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COMMENCEMENTS; At Notre Dame, a Call to 'Be Informed'

Published: Monday, May 20, 1991

Margaret O'Brien Steinfels, the editor of Commonweal magazine, advised graduates at the University of Notre Dame yesterday not to ignore the poverty and suffering of millions of people around the world but to "be informed, think carefully and take responsibility."

Speaking to the 1,700 undergraduates and 578 recipients of advanced degrees at Notre Dame's 146th commencement, Ms. Steinfels said: "We all start out in very ordinary ways. Our responsibilities lie before us, in the work we choose, in the friends we make and keep, in the prayers we offer."

Ms. Steinfels, author of "Who's Minding the Children -- The History and Politics of Day Care in America" (Simon & Schuster, 1973), received an honorary law degree at the commencement ceremonies.

Former Representative Lindy Boggs from Louisiana, in addition to receiving an honorary degree, received the Laetare Medal, given by the university each year to honor the contributions of an American Catholic.

Marva Collins, founder of the Westside Preparatory School in Chicago and a pioneer in inner-city education, was also honored.

Other honorary degrees were given to Prime Minister Charles J. Haughey or Ireland, Jane Pauley of NBC News, Archbishop John R. Quinn of San Francisco and Surgeon General Antonia Novello. University of Wisconsin

John T. Darnton, weekend news editor of The New York Times and winner of the 1982 Pulitzer Prize for international reporting, spoke at two ceremonies on Saturday, for undergraduates in the College of Letters and Science in the afternoon and for master's and bachelor's degree recipients in journalism, social work and science in the evening. He called on graduates to move away from the materialism of the 1980's.

The 138th commencement at University of Wisconsin at Madison was held in five ceremonies over the weekend for the 3,392 undergraduate and 1,416 graduate students.

"It's time for something new, for commitment, involvement, altruism," said Mr. Darnton, a 1967 graduate of the university. "It's time for a new political activism. We

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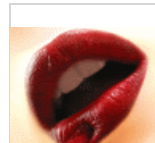


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need sacrifice and ideals to fill the vacuum of the Cold War."

James Crow, professor emeritus of genetics and zoology, urged yesterday's group, those receiving degrees in education, agricultural science, nursing and medicine, to "keep on learning for the rest of their lives." Smith College

The author Robert Fulghum delivered the 113th commencement address yesterday at Smith College.

Mr. Fulghum, a Unitarian minister who describes himself as a philosopher, wrote the best-selling book "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten" (Villard, 1988).

Smith awarded 742 diplomas at its campus in Northampton, Mass. Honorary degrees were awarded to Toni Morrison, who won a Pulitzer Prize for her book "Beloved" (Knopf, 1987); Dame R. Nita Barrow, Governor-General of Barbados, and Mildred Berendsen, headmistress of the Chapin School in New York. Haverford College

Haverford College awarded four honorary degrees to individuals distinguished in the fields of government, journalism, nuclear physics and women's legal rights at the college's 158th commencement. The ceremony for 306 graduating seniors was held yesterday in front of Roberts Hall on the college's campus near Philadelphia.

Haverford awarded a Doctor of Letters degree to Dave Barry, a nationally syndicated humor columnist, who is a 1969 Haverford graduate and a 1988 Pulitzer Prize winner for commentary. A Doctor of Laws degree was awarded to Catharine A. MacKinnon, a law professor who pioneered the legal theory defining sexual harassment as an actionable form of sex discrimination.

Diane J. Abbott, the first black woman elected to the British Parliament, received a Doctor of Laws degree. The last honorary degree was awarded to Freeman J. Dyson. Mr. Dyson received a Doctor of Science degree for his achievement in nuclear physics at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University. Bryn Mawr College

Harris Wofford, the newly appointed United States Senator from Pennsylvania, was one of several speakers at the 105th commencement yesterday at Bryn Mawr College.

Senator Wofford, a Democrat appointed by Gov. Robert P. Casey to succeed the late Senator John Heinz, served as president of the College from 1970 to 1978 and was a special assistant to President John F. Kennedy on civil rights.

The commencement ceremonies began on Saturday and were held over two days in Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Barbara Ehrenreich, who has written seven books including "Fear of Falling" (Pantheon, 1989) and "The Worst Years of Our Lives" (Pantheon, 1990), addressed the graduates on Saturday.

