

A Few People of Value
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Greetings, ladies and gentlemen. Good to see all of you today, December 7, 1979. We are here to honor one of you, which is the gentleman by the name of Kip Petroff. It occurred to me not long ago that people say good things about you, when you're dead. When you're dead. People send you flowers when you are dead. Sometimes someone ought to say something good about somebody while they can hear it. And I don't think we will find anyone more deserving to hear something good about themselves than Kip Petroff. A student, but also a good friend of mine.

I want you to go back with me a few years and enjoy the meeting that took place between me and Kip. His brother, Ron, was in a course I taught during the winter of 1977. The course was Freshman English Three. After Ron had been there a day or two he told me his brother would really like to be in that class, he knew he would. Because his brother liked school and he was very academically inclined. Ron talked to his brother who was in another section of Freshman English Three. His brother came to my office and we talked about whether or not he'd be able to change from one section to another. And he did. Kip came to the classroom and he found it to be I think a little different from some of the other classrooms then. The suggestion is that he liked what went on there because this is six courses later. We were together in Introduction to Fiction during the spring of 1977 and the Honors Colloquium from fall of 1977 to the spring of 1978 and now in Intermediate and Expository Writing for the fall of 1979.

One of the things that comes to my mind is when I first came to this area I was very much alone and didn't know very many people, but it was Kip Petroff and his brother who befriended me. They had me to come over to their home for dinner. And when my car would break down, which it frequently did, the person who showed up to help me out would be either Kip or his brother, sometimes both, and I really appreciated that. I got some real good cooking, too, over at their house. Karen could really cook. It's a wonder he isn't fatter than he is. Karen could really cook.

We've played together. We've eaten together. We've worked together. Kip says that when we met he wanted to be a high school physical education teacher. Now he wants to be a lawyer. Well, that's wonderful. That's a noble challenge. I'd like to be able to say something that he'll be able to listen to in the years to come. That might get him over some of the rough spots along the way and.... One thing I think he can be certain of is there will be some rough spots. Perhaps some of you will hear something; I hope you will. Something that will be important. Something that will be significant in your life. Something that you will be able to cherish.

I would like to use a theme for this talk: "A few people of value". A few people of value. Can one person make a difference in the world? That is the question. Can one person make a difference? Sometimes we look around us and we are very doubtful of that. We're very doubtful of it.

Well, I think as we look at history, with clarity, if we look carefully we'll see that there have been many times when one person has made a difference. Socrates comes to my mind. Education has never been the same since Socrates appeared, to be sure, because people were afraid of him. Those in power were. They were afraid of Socrates because he was a thinker and made other people think. That made him dangerous. That made him dangerous. Jonas Salk – came up with a polio vaccine. Not as many people get polio as they used to. He has made a difference. He has made a difference in the world. Abraham Lincoln - the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. His signature. Couldn't have been the vice-president. It couldn't have been the secretary of State signature. It couldn't have been a congressman's signature. But that one person in the right place at the right time. And timing is important. It made a difference in the world. A big difference.

Martin Luther King - during the 1960's a leader was needed to point out to America that it wasn't the nation that it was purported to be. Was not the nation that it said it was. One person made a difference. A big difference. It raises the question: What does it take to be a person of value? Well, for one thing you have to believe in yourself. You have to believe that you are up to the task, because if you don't you'll listen to what a lot of other people will say who will suggest that all you are is cocky. All you are is just a know-it-all, that you are really nobody. You have to believe that you are up to the task at hand. And know who to listen to and who not listen to. People will try to confuse you. Especially if you are doing something that's going to change the way a lot of people think. People try to confuse you. You have to keep your head about you and your head has to be clear. It has to be clear. The direction of your heart has to be sure. You have to know what that direction is.

If you are going to be a person of value, there has to be adequate preparation. What I mean by that is education for one. You need, however as distasteful as it might seem, you need some book learning sometimes. You need that. You need to know what's happened in the world before you got here. You need to find out what some of the great thinkers have said before you got here.

