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE IN THEM, NOT NECESSARILY ALWAYS TO GO WITH THE CROWD. A FEAR OF POSSIBLY MAKING ONE'S SELF UNPOPULAR CAN BE A MOST INHIBITING FACTOR IN STUDENT LIFE. A COUPLE OF EXAMPLES: (1) STUDENTS OFTEN COMPLAIN OF NOISE IN THE RESIDENCES, BUT THEY ARE TOO INHIBITED TO GO AND TELL THE OFFENDING MINORITY TO KEEP QUIET. (2) BECAUSE THE REST OF THE GANG WANTS TO GO OFF AND GET DRUNK IS A PRETTY POOR REASON TO GO AND DO SO ONE'S SELF.

IN SUMMARIZING WHAT I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU, I SHOULD SAY THAT THERE WERE FOUR MAJOR OBJECTIVES THAT YOU SHOULD BE ATTEMPTING TO ACHIEVE WHILE AT VARSITY. THEY ARE :-

- (1) ACQUIRING A WELL TRAINED AND CRITICAL MIND
- (2) PREPARING FOR A CAREER
- (3) TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO YOU
- (4) SETTLING ON YOUR OWN PERSONAL ROAD-MAP FOR LIFE.

THESE OBJECTIVES ARE FAR FROM BEING MUTUALLY INCOMPATIBLE, BUT THEY DO REQUIRE VERY CAREFUL ORGANISATION AND SELF-DISCIPLINE.

YOU WILL CERTAINLY NOT ACHIEVE THEM ALL IN ANYTHING LIKE FULL MEASURE UNLESS YOU FACE UP PROPERLY TO THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THAT POWERFUL FORCE, PEER PRESSURE.

I AM NOT GOING TO END BY WISHING YOU GOOD LUCK, BECAUSE IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF LUCK BUT OF GOOD MANAGEMENT IN SETTING PERSONAL PRIORITIES, BUDGETTING TIME AND STICKING TO THE TASK. YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT DISAGREEABLE CHARACTER IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY, CASSANDRA, WHO ALWAYS FORETOLD CORRECTLY WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN, BUT WAS DOOMED TO HAVE NOBODY BELIEVE HER. VICE-CHANCELLORS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY EACH YEAR TELL FRESHMAN STUDENTS THE SORT OF THINGS I HAVE BEEN SAYING THIS AFTERNOON. LIKE CASSANDRA, VICE-CHANCELLORS ARE ALWAYS CORRECT. IN THIS YEAR, AT THE BEGINNING

OF A NEW DECADE, MOST OF YOU, HOPEFULLY, ARE GOING TO BELIEVE ME. WE SHALL ONLY KNOW FOR SURE, OF COURSE, AS THE YEAR UNFOLDS. GOD BLESS YOU.