Bryn Mawr, an all female institution for undergraduates, awarded 294 bachelor degrees. The graduate schools, which are co-educational, awarded 33 doctorates, 124 masters. Pennsylvania State University

Pennsylvania State University awarded 7,547 diplomas at the University Park campus over the weekend.

Penn State held 11 different ceremonies: 10 for undergraduate colleges and another for its graduate school. It is the 130th year the university has held commencements.



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In his address before the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, William A. Schreyer, chairman and chief executive of Merrill Lynch and Company, told students not to be too discouraged if they have a hard time finding a job.

"Things weren't much different when I graduated from Penn State in 1948," he said.

"Inflation was heating up and most people suspected we were heading back toward depression. How could we know, just over the horizon, the biggest economic boom in history was about to start?"

Speakers at other graduations included David R. Jones, assistant managing editor of The New York Times, who graduated from the university in 1954, at the School of Communication, and State Senator Chaka Fattah at the College of Education. University of Virginia

The American Ambassador to Kuwait, W. Nathaniel Howell, told graduates at the University of Virginia yesterday to use "a healthy dose of informed skepticism" in judging how news events are presented by the media.

Mr. Howell is an alumnus of the University of Virginia, which awarded 4,105 diplomas yesterday in Charlottesville.

Mr. Howell kept the Embassy in Kuwait open for more than four months after the invasion by Iraq last August.

He said many journalists in the Middle East were not well-informed about the cultures of the different countries and, therefore, were unable to properly present information. Spelman College

Spelman College's commencement exercises were held yesterday morning in the Atlanta Civic Center. The keynote address was delivered to 365 seniors by Mayor Sharon Pratt Dixon of Washington. Other speakers included the actress Ruby Dee, Miriam Makeba, the South African folk singer, and Marguerite Ross Barnett, the first black female president of the University of Houston.

Mayor Dixon made history in November by becoming the first female leader of the capital. She is also the first black woman to serve as mayor of a major American city. Morehouse College

Representative William H. Gray 3d, Democrat of Pennsylvania, was the keynote speaker at Morehouse College's 107th commencement yesterday on the campus in Atlanta.

Honorary Doctor of Law degrees were awarded to Condoleezza Rice, former Special Assistant to President Bush for National Security Affairs, and Dr. Asa Yancey Sr., medical director of Grady Memorial Hospital and a 1937 graduate of Morehouse. SUNY

Mathilde Krim, an AIDS researcher and educator, told the 4,278 graduates at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, "AIDS is giving us a lesson in humility," yesterday during the school's 31st commencement exercises. Dr. Krim, who was a recipient of an honorary degree, explained, "It teaches us that the relentless evolutionary forces at play in nature continue to create new forms of life, and that for all mankind's arrogance and destructive powers, we are not yet the masters of the universe, nor even necessarily nature's most favored creature."

Dr. Krim is the founder of the AIDS Medical Foundation, a group that fosters support for AIDS research, and merged with the American Foundation for AIDS Research in 1985. In her speech, she referred to the nondiscriminate nature of the AIDS virus, and

urged graduates to "enjoy the love, the friendships, the work and the beauties the world offers you." "Because AIDS makes us suffer," she said, "and grieve for those we have lost, it is teaching us to value life."

Also honored with a degree was the author Isabel Allende, the niece of Salvador Allende, the assassinated President of Chile. Other university campuses enjoyed a sunny, pleasant day of mass exodus. At SUNY New Paltz, 1,600 students gathered at the college's old main quadrangle for its 104th commencement exercises. The speaker and honorary degree recipient was Robert Jay Lifton, an award-winning writer and psychiatrist.

At SUNY Buffalo's 145th commencement, 6,500 students received degrees during 12 exercises over the weekend. Barber B. Conable Jr., president of the World Bank, was awarded the Chancellor Norton Medal for his contributions to national and world affairs. Receiving honorary degrees were Dr. John W. Gardner, founder of philanthropic organizations; Dr. James P. Comer, an urban education reformer and Dr. Jerome Kassirer, who becomes the editor in chief of The New England Journal of Medicine in July. St. John's University

In a speech at St. John's University's 121st commencement this weekend, the university's president told students to be conscious of the effects of violence on the world, especially after the Persian Gulf war. "We must not overlook the pain and suffering which still is being endured by many as a result of this war." the Rev. Donald J. Harrington said. "Whenever there is such violence, there is great ambiguity in victory."

