

WE ASKED CALTECH ALUMS TO TELL US THEIR FAVORITE COMMENCEMENT MEMORY. HERE'S WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY:

I loved the sadly short-lived tradition of Caltech's all-male *a cappella* group Ecphonema popping up behind the podium just before the speech and letting fly with a well-rehearsed, speaker-specific "theme song"! One favorite was their amazing arrangement of the *NBC Nightly News* theme when Tom Brokaw spoke in 1999.



RAY BRADBURY [2000]:
 "You make a list this afternoon of the people who don't believe in you, and you call them tonight, and tell them to go to hell!"



The audience was always asked to wait until the last person walked before applauding. As a Zingman, I looked forward for four years to receiving all of the applause for my class. Imagine my surprise when I found out that someone named Zwick had taken an extra year to graduate!

When Bill Nye the Science Guy was our speaker in 1998, he mentioned a few things he had learned as the host of a children's science program. One gem was that, if you were going to get water dumped on your head, you could get through more takes before being completely drenched if you untucked your shirt. Later during the ceremonies, it started to rain pretty hard. Bill Nye, sitting on the stage, stood up and untucked his shirt! Way to keep your sense of humor!

In 1991, Jack Prater, who always hugged everyone, gave the speaker a big hug—the complication being that the speaker was the standing President of the United States, George H. W. Bush. That was great.



For the first time in 42 years, it *poured* down rain on my commencement (1995). The speaker said: "If you have received your diploma, you may seek shelter!" I was so lucky to have a last name that started with A!

In 1995, when the speaker said "Here at MIT . . ." [The speaker was alumnus Mark Wrighton, PhD '72, then the MIT provost.]