You also need to educate yourself insofar as human nature is concerned. Human beings are very complex. Very complex. And you do not understand how complex they are until you make a deliberate effort to meet many different kinds of people. People who are black, white, red, yellow, whatever color the people might be. And you have to make a deliberate conscious effort to know people on all the social scales. Upper class, middle, lower class, whatever. When was the last time you actively tried to meet someone of another class? Of another class. Not necessarily race, but just another class. There's a difference in the thinking. There is a difference because people have different needs. There is a difference. You grow by stretching your mind like that.

If you are going to be a person of value, you have to have some imagination. You have to have some. You have to come up with ideas that people haven't come up with before you got here. You can't come up with the same thing. You can't do it. What do I mean by imagination?

Illustration. While I was a police officer in Baltimore, we had a problem coming out of the *Miranda* decision having to do with advising people of their rights and having to do with raiding various houses and needing warrants. It occurred to me that perhaps we could not violate a person's rights and raid a house for violation of the narcotic laws without a warrant, and do it legally, legally. Now if you look in the books they say you have to have a warrant. It occurred to me that you could do it without a warrant legally. But the question was how. Some imagination was needed.

What I thought of was this. There was a particular house that people were going to to purchase drugs. There were a lot of people in that house on a particular evening. I said to my two partners: what we we'll do is this. When someone comes out of the door chances are, especially the back door, that was the door they were using, that person is going to have drugs with them. The mere sight of us will frighten, because they know who we are. They know why we're here. Human beings being what they are they will try to seek refuge in the nearest place, which is in the house that they just exited. Now what we have to do is give 'em time to get in the house, and the laws of "fresh pursuit" say that we can chase that person. But don't catch them. Let 'em run all through the house. Every room. And then that gives us the right to search every room that they go through and anyone who was in those rooms we have the right to search them for fear of our safety. Yes we do.

So all we had to do was give that person plenty of time and we could search their house legally. We can raid it in effect. They said "well let's give it a try", and surely enough after a while a gentleman came out the back door and we jumped out and he got scared. Started running and banging on the door, "let me in, let me in", and people inside opened the door and in he ran and we went right behind him. Now we just let him run all through the house and we arrested 15 people that night. 15 people. Stopped that nuisance house from being a nuisance. Yes, we did. In the community. And everybody in the house all of them went to jail for violation of the narcotic laws. That night was challenged all the way to the Supreme Court in the State of Maryland, but we won. We won. We won. Because we didn't violate any laws, but we didn't have a warrant either. Just a matter of imagination. Coming up with something that other people hadn't thought of. It seems so simple when you just sit down and talk about it, like we are right now. But you try to come up with something different it takes a little effort. It takes a little effort.

But, if you are going to be a person of value, you have to come up with things that people haven't thought of before you got here. You have to do it. You have to do it. You can do it if you keep your mind open enough to let a lot of ideas go in.

I said on November 13th, that there was a gentleman in Baltimore who read in a magazine that what each person ought to do in life is say: 'I want to be the best person in life that I can be'. You ought to say that. This article said, according to this gentleman, I want to be the best person in life that I can be. I had pointed out on that night that the gentleman speaker said that's aiming too low. Too low to want to be the best person you can be. Well, I wondered about that and it seems kinda high to me to aim in that direction. But the speaker went on to point out that you ought to be or want to be the best *you* that God can make you be. There's a difference, because

He will aim higher than you will. Well, that makes a lot of sense. That makes a lot of sense. That's a way of saying, Kip, that if you don't have a spiritual side that you are acquainted with, you're only going to go so high. Because people of value are people who society test again, again, and again. And if you don't have a powerhouse of strength in you, you are not going to make it. Because you just can't make that in and of yourself. There's just no way to do it. You have to have strength, and you have to have faith, and if you put it in people you will find you will be disappointed. You will be disappointed.

If you are going to be a person of value, you have to understand that we live under a system of natural laws. *Natural* laws. An airplane that goes through the sky is able to use the air to transport people from place to place. The wings are delicately balanced. But if there is an imbalance, if one of the wings gives way, there is a violation of natural laws. The plane will go down. It can't stay up. Fires are good if they're warming your house, but if a fire is burning your house down, that's another situation altogether. Natural laws say that the fires belong in the fireplace, but if that is violated people get a lot of problems.

