Advice from the Old Guy…

Andrews blathering on to his beloved

recently-graduated students

who are going out into the wild world with the hope that you can do a better job than our present leaders are doing at the moment.

“If you don’t know

what you don’t know,

you won’t know

what you’ll need to know

to be the best...

...the best...

not just ‘average,’

as so many are

satisfied with being.”

After nearly a half-century of teaching, the old guy has learned a few lessons that might help his beloved kids to be informed as they enter the present unraveling world:

As Mark Twain put it, “When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.”

1. Old World / New World

From the relatively uncomplicated world of a few years ago, a new world has sprouted, with the buzzards of poorly-directed change circling above our heads.

Wars, starvation, disease epidemics, and other international turmoil seem to be warming up nicely in the background, with perhaps an earthquake, a volcano, global climate something-or-other, or another Lindsay Lohan breakdown in the offing.

Good Luck!

2. The New You Review!

Going off to College:

The best time for a New Start!

If you’re off to college or regular life, now’s the time to become the person you’ve always wanted to become.

As you leave the old folks behind, shy people can become brave, talkative people can become studious, and you can get a whole bunch of new friends who will see you as you want to be seen. Take advantage of it!

3. The Smartest to the Samest:

If you’ve been considered the smartest at SHS, you might be a little surprised that colleges are full of the smartest kids from everywhere else. No more coasting!

Here comes the real competition!

However, as you have survived Andrews interminable compositions,

writing should be a lot easier. Let me know....

www.jimteach.org

4. The 50/50 Split:

The Short or the Long College Experience.

Without Mom and Dad to keep you straight, you might think that the opportunities for endless parties, late nights and late rising are just like heaven.

Just remember that fewer than half of the kids going to Va. Tech, for example, are there a bit later, as the $28,000 party year often ends with a more-disappointing new start

after a long trip home.

Parties don’t help to pay the huge college loans you’re now taking on. Use your time as if it will affect the rest of your life.

It will...

5. Major in something that has a job connected to it,

not something that’s easy (allowing you to spend more time partying), or that “interests me.” There aren’t too many jobs for folks majoring in 9th-Century Slobbovian Frog Art.

Make sure that your major matches your skills. Andrews would make a pretty horrible mathematician. You’re unlikely to become a professional photographer if you’ve only taken pictures with your cell phone. If you’re going to become a “writer,” make sure that you major in something that will keep you from starving until your Great American Novel gets discovered.

6. Barf Heaven?

Contrary to public opinion, it’s just as much fun to talk and go places with clear-headed friends as it is to have bleary conversations with bombed-out loud, smelly, and sometimes angry acquaintances who want you to know how much fun they had throwing up last weekend.

Just because a significant number of friends think that ethyl alcohol imbibery (English teachers have a right to make up new words!) is the path to happiness doesn’t mean that folks who enjoy interacting with people with clear minds can’t choose a better path.

Andrews prefers chilled and stylishly decanted Welch’s Grape Juice…although some like Kumquat-cucumber cocktails.

7. The Glorious Gal Window –

4 years of freedom:

While guys can remain little boys for their whole lives, girls shortly end up taking care of the kids and the cooking and the houses and the clothes and the trips to school, soccer, swimming, hockey, baseball, dancing, and other places, in addition to a full-time job or two, while the guys are off working or fishing.

Girls! Right Now is your 4-year window to go to the places and do the things that you’ll never have the freedom to do again in the same way.

No Babies! No Boy Baggage!

Girl Friends are the Best Friends!

Get a bunch of girl friends together and go places and see things in this country or abroad – like a year of college in Europe, just having a good time…without the pressure, the jealousy, and the substances of the standard social situations.

8. Gals #2: Reverse Liberation?

Free to be Used?

“Build yourself a levee deep inside.

Build yourself a levee girl

when the waters run high.”

-Natalie Merchant

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvsRs9FRqNQ

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8RjTfYd-uo

If you’re being used,

or if he’s jealous or controlling,

dump him and wait 30 days,

no matter how much it hurts.

And then you’ll be OK.

There are plenty more in plenty more time.

9. “Ripeness is All” - Shakespeare

in King Lear

“If you’ve done it all,

you’ve done it all,

if you’ve reached the end

while you’re still at the beginning.

The joys of discovery

aren’t as much fun

if you’re bored from

having done too much

too soon too often

...before you’re ready.” ja

10. The un-bright leading the new:

Leadership Lessons.

As the present world political and financial leaders don’t seem to be the brightest we have ever had,

(though they are possibly the greediest):

A. Follow your brains instead of your leaders!

B. Gather the evidence.

C. Examine both sides of the evidence.

D. Don’t listen to those who only look at one side.

E. Think about the evidence.

F. Confidently give your opinion about how things should be done. You’re just as smart as many of the “experts.”

If they’re so smart,

why is the world is so messed up?

You have a chance to make it better when you take over!

11. Political Correctness =

intolerant tolerance;

separationist togetherness;

insensitive sensitivity;

discriminatory anti-discrimination;

doing good that results in evil;

straining at gnats

and

swallowing camels.

Encouraging breaking us up into

mutually-exclusive little groups

results in endless strife,

as most of the world well-illustrates.

