

An Anthology of Speeches by Jeff DePree

The following is the collection of speeches I gave in 1 period Speech class, first semester, 1999-2000, in its entirety, excluding a brilliant essay on cattle which is perhaps lost forever, and something about space monkeys which was banned from public distribution after a lengthy court case.

Pet Peeve

The cavemen didn't speak. No neanderthal ever said a single word but still, they were able to grunt and gesture their way through millions of years of survival, until one day when they supposedly evolved. We have only lived on this earth for a meager couple thousand years, and already we consider ourselves experts on what makes a good civilization. Now talking is a daily exercise, where man once hunted and gathered, we must converse and explain our way through life. And it's not just out of necessity, that we perform this thing called speech, its been incorporated into every facet of everyday life, from business, to education, to leisure. What level have we sunk to today, where man once could have simply gone out and killed a woolly mammoth for entertainment, we are now forced to struggle through a lengthy conversation? And what of the twisted soul that first devised speech class? To make a student stand and talk about something continuously, uninterrupted, for one, maybe as much as two minutes! The mere thought of such a thing could sicken the strongest of stomachs. So, this is what i find peevish in a pet sort of way, about today's society, when a picture or a quick hand gesture can say a thousand, we still must resort to the terrible awkwardness of words.

Arkansas

The greatest state ever to be brought into the union... the home of this country's most intelligent and successful people... the incarnation of all which this great land of America stands for... these are things you would probably never say about the state of Arkansas. Some have given it such elegant titles as "the armpit of America," others have simply neglected it, like the uncle that no one ever talks about; but there is much about this mysterious expanse that thanklessly enriches our everyday lives. The state was first founded in the 1800s as a refuge for those who were lucky enough to escape the horrible conditions of Kansas; these tortured souls claimed this land and appropriately called it "OurKansas," it was later renamed due to the incomprehensible regional dialect. Since its beginning, Arkansas has served as a center for culture and higher learning; over the decades it has established a couple different schools and even a museum or two. There is a great deal of pride in the economy of late, in recent years it has risen through the ranks to become 2nd or even 3rd poorest state in the country. It owes this enviable status to its production of commercial broiler chickens and a booming tourism industry consisting of springs that make hot water. Such an upbringing as is available here, has brought about the rise of some of our greatest Americans. Our beloved president once resided here where he began his great legacy as the honorable and trustworthy governor. And as if that wasn't enough, this state shall forever be remembered as the birthplace of the Wal-Mart chain. So, next time you're planning a vacation, and you're tired of the same old beaches or amusement parks or civilization in general, maybe its time you took a little closer look at this work of art that we today know as Arkansas.

Famous Person

He forever changed the lives of millions. He enriched thousands of cultures

around the globe. He brought about a new era of peace and prosperity. Never before in history has there been one like him and never again shall one have such a profound impact on our world as did this man. I speak of course, of Colonel Sanders. Contrary to what some would have you believe, he did not gain his fame from his service in the army, but like this nation's military, he is responsible for the great American way of life which we hold so dear. The Colonel was the first to discover a way to cook chickens quickly --- he used an oven; prior to this time, restaurants would simply bang two chickens together until they started a fire. With this new technology and his "special seasoning," Sanders opened the first Kentucky Fried Chicken, the chain began of course in... Delaware. After its debut, the restaurant quickly spread to all corners of the globe, the governor of Kentucky gave Sanders the honorary title of Colonel for letting people that there was indeed, a place called Kentucky. Sanders died... eventually, but that didn't stop his franchise career. Of course, nothing makes people want to eat chicken more, than to see a dead man "getting funky" on national TV. So, next wednesday when you sit down to eat your reprocessed mashed potatoes with that brilliant innovation that's not quite a spoon, and not quite a fork, take a moment to think of the man who made it all possible, a beloved national hero, Colonel Sanders.