What goes around, comes around. Be good to people. Be good to people. The person who you are not good to today is the same person who might come back tomorrow and do you great harm. Great harm. A lot of people don't know that. A lot of people don't know that.

I am asked from time to time about how fair I am to students, and I point out that I am going to fair to everybody. I am going to be as fair as I can be. If I step on your toes, it's because I don't know it. I know that there might come a time when I will be standing on the highway, because my car might break down. And if you come by and you see me there and I have mistreated you, you will say "that's Tabbs over there, keep going, keep going". Well, I want you to stop. I want you to say "I can't pass that fellow by." "Aww not him" "But we're going to be late getting to the. . . "Don't pass him by. Don't pass him by." I want you to pull over and stop and take me wherever I'm going. At least a place to get some help. But you won't do that if I don't treat you a certain way. You won't do that. Mmmhmmm. But there's even more reason to treat a person right. I can give you a better reason. Treat people right because it's right to treat people right. That's a better reason to. A better one. But not that many people today seem inclined to do things because it's right to do right. Not too many seem inclined to do that.

Therefore, when you put yourself in their group, you have separated yourself from the majority. Because the majority believes in looking out for number one. The majority believes that if they look out for themselves they will be happy. Not realizing that it doesn't work that way at all. It doesn't work that way. You find happiness by trying to make other people happy. What goes around, comes around. But you have to first get it in motion. Something's not going to come around to you until you put it in motion.

And when you become a lawyer, not *if*, you are going to have a lot of opportunity to put a lot of things in motion. You've seen the movie *Justice for All*. As a matter of fact you said you saw it twice. You must have enjoyed it. I saw it also and it was a good movie. It was a good movie.

One of the things emphasized in that movie was dishonesty. Dishonesty. People who were not

honest to themselves. Mmmhmmm. There was a judge there who was not honest to his profession. Standing in the courtroom shooting pistols. Flying planes and putting his life in jeopardy by seeing if he could get back before all of the gasoline ran out and other people doing other rather outlandish things. But what struck me about that movie was there was a transvestite there. There was a lawyer there who was dedicated, Al Pacino. There was another lawyer there who was so close to his clients that when they suffered problems, he felt them. And some problems came about consequent to that, and there was one more person there. Another judge who was unyielding. He wouldn't bend. He was very rigid. All the people there had something in common. What they had in common was that they were only a thread away from being like one another. Just a thread away from being like one another. The transvestite was incarcerated and hanged himself. The lawyer who was very close to his clients found that the people that he defended or the person he defended was found not guilty but they went right out and killed some people. Then he had a nervous breakdown. The judge who was not one to bend ended up involved in a criminal case where his name was scarred at least. None of those people were honest to their profession. Al Pacino was moving in the direction of being extremely involved with his clients.

It raises this question: How does one be true to one's self and at the same time true to one's profession? One has to learn what is a safe distance. One has to learn how to care about people and be very involved with them, but how to move away just enough so that you can keep functioning. Because if you feel everything that the people around you feel, you will become non-functional. That's a way of saying that you have to know how to be very, very warm without becoming too hot. And without becoming cool. That takes experience. That takes experience. If you get too close to your clients, you will not be of use to other people. Doesn't say that you shouldn't take what they are talking about seriously though.

The case must be important to you. I remember when I was in Baltimore, once again as a detective, on a particular night when I was working undercover for the Federal narcotics bureau, I was out on the street in the company of a narcotics user. I was masquerading as his cousin and we went out each night doing this and we did this for a period of several months. And he and I would go together, go places together and do things together all day each day. And on a particular evening we were on Pennsylvania Avenue, 1500 block. There was a man there dressed very dapperly and he said "here, here, these are my last three bags. \$25.00. My last three bags." He was talking about narcotics. And the gentleman who was with me said "no, no, no, that's all right, we're okay, we're okay." And I looked and couldn't figure out what just happened. I couldn't figure it out, because we were out there to buy drugs, to buy narcotics. But he turned this person down, and we went down the street and bought some drugs from someone else. A gentleman by the name of "One Wing." One wing. That was his nickname. Later I found that the gentleman that had been turned down on the street was a very, very big drug dealer whose name was Robert Bernard James, alias Henry James. A very big drug dealer. And he was the kind of person who would kill you if you informed on him. But that little fellow down on the corner wouldn't be apt to do it. But Henry James would. He was a gangster. In no uncertain terms, he was a gangster.

