

IVES INAUGURAL ADDRESS

But there are some things that the university must never abandon. For example, one of the underlying objectives of each course in the university should be to improve the capacity for critical thought. Now, that doesn't mean destructive criticism, or even criticism just for the sake of criticism. It is the capacity for critical thought that should be the hallmark of a university graduate. Unfortunately, it sometimes leads to trouble with an employer who just wants the graduate to do a job and not ask why. It is the capacity for critical thought that is the key

leaving an uncomfortable feeling that often emerges as a call for interdisciplinary research somewhere in between the spikes.

The bridging of these gaps is becoming an urgent priority, particularly in the light of today's problems. It is in this area that a university such as UPEI can play a key role.

As we enter this next stage of our development, I hope the faculty and students will keep these objectives in mind as you embark together on the voyage of learning. The smoothness of this voyage is not determined only by the faculty and the students. It is crucially

During the meetings of the Commonwealth universities, the senior uni-

things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the



versity presidents gave us newcomers some very sage advice which I would like to share with you.

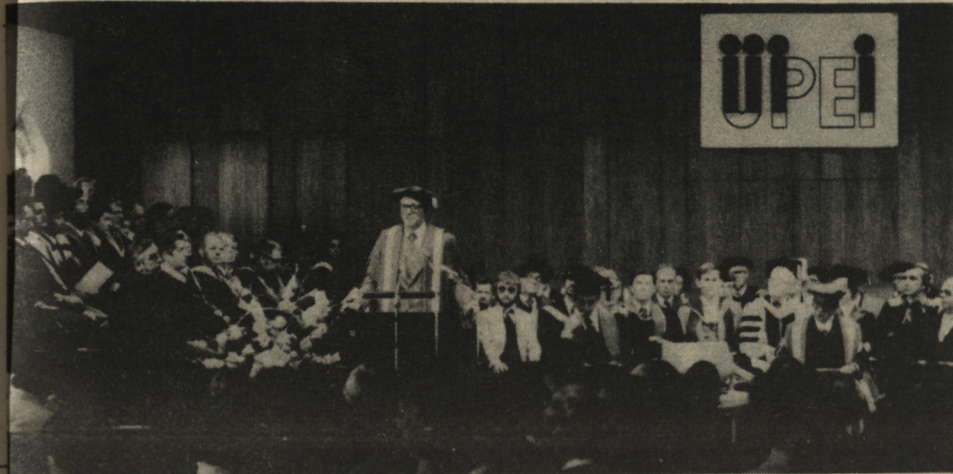
One of the first things we were told was that a university president should always keep his eyes wide open, so wide open that he should know when not to see something. Another pointed out that a president is the only person at a reception who shakes the hands of one quarter of those present and the confidence of the rest. There was even some advice to spouses of presidents, who were told that they will have to spend half their time in conversation pretending that they do know what they don't know and the other half pretending that they don't know what they do know.

Perhaps the wisest advice was that we should be guided by that well-known prayer: God grant us the serenity to accept the

wisdom to know the difference.

In a time of rapid change such as we are now experiencing, we need an even greater wisdom, because the ground is shifting rapidly. Some of those things that couldn't be changed ten years ago are now amenable to change while others can no longer be changed.

As we face the future, I hope that we will all be able to make the best use possible of the capacity for critical thought and to find the necessary serenity, courage and wisdom.



to real progress and will, I believe, play a vital role in helping to solve the problems we face today.

A second thing that the university should never lose sight of is the fact that one of man's greatest joys is to increase his knowledge and understanding. The horizons of the mind are the frontiers that are most expanding.

It is often said that the most fundamental tasks of the university are to discover, preserve and disseminate knowledge and information.

One can liken the current process of discovery of new knowledge to a crystal growing in a solution. But rather than growing in a uniform way, I believe our knowledge crystal is growing in long, thin, fragile spikes known as disciplines. The frontiers of discovery are perceived to be at the ends of the spikes, and specialized researchers are attracted there to help the crystal of discovered knowledge grow.

The result is that the spikes grow outward and further and further apart

dependent on the staff of the University who are responsible for providing the best possible environment, both in physical and human terms. It also depends very much on the support and encouragement of the society of which the University is a part.

UPEISU WELCOMES PRES.

As President of the Student Union, I bring greetings to you, Dr. Peter Meincke, on behalf of the students of the University of Prince Edward Island. On this day of your official inauguration as second President of the University, I bear with me the wish of all students that you may, in the coming years, enjoy a distinguished and prosperous term.

Your well-known concern for the welfare of your students, and your determination to see U.P.E.I. realize its full potential in its Island setting are welcome qualities which you bring to the office of President. Through your wisdom, insight, and integrity, may you serve to promote the honoured position this University occupies in our local community.

God grant you and yours good health and fortune in the coming years; and may your mark on U.P.E.I. be a noble one, and an enduring one.

Welcome President Meincke.

Kevin Gauthier
President
Presented September 23, 1978.