Advertisement

Listen close, because I am about to announce the last great deal of this millenium. This product will revolutionize the lives of people throughout the world, and entire cities will flock to the stores just to catch a glimpse of this miraculous tool. It's called The Stick (all rights reserved), a device which shall become critical to every part of daily life. It can be used to reach something far away such as a ceiling or floor, it can change channels when the remote's buried deep within the couch, you can even use it to beat small, annoying dogs or neighbors that just won't leave you alone. What would you expect to pay for a work of brilliance like this, the greatest invention since The Log itself, 376 dollars? Well, you're in luck, if you order now, you can take The Stick home with you today for only 4 easy payments of \$99.99. And, if you're one of the first thousand customers, you get a free gift: this shark-repelling rock. Even as I stand before you now, there is not a shark in sight, and its water-resistant - it will stop most shark attacks in the shower or in light rain. So, make the purchase that will change your life forever, and remember, if you're not 100% satisfied with The Stick, you might not be a complete idiot after all.

Disclaimer: The Stick is not available for sale in any of the continental United States. 4 easy payments do not include 1200 dollars in additional costs. No small dogs were beaten in the making of this speech.

Food

Seldom in the history of man, has there come along a food this strange and unusual. It is a meal almost as mysterious as the meat within the 49-cent soft taco. It's not quite shishebab, it's not quite creamed spinach, but its somewhere in between. Kou Kolash, a snack as fun to digest as it is to say. It was originally created by the ancient Indians as a form of torture, after the bed of nails approach was judged to be just a bit too comfortable; but Kou Kolash gained its fame alongside a large fries and medium drink as McDonald's latest extra value meal. This tasty treat gained in popularity and spread

across the globe to most of the countries where it could be legally made. Much of its appeal comes from its simple ingredients: half a stick of butter, two eggs, and a cup of ungooahgwappa. Some have advertised it as an “edible grab -bag,” you never know what you’ll bite into next. The high demand for this delicacy has led to a variety of commercial spin-offs. The Gerber company devised Baby Kou Kolash, with real chunks of infants in every spoonful. Kou Kolash chewable vitamins enjoyed some success but were soon taken off the market because of several annoying side effects such as loss of limbs or shrunken head. The International House of Kou Kolash grew rapidly because no one was quite sure if this glop on a stick was supposed to be breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Never before has a fictional food, gained such fame or been adored by so many imaginary people or been the subject of a 2 minute, highly inspirational speech. So, the next time you happen to be on a picnic in a third world country, remember, don’t drink the water, but grab yourself a nice, refreshing stick of Kou Kolash and let the adventure begin.

Christmas

Christmas is celebrated throughout the world as a time of well-being, fellowship with your family and the receiving of gifts. And of course, nothing is more often associated with the holiday season than the jolly old man himself, Santa Claus. But is this plump elf as merriful and generous as he seems, or is he a wretched devil sent from the darkest bowels of hell to bring torment and sorrow to the world of the living? I tend to side with the latter opinion. This fat beast’s hatred became apparant to me a couple years ago. I opened my stocking with eager anticipation for the candies or games that awaited me, but was confronted only by the icy stare of a dead fish. The piranha lurked always in my nightmares until I eventually unloaded it on its next hapless victim. The next year, the red-suited demon didn’t even bother to kill something; he just stopped by seven -eleven while he was making his rounds; the highlights of that Christmas morn were a bar of soap and a full roll of duck tape. There really are a thousand uses for duck tape, but sadly, warding off the mirthful monster was not among them. This holiday, I spotted an unusual, hacksaw-shaped package under the tree. Surprisingly enough it was a hacksaw, and if the need ever arises, I’ll be well prepared to steal a bike or break out of prison. So what is to be done about this evil in our society, can no action be taken to return peace to this once joyous day? This Santa thing may be as a never-ending plague upon our world, and forever more each child shall open those brightly colored boxes with only the deepest fear in his eyes.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this speech are only the result of a last-minute attempt to make up an assignment and do not necessarily reflect the thoughts and opinions of myself. I have no strong objections to Jolly Old St. Nick and remain grateful to those thoughtful persons who gave me the dead fish, duck tape, and hacksaw.