Well, one night my informant, he and I were in a pool room. There were several other people in

there shooting pool, very rundown place. Rotten little place, really. But we were in there shooting pool and in the door walked Henry James with seven people. They looked over at my informant and said, "come here". And they ushered him into a room in the rear of the pool room. Things were looking bad. Things were looking mighty bad. I knew who Henry James was by that time and what kind of person he was. And since I was working undercover, I carried no badge, I carried no pistol on me, but I still felt a responsibility toward that person who was working with me. The question is what to do. What to do. No, you don't call anybody. You have to use your head to solve the problems that are involved in your profession.

I went out to my car. Under the seat got my pistol. Put it down my pants. Went back inside the pool room. And I waited to see what was going to happen. I was prepared for anything. Anything that might come up. I felt confident to handle it, too. I was determined that nothing was going to happen to that gentleman who was working with me. They might talk to him. They might scare him a bit. They might have gotten wind of the fact that I was a police officer, but nothing was going to happen to him. As it turned out, after a while Henry James and those seven gentlemen left. My informant was shaken a little, but he was still all right. He was still all right. I didn't leave him. I didn't leave him. Some people might have gotten out of there and called for some help. No telling what might have happened. But I kept a presence of mind. That was important. Anything might have happened to me. But I have a sense of responsibility about anything I do. I would suggest that you ought to have the same kind of responsibility. I suggest you ought to. It separates you from most people.

If you would be a person of value, you have to realize that you are going to get in some tight situations. Later on time passed and I was conducting a surveillance for a couple of weeks of a horse stable. A horse stable. In this horse stable each day I noticed that about 2:00 o'clock some people would get off some steps and walk into the horse stable. There'd be three or four people in there, and something would go on they would leave. In the middle of the day around 2:00 o'clock in the summer. Bright and sunny out. There I was trying to sneak up on this horse stable. I got up to the window outside the horse stable and I listened to what they were talking about inside and then I peeked in and what did I see? Drugs changing hands. Drugs changing hands. Well, the next day I was there at that same horse stable in the company of federal agents and with members of the Baltimore city police department's narcotics unit. At 2:00 a man drove up and got out of his car and entered the horse stable. We had a warrant for his arrest. He was the person who I saw exchange drugs with someone. The person we arrested his name was Robert Bernard James, alias Henry James. Henry James. That was quite a day. Quite a day. As in most instances throughout Baltimore in the drug community people heard about that. It was quite a thing. Henry James has been arrested. Well, good. Good. Henry James sold dope. Henry James sold dope. And I was there to keep Henry James from doing it. The person I was with - the informant - was scared of Henry James. But I was not scared of Henry James.

Don't you be scared of anybody. You can't be scared of anybody and be a person of value, because fear must be something that other people entertain. Don't be foolish. Don't be foolish. But know when it's time not to be afraid. Don't be afraid. Later on in court Henry James' lawyer came up to me and we were out in the hallway and he said "come here I want to talk to you". I went over and said yes what is it? And he looked around and up and down the hall as if to look

and see if anybody was around and he said “it's worth a thousand dollars to you if you will testify that there was a screen in the window, that you had to look through a screen, that's all I want you to say. If you do that, it's worth a thousand dollars.” I said, “Well, I couldn't do that”. He said “now you ought to think about it. A thousand dollars. All you have to say is there was a screen in the window. And I'm going to say that would have obscured your vision so we can nullify the warrant.” Well, he was a little disappointed by that. We went to court, and as it were Henry James was convicted of violation of the narcotics' laws and sentenced to five years in prison. Although he never got to serve any of that time. While he was out on appeal bond, he was involved in an automobile accident and he was killed. But one way or another his trafficking in drugs was going to stop.

