



Bachelors of arts; Mark Janifer, Oscar Rodríguez, Brian McCormack, all of Quincy House.

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## Walter Cronkite has some bad news

Under a subdued spring sun, and accorded rare peace from the racket of subway construction on Mass. Ave. (the MBTA had agreed to still its drills on two days during Commencement Week), Walter Cronkite delivered a sobering Class Day speech on Wednesday afternoon, June 5.

Introduced by first marshal Elizabeth Owens as "the Santa Claus of broadcasting," the Emmy Award-winning CBS News anchorman was anything but merry.

Cronkite told graduating seniors that, unless they come to grips with the "megaproblems" of our age—overpopulation, pollution, natural-resource depletion, and nuclear proliferation, "our modern Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse"—civilization as we know it cannot survive.

Within our lifetime, Cronkite said, a technological revolution, "perhaps greater in its impact than the Industrial Revolution," has taken place, "and there is evidence that we are living

through it just as blind to its social, economic, and political impact as did our grandfathers through the Industrial Revolution."

He went on: "Can we believe that the beleaguered peoples of the world will long be tolerant of those who possess the tools but who can't make them work for the good of men everywhere?"

"There is going to be social and political and economic evolution, coming with such explosive suddenness as to have the character of revolution.

"The revolution forces already are at work today, and they have man's dreams on their side. It is up to us—to you—to get into the leadership of that revolution."

Cronkite referred to the "gentleman revolutionists" (Carl Bridenbaugh's phrase) of the Class of 1780. Then, too, he said, prospects were bleak, what with soaring inflation and badly flagging confidence in the Revolutionary effort; but victory, and the birth of a brand-new nation, were only around the corner.

"Don't be of faint heart," urged the familiar bass with its weighty cadence. "Marshal your courage and convictions. Pick up your cudgels and man (and woman) the barricades—and you'll make your revolution a model to live, as did that earlier revolution, for another two hundred years."

Cronkite received a spirited standing ovation.

Earlier in the Class Day exercises, dean of students Archie C. Epps presented the Ames Memorial Awards to two seniors, Eileen Costello and Daniel Riew. The awards are voted yearly by the Senior Class Committee in recognition of demonstrated leadership, self-reliance, and character.

Michael Skoler, who delivered the Harvard Oration, likened his undergraduate years to the magic island in *The Tempest*, and expressed a hope that he and his fellow graduands would "continue to dream and wonder" long after Commencement.

Radcliffe orator Karen Fitzpatrick wondered just what a Harvard diploma means. She concluded that it symbolizes its recipients' having "stopped asking how to get what they want, and begun to ask what they really do want."

The Harvard Band struck up "Thanks for the Memories" as Andy Borowitz approached the lectern to give the Ivy Oration. Reporting with pride that his classmates' Senior Bake Sale/Car Wash had succeeded in pulling in a full third of the Harvard Campaign goal of \$250 million, Borowitz noted that this was the first time he'd seen Walter Cronkite's legs. He confessed that he was "pleasantly surprised."