More than 2,000 students at both the Queens and Staten Island campuses participated in the commencement. In Jamaica, Queens, 900 diplomas were awarded to students at St. Vincent's College, part of the university's system, yesterday. Honorary degrees were awarded to Delores Bernadette Grier, the Vice Chancellor from Community Relations of the Archdiocese of New York, and Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

On Saturday, when 800 students graduated from the colleges of business administration and pharmacy in Jamaica, Queens, two former students were awarded honorary doctorates. They were Patricia D. Collins, a New York State Supreme Court Justice, and John T. Roche, president of his own company that specializes in investments and the securities trade. Earlier Saturday, at the university's Grymes Hill campus in Staten Island, the Notre Dame College, the College of Business Administration and St. Vincent's awarded degrees to 386 undergraduates. University of Hartford

Dr. Carl E. Sagan, the astronomer and author, told students "to care for, preserve, protect and cherish" the earth's environment in his keynote address at the University of Hartford's 34th commencement yesterday. Dr. Sagan received an honorary degree from the university, which graduated about 1,300 undergraduates and graduate students.

Also honored were Dr. Frederick G. Adams, a former state health commissioner; Nicolaas Bloembergen, a Nobel laureate and physics professor at Harvard University; the author Francine du Plessix Gray; Lloyd Richards, the dean of the Yale School of Drama, and James D. Wolfensohn, the head of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington. University of Connecticut

The President of Hungary and the children's television host Mister Rogers were the keynote speakers at the 108th commencement of the University of Connecticut in Storrs this weekend. More than 5,000 students graduated. On Saturday, Arpad Goncz, Hungary's President, spoke to 1,066 graduate students about what the recently democratized country can offer the American investor. Fred Rogers, the host of "Mister

Rogers's Neighborhood," spoke at dual ceremonies yesterday. "Listen to the children, he told the 3,500 undergraduates. "Learn from them." The two received honorary degrees, as did James Comer, an innovator in child education, and Harold Seidman, who served six Presidents at the Bureau of the Budget. Manhattan College

Rudolph W. Giuliani, the former Republican candidate for New York City mayor, told the graduates of Manhattan College yesterday to shun the advice of cynics who say "problems are so complex that is useless to try and solve them." Speaking at the college's 143d commencement, he told the 550 graduates from four schools to enter public service and try to reverse the growing tolerance of crime, including violence on the streets and "the white-collar crime and business crime which create some of our most pressing political and social problems."

He urged that drug-treatment programs be improved and that law and ethics be made required courses in primary and secondary schools. The Roman Catholic college awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree to Mr. Guiliani, a 1965 graduate of the college. Colgate University

More than 700 graduates at Colgate University's 170th commencement heard Senator Richard Lugar, Republican of Indiana, encourage them to make American society more nurturing of the arts and education. Senator Lugar was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by the university in Hamilton, N.Y. Other honorary degree recipients were: the Rev. Dr. Samuel Proctor, pastor emiritus of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem; Judith Jamison, artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; Kevin Phillips, a political commentator; Judy Woodruff, a correspondent for the "MacNeil-Lehrer" television news program, and E. Garrett Bewkes, the retiring chairman of the Colgate board. Adelphi University

Adelphi University in Garden City, L.I., conferred 2,400 degrees yesterday at its 95th commencement. The university's president, Peter Diamandopoulos, urged the graduates to "make the most of your education" by seeking the truth through critical thought. "You ought to do what your intellectually cultivated individuality obliges you to do," he said. "That is, become good by doing good." Adelphi awarded honorary degrees to Dr. Martin Feldstein, the economist and Harvard University professor; Dr. Leszek Kolakowski, a philosophy professor at the University of Chicago; Ilias Lalaounis, an artist, and Dr. Tsung-Dao Lee, a Nobel laureate and physics professor at Columbia University. St. Lawrence University

More than 500 graduates at St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y., were told yesterday by Mark H. McCormack, a sports agent, that they should find their genius and make it their occupation, in the university's 136th commencement. The university awarded honorary degrees to four people including Mr. McCormack, the founder and chief executive of International Management Group. The others were Virginia Hazzard, an advocate for charities; Wilcomb E. Washburn, a scholar of American history, and John R. Dunne, assistant United States Attorney General for civil rights and a former New York State Senator.

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