Once again, some imagination. Sneaking up to the window in the daytime, in the daytime, and bringing Henry James to justice. All kinds of people in the world. You know that. Tall, short, heavy, thin, black, white, open minded, closed minded.

But remember one thing. Everybody's got a spirit in them. Nobody likes to get their feelings hurt. Don't you ever be responsible for hurting somebody's feelings because there's something about them visually that you don't like. Because you don't have the right, you don't have the right, to hurt anybody's feelings, because of something about them that you don't like. Because chances are there's something about you that somebody else doesn't like.

Some people are going to come to see you sometimes Kip, looking for your help and their hands are going to be nasty. They're going to be dirty. Sometimes they're gonna smell. Sometimes, if you are like me, you'll meet some people and you will see bugs crawling over them. Just stand there and watch bugs just crawling all over their clothes. Uh-huh. But still you've got to help that person. Just as if that person were the cream of the crop of the upper class if you would be persuaded by me. You'll help that person just as much as you would help anybody else. Because that person's got feelings just like anybody else. You stick them with a pin, they will hurt just like if you stick somebody else they'll hurt too. When something like that happens to you, you are going to have a challenge because you will meet something in you - you will meet your prejudices. You'll meet 'em. And how you handle them will determine if you keep your discipline high. If you keep your profession high. Because not everybody can do that. Not everybody could do it.

I was talking with a good friend of mine who was completing law school in Baltimore three years ago. A very lovely lady. And she said that she had noticed in talking with other, with a lot of attorneys and in offices that she worked in that attorneys sometimes get very caught up on how much money he could make that day. He'll say, for instance, that “today I made \$300. Tomorrow I bet I can make four”, and as he makes four the next day he'll say “I bet I can make five today.” And the next day ‘can I break the record today and make six hundred dollars?’ And, finally ‘I bet I can make a thousand dollars today’.

Whatever happened to “gee, it would be nice to win a case today.” Whatever happened to “it would be nice to help somebody today”? Because when you help somebody you not only make that person's life richer, you not only help make that person perhaps an asset to society by way of

them looking at your example, but you also help that person's whole family. Considering that this person is a worthy person and not like Henry James. But one must defend the Henry James people with equal vigor, too. Otherwise we don't have a just legal system. Otherwise, we don't. That makes it the police officer's responsibility to come in with good cases but it's your responsibility to fight hard.

If you're going to be a person of value, you have to understand what it means to sacrifice. To sacrifice when other people stop. You have been up my office from time to time and you've seen me very tired. The easiest thing in the world for me to say to a student is "I'm too tired to talk today". But I don't do that. I don't do that. I keep on going. I keep on going because each student feels that when they come in to talk to me that "this is my day". Mmmhmm. What is important to that student is how you interact with him or her. They know perhaps you have talked to other people, but what's important to them is how you relate to them. What's important to that student is how much you help him or her. That can either make their day or throw it out the window. They know you might be tired but they want you to reach down in you and find just a little bit more. "Can't you find just a little bit more to help me?" They don't say it like that, but it's up to you to read that. To read that in people's eyes. And to know people well enough to know that that's how they think.

So one has to learn to keep on going when they're tired. And to keep on going giving one hundred percent while you're tired. 100% means operating at an efficiency level that is still commensurate with the kinds of quality that you will produce even when you're rested. You must function with equal efficiency in terms of quality whether you are tired or whether you are rested. That is difficult to achieve. It takes time. But you must work towards it. Don't worry about being tired. It's all part of being a person of value. It's all part of it.

