

Keep in Speeches
1964

Brook University
September 16, 1964

I welcome you to Brook University.

If ~~there is~~ this setting, courteously made available to us by the Session of St. Paul Street United Church, is somewhat cramped, my colleagues and I would request you to have patience, and come imaginatively for a few weeks — we hope never not longer than six or seven. We think you will find the Glenridge Campus worth waiting for, though the waiting part is not of our devising.

If, also, for several days, you find the setting, and your own place in it, strange and slightly bewildering, take courage. Other people have had this experience elsewhere, and have felt wildly uncertain. Remember also that you are the very first people to have this experience under the aegis of Brook University, and we all hope that you will treasure the recollection of it for all of your lives.

There are a few things to be said, obvious enough no doubt, but not less important for the currency of use.

We think you would do well to put academic requirements first, and extra-curricular activities second only after the first have been satisfied. The idea of excellence in academic achievement is an idea hardly ~~not~~ ^{won} and requiring sustained effort and application to sustain; but, all of us would say, ^{satisfying} far beyond any measurement.

We would ask you to think of your own part in this growing university in its very first year, when, it may be, it will be under searching scrutiny from outside. The people whose vision and hard work and persuasiveness and force of example have made this new foundation a reality are more interested in your welfare and progress than perhaps you realize; and your

conduct and outward attitudes of courtesy and alacrity will go a long distance towards fulfilling their dreams for Brock University. I have always been proud that for over 30 years I have been a member of a college in the University of Oxford, whose beginnings go back nearly 600 years*, and whose steadfast motto has been, through sunlight and shadow, hauries Makyth Man. Perhaps some of my pride can be reflected in your everyday concern for the good name of Brock University.

There was at one stage a question whether we should begin our corporate existence in affiliation with some older foundation, or whether we should be independent from the start. The Founders' Committee resolved upon the second course, and there is no doubt in the minds of my colleagues and myself that this decision was right. I mention the point because the autonomy we already enjoy is a source of present strength and future help; we should build

more

* New College, Oxford, founded in 1379

The "hard work" phase is now; the glamour may arrive later, but for the present you must put your backs into it, and work as you have never worked before. If you need a pleasant word to roll around on your academic tongues, try on for taste and for wit the motto of this university: Surqite, to press forward, to press on.

I wish you good health, good fortune, and every success

Starting in to leivouality always calls up in my mind John Keats' imagery of The Relevance of Gold, though he was writing at a time when platinum was not in common use, and before uranium had been discovered. Perhaps he thought of gold in the sense in which the Psalmist wrote of gold: "more to be desired than gold, yea than much fine gold"; though recent archaeological findings in Israel suggest that there was a time when ~~iron~~ iron was esteemed more precious - because it was more ~~valuable~~ ^{useful} - than the gold already available.

But what I most want to say is that it is important in your university experience that your relevance of gold should not become the relevance of brass. I mean that that the enthusiasts of Cortez-Keats should not descend to inert, unimpressible, slightly grudging make-do. I suppose it might be possible to spend three years in a university without ever seizing hold of a wife, mind-stretching ^{new} idea, though I hope this will not happen at Brock. I hope ~~also~~ ^{therefore} that your Brock experience will be full of new ideas; that you will ~~find~~ discover (or discover anew, for we are all discoverers in the Keatsian sense), "the subtle enchantment of the unfamiliar".

This ^{discovery} is important, not only because of what it may do for you personally, but because it is the best of all

~~# F
 Attributed announced that
 of course~~

Safeguards against arbitrariness in higher education.
One of our purposes in the founding of Brock University
is to demonstrate the certainty that it is not a condition
of our academic existence to impose a uniform intellectual
pattern on any or every discipline. We are the more resolved
upon this course because we do not know what the shape of the
science touching upon man and his environment will some day
be. We may range from apparent certainty to the infinitely
probable, and be the better for our ranging. It will also be a
part of our intellectual mission not to strip human pursuits of
a certain sense of poetry, on the theory that an existence, to be
purposeful, must also be drab. Purposeful we should like
always to be known as; drab never; and if to purposefulness
we can add some eager gaiety of mind and generosity of
heart, we shall be well along the broad highway of satisfaction.

~~Section of the Brock University~~

- 1) Academic Standing / first extra-curricular second
- 2) Young miss / likely to skip to greater responsibilities
- 3) The glamour comes later
- 4) Autonomy as a strength
- 5) Fraternities not contemplated / Initiation
- 6) Out of town students - / temporary rooms /
One person to show campus / lodgings } *