Most of the more than 200 million killed during the 20th Century were killed for someone’s idea of “good,” which involved killing off the “other” groups who resisted their path to a perfect society.

http://necrometrics.com/all20c.htm

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

George Santayana

12. The Four Lusts...

Lust = wanting something so much that

you’ll do anything to get it.

A. Power

B. Money

C. Food

D. Bodies

Be most suspicious of those who love power,

and do everything you can to limit them.

The best example of distrust of power in the history of the world is,

believe it or not,

the U.S. Constitution,

where the Founding Fellows and Gals

looked at the Incredibly Stupid Kings, Nobles, and Greedy B\*\*\*\*\*\*\*s of 5000 years of history and tried to create a government that would keep them under control.

Study us and them from that point of view,

and you’ll see why the U.S. is so unique in history.

“Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Lord Acton

The only leaders who can be trusted are those who are hemmed in by checks and balances which are enforced by informed citizens who have in turn been informed by a press which reports objectively and accurately the leadership failings of those they like as well as those they don’t like.

Thomas Jefferson:

“The basis of our governments being the opinion of the people... were it left to me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.

http://famguardian.org/subjects/politics/thomasjefferson/jeff6.htm

Remember Shakespeare on Lust:

If we think our lives will be made perfect

if we get the things that we want too much,

our disappointments will likely

match our hunger.

http://www.shakespeare-online.com/sonnets/129.html

13. History is a great teacher.

Become generally familiar with the history of civilization.

It’s only about 5000 years, as Neanderthals didn’t write much...

“What happened when they tried this before?”

“Why are we doing it again?”

“Is this right?”

“What works?”

14. What Doesn’t Work:

Geography Survey

Do you really want to live there

or be like that?

Google major and minor countries

using words like:

Violence [Country Name];

Treatment of Women [Country Name];

Freedom of Press [Country Name];

Persecution of Jews / Christians

[Country Name];

FGM [Country Name];

Terrorism [Country Name].

Do your leaders condone these behaviors?

Dump them!

More than 50 million people are now displaced refugees because of the stupidity...and silence... of present world leaders.

http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/20/global-refugee-figure-passes-50-million-unhcr-report

More than 800 million people face starvation every day, mostly because of stupid leaders.

http://www.bread.org/hunger/global/facts.html

Andrews’ too-long Grad Speech from 2001

on Stupid Leaders:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vBHntTiOcE

The Duck Test:

“If it looks like a duck,

waddles like a duck,

and quacks like a duck,

it’s probably a duck.”

If someone tries to tell you that you can’t believe your eyes...or your mind,

they are probably the ones

who need glasses.

If they tell you that they want to kill you, believe them...or they will...

15. “Somewhere over the Rainbow...”:

Belief in the Easy Button:

Be suspicious of leaders or prospective leaders who promise schemes that will end war, poverty, disease, or economic problems if you just give them your vote and trust them .

You’ve been snookered!

...as the somewhat pessimistic Solomon said,

“There is no new thing under the sun...”

http://www.bible.ca/ef/expository-ecclesiastes-1-4-11.htm

16. Having Brains is not enough:

Brains + GRIT = Success

TED Video from Angela Duckworth

http://www.ted.com/talks/angela\_lee\_duckworth\_the\_key\_to\_success\_grit#

To be a Great Musician:

Brains + 10,000 hours of practice.

To be a Good Musician:

Brains + 8,000 hours of practice.

To be an above-average musician:

Brains + 4,000 hours of practice.

Brains + No Practice =

Just a gray, gooey mass accomplishing nothing.

http://www.musicthinktank.com/mtt-open/10000-hours-of-practice-makes-perfect.html

17. The Healing Power of Doing Good:

If you find that you are miserable and depressed and lacking in purpose, even though you have met many of your goals, go out and find someone whom you can personally help, whether it be for an organization or in your own environment - personally. ...and you’ll find yourself being healed...

http://www.melbabenson.com/articles\_files/Healing%20Power%20of%20Doing%20Good.pdf

18. The Old Guy:

A Noiseless Patient Spider –Whitman

Andrews teaching philosophy:

Why the old guy is still around

after 48 years.

A NOISELESS, patient spider,

I mark’d, where, on a little promontory,

it stood, isolated;

Mark’d how, to explore the vacant,

vast surrounding,

It launch’d forth filament, filament, filament,

out of itself;

Ever unreeling them—ever tirelessly

speeding them.

And you, O my Soul, where you stand,

Surrounded, surrounded,

in measureless oceans of space,

Ceaselessly musing, venturing, throwing,

—seeking the spheres, to connect them;

Till the bridge you will need, be form’d

—till the ductile anchor hold;

Till the gossamer thread you fling,

catch somewhere, O my Soul.

19. Enjoy Our Wonderful World:

“Glory…for dappled things,

…for skies of couple-colour

…for finches wings…

…landscape plotted and folded…

All things counter, original, spare, strange;

Whatever is fickle, freckled

With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;

whose beauty is past change…

http://www.bartleby.com/122/13.html

...and for all this, nature is never spent;

There lives the dearest freshness

deep down things...

…with Ah! Bright Wings… “

http://www.bartleby.com/122/7.html

-Gerard Manley Hopkins

Have a great future!

Love ya much!

Keep in touch!

-Jim Andrews:

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