One of the things, ladies and gentlemen, that Kip and I have joked about over the last couple of years is "can he beat me"? In wrestling, or just beat me. He thinks he's tough. Yes, that's right, he thinks he's tough. I knew from the very start he thought he could beat me. His brother thought so too. I say, 'I'll take on both of them'. They think they're tough. They think they're tough. We joked about that a lot. I asked him if he thinks he can take me. Yes. "Do you think you are that good?" "Yes". Go out and have a couple of wrestling matches. If you think you are ready, let me know. I don't know. We've joked about that. But now we are going to talk about it seriously. But we're going to talk about it seriously now. "Can you beat me, Kip Petroff?" Well, I don't know any better and it looks to me inasmuch as you like you're the challenger, I don't know, I want you to fight on my terms. I want you to fight on my terms. I don't mean put on boxing gloves. I don't mean put on any shorts or any tennis shoes or whatever, or have sponge gloves or anything like that. But "Can you beat me in love? Can you beat me in love?" That is the question. And I think that's more significant. I think that more can be gotten out of that. Show the world that you have more love in you than me and you will have beaten me.

I have been in the military, which is a way of serving one's country. I have been a police officer, which is a way to serve one's city. I have gone to undergraduate school and given a lot of talks there about drugs and graduate school to help the students and I go through the dorms and knock

on doors to ask them if they need any help with their papers. Here at Kent State I put in a lot of time. I've taught all classes of people and taught all races of people. I've taught high school dropouts. I've taught in the penitentiaries. I've helped a lot of people who were incarcerated to begin college. Get their high school GED's.

I would like to think that I have a reasonable amount of love in me. I'd like to think it. I'd like to think it. Wanna beat me? Beat me on my grounds. That way we can both win. That I think would be the best kind of challenge. I think that would be the best contest between you and me. I think that would be the best contest. Can you beat me in love?

When people look at you, let them not say that I wish I had his house or I wish I had his car or I wish I had his furnishings. Let 'em be able to say that I wish I had his heart. I wish I had his heart. Because people are not going to say that about too many people. They're not going to say that about too many people. They are going to want something else you have. But let your heart be the most precious thing that you put forward. If you do that, you'll be a person of value. You won't be able to help it. How could you be anything but a person of value then?

There's going to come a day when someone's going to speak some words over you. A eulogy, a eulogy. There'll come a day. But before that day comes, I would hope that you will do a lot with your life so that you won't need a long eulogy. I won't need a long one, because I would hope that my life of service will back up all the things that I'm saying now. I think so. I hope that your life of service will speak for you louder than any one person could, better than any one person could at a eulogy. When that time comes, I would hope, as I would like for me, that only two words be spoken really. That's all I need. I earned those two words but I have to earn them. The only words I need spoken over me would be "well done." "Well done". That's all. I have given a life of service. If I've done well. That's all. No need to say anything else. Anything else you want to say, say it while I'm here so I can hear it. And I do hear things sometimes. . . some people happy and some unhappy, remember it's good for people to be unhappy sometimes. Gives them the opportunity to come to terms with their feelings.

I hope Kip Petroff that you would have enough happiness to keep you sweet in a good way, enough trials to keep you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human, enough hope to keep you happy, enough failure to keep you humble, enough success to keep you eager and enough friends to give you comfort, enough faith and courage to banish depression. You are going to need all those things, because life is preparing you for what's ahead.

Enjoy the present moment. Times like these won't come again, because you are being groomed to be a very functional person. Functional in a good way in our society. If you are to be truly functional, you must overcome many boundaries. Many. One is understanding. You have to be able to look at everything deeper than other people. Even love. Even love. Don't take anything for granted. Remember that one has to keep earning love. One has to keep giving love.

What is love? There are different kinds. One kind of love is called by Abraham Mazlo "B-Love". B-Love. "B-Love" is a kind of love where you love someone because they are another human being. You love them with no jealousy. You love them with the desire that they fulfill

their own individuality. They go in their own direction. You are able to say “I love them and they love me”. That's not a possessive love. That kind of love can take you a long way. But there is another kind of love too. Maslow calls it “D- Love” D. D-Love is deficit love. Deficit love is a way of loving someone because they fulfill a certain need that you have. They fulfill a certain vacuum that is in you. They're able to nurture you. That kind of love doesn't last. It doesn't last because after a while that vacuum might be filled. Mmmhmm. It might be filled. That's the kind of love that people give someone often when they think a person is worthy of love. Worthy of love. It comes initially from our childhood when we loved our parents.

But to love someone merely because you consider them worthy of love is also to tell a person in a way that perhaps one day you might feel a lot of hostility towards the person. But “B-love” means I care about you no matter what happens. I'll continue to care about you. You're not fulfilling the deficit in my life. I have seen you as an individual. D-Love carries with it jealousy and that will eat you up. It will keep you from becoming a person of value. It will have you going around doing silly things. That's no good. That's no good. The B-Love person once again says ‘I love you and you love me’. The D-love person says I love you *because* you love me. That's conditional love. That doesn't last. Conditional love. You have to know those kinds of things. You have to know them.

I think about you and I meeting and I really have to look at it and wonder sometimes because you are from Michigan, is that correct? Ohio? But you go to Michigan from time to time? That's right; your parents live there now. You are from Ohio and I'm from Maryland. I'm from Maryland. This is a rather large country. Think of the chances of you and I ever crossing paths. We've overcome a lot of what would be social barriers to some people. We've travelled a long distance to overcome some economic things of which Kip was a part. We've overcome various kinds of racial barriers to bring us together so that our hands could meet. That's a kind of miracle really. But it's kind of miracle that we would ever meet one another.

I don't think that things in life happen as much by happenstance as some people think. I really don't. Because it seems to me that when people love one another they show it often by sitting down and writing a letter or sending a card. And they say ‘I love you’. But when God loves somebody He doesn't do that. He doesn't write a letter. He doesn't do that. He sends a person. He sends a person. And that person says it. Often times we don't ask to be selected to do the things that we do. But something happens along the way that motivates us. I believe that. I met Mrs. Turpin at Morgan State University. A fine English professor. Never met anyone like that in my life. And in some respects I've tried to live up to her example. One of the last words we said to one another I said to her a in place of goodbye and she said to me in place of goodbye . I said “be strong, Mrs. Turpin”. And she said “Keep the discipline high, Bernard”. I've tried to do that. I've tried to keep the discipline high. You have to try to keep yours high, too. But you must be prepared to do it. Don't be impatient. Don't be impatient. It's so easy to do. It's so easy to do, Kip Petroff.

After all is said and done, is there anyone here who would like to say anything? Is there anyone here? Everyone is very intense. Kip is wondering about that now himself.

Allright, I think I would like to speak for all of us here in wishing you well at what you are about to do after graduation. And I'd like to think the collective wish here is that you would truly be a person of value and not a person of mere success. There is a difference. And you can guide you towards becoming the person that you can be if you want to be the person that you can be instead of just being merely a person. Merely a person.

Take good care of yourself, Kip Petroff. Work hard. Remember that you are going to have some tough times. It's important to have tough times, because you will never realize your destiny. You'll never realize become In other words the person that you can become if you don't have some problems. You got some big ones in store for you. People of value always do. They always do. One of the things I say to my class from time to time is that people get to know one another better by saying things that they shouldn't say. Saying things that they shouldn't say. I'm going to say something now I shouldn't say.

That's my way of doing things. I think people look around when I say that as if to say what's going to come out of his mouth now? Yes they do. I have thought about you a lot over the years. I've given you a lot of opportunities to step in some holes too, just to fall down to see what you do. And you've come through magnificently every time. Every time. I noticed, for instance, that you are a student of human nature. You study the human nature of young ladies I noticed that. And that's wonderful. That's fine. That's fine. I couldn't help but notice over the years and on a particular occasion it occurred to me that perhaps there was someone in your life that might hold you back because that person wasn't as dedicated to humanity as they might be. I'm not even going to mention any names. I wouldn't tell you if you asked me either. But I knew that you weren't going to grow as much as you could grow around that person. I knew it. But the question was would you ever realize it? That was the question. And time has severed that relationship. The one that you did have.

Which is a way of life saying to you that you are being given all kinds of opportunity. Some that you don't even know about. Some that you haven't even realized, maybe. And life doesn't give us those opportunities to squander. You are surrounding yourself with quality people. I noticed That's good. That says a lot about you. continue to do that and have a real good chance of getting where you want to go. Continue to do that. Continue studying human nature. Take good care of yourself. Love one another. Kip Petroff and everyone here. Thank you very much.