

(talk for 20 minutes followed by Q&A)

- I can say with full honesty, I too, have gone to Harvard.
- Oddly enough, I didn't go there to study, I went there to lecture.
- And here I am again . . . only this time I'm talking with Harvard *graduates*.
- What can I possibly tell you that you don't already know?
- I can tell you this – the place where I have learned the most is in the Governor's Office. . . . things like:
- Using the public as poker chips (give example)
- The power of special interests (ex. Campaign finance reform—it died quietly in committee this week)
- My media image vs. the real me (they say I'm against public education, but . . .)
- The state has a \$1.95 billion shortfall (due to a slowing economy and 9/11)
- My plan called for doing the right thing
- The legislature decided to use a band-aid approach to get re-elected
- Regardless whether or not I run again—you heard it here—they are going to be in trouble with the budget next year because of their “fix”

OPTIONAL TOPIC:

- Today ANOTHER poll came out about my popularity
- I don't care about polls, if I cared about