

(Mr. Kalahar thinking to himself..."Wow, there are a lot of people out there. Why are my hands shaking? Why is my mouth dry? My voice seems to be wavering. I cannot remember what I was about to say. This is going to be the longest five minutes of my life"...)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this juncture, I would like to welcome you students, faculty, and the community as well!

This is truly an honor and most definitely a great reason to miss a night of waiting tables!! I want to dedicate my time here tonight to the families who may be suffering the loss of loved ones: the Zelinskis, the Jedlows, the Shaws, and anyone else I am missing based on my limited information. I also want to dedicate the words that I am about to share with all of you, both serious and not so serious, to the graduating class of 2005. Most of you I have not seen in class since your Junior year, but I remember. Whether it was US History, Propaganda and Speech, the few of you in Political Awareness, and yes even you in AP US History, you thoroughly inspired me! Well most of you did anyway, okay maybe

just some, alright a few of you inspired me. Come to think of it, I had to inspire myself a lot of the time, nevermind! This is your night, and fortunately or unfortunately, after tonight you move into the real world and the rest of your life.

In today's world of international war, military occupation, nuclear arms and the revival of eighties music it can be hard to find true inspiration. True inspiration is a rare characteristic embodied only by a few people throughout our lifetimes. To find a person, group, or organization that is truly inspirational is to find something that one respects to the highest degree, looks up to, and ultimately moves one to action. This inspiration can come at any time in a person's life, but it usually does when we least expect it or at a time when we could use it the most. Please keep an eye out for your inspiration in a co-worker, friend, parent, student, or even, yes, a teacher!

The following is a little excerpt of the way people view society today, but I urge you to look past this example of apathy although it is a bit humorous.

Demotivational Series: When you do not care anymore. This is the antithesis of what I am trying to get at. These are the ideas that lead people away from their inspiration.

- Defeat: For every winner, there are tons of losers. Odds are you are probably one of them.
- Stupidity: Quitters never win and winners never quit. But those who never win and never quit are idiots.
- Failure: When your best just isn't good enough.
- Futility: You'll miss 100% of the shots you don't take and stastically speaking 99% of the ones you do.
- Ineptitude: If you cannot learn to do something well, then enjoy doing it poorly.
- Losing: If at first you fail. Losing may be your style.
- Mediocrity: It takes less time and most people will not know until its too late.
- Mistakes: It could be that the purpose of your life is to serve as a warning to others
- Pessimism: Every cloud has a silver lining and lightening kills hundreds of people each year who try to find it.
- Procrastination: Hard work pays off in the long run, but laziness pays off now.

- Apathy: If we stop taking care of our customers, maybe they will leave us alone.
- Despair: It is always darkest before things go pitch black.
- Doubt: In a battle between you and the world, bet on the world.
- Idiocy: Never underestimate the power of stupid people in large groups.

Now I hope you all take that with a grain of salt and understand that by simply being able to sit in the group before me you have overcome many of the stereotypes American society places on you. You have overcome and found your inspiration to finish one of the first steps in life.

Now, it is not easy to be an inspiration and it is not simply something one becomes when they decide it. “You know, I’ve been screwing up for so long and all my friends think I am a loser. I am going to inspire people.” Sure. The true inspirer is one who is not aiming to impress, but through their acts of selflessness they prove to others that there is something greater out there and something to strive for, a reason to do their best. This is always someone who is a bit of a silent figure in life. The beauty of the inspirational figure is that there can be an inspiration for anyone; the struggling student aiming simply to graduate, the Ivy Leager trying to pay for tuition, the business person working their way to the top. There can be an inspiration for any goal we would like to achieve.

Here are a few inspirational words that some celebrities have shared with me...

Ren: Stimp you bloated sack of protoplasm, you will never succeed unless you get off your heinie.

Kermit: Hi hoe this Kermit the Frog here and I would like you to overcome come all obstacles in your way. Hi Fozzy!

Michael Jackson: It looks as though that has been censored, we won't use that one.

Pee Wee: Hi Chairy. What is today's magic word? Inspiration. Always go the mile but never go to the movies alone!

Most people know **The Mackenzie Brothers** from the movie *Strange Brew* but at my house we know as the two moose from *Brother Bear*: Hey – take off its my turn to speak. Okay Okay but you gotta say something inspirational ey! You can do cool stuff if you put your mind to it.

Soup Nazi: Do what you can, now go away! No soup for you!

Cajun Man: The Inspiration for this dedication, is not defecation but information. So choose your inspiration based on the reputation. But never incite provocation through anticipation.

Thanks to our special guest celebrities. I am sure I left out many voices I have used in the past, but this is a five minutes speech.

Class of 2005, you inspire me! You inspire me to do what I do in the classroom to the best of my ability. You inspire me to continue to learn the content at a deeper level and to keep the classroom fresh and alive. You inspire me to be the best role model I can be with the goal of still being able to communicate with you. I urge you to look for your inspiration and succeed beyond your greatest aspirations. In fact, I challenge you to be the silent leader and inspire through acts of selflessness, perserverance, and accomplishment. Class of 2005, Good luck to you in all your endeavors and I graciously thank you for a sincere impact on me and giving me one of the greatest honors in my life and as a teacher ever! Rock on class of 2005!
In the inspirational words of Cartman: Screw you guys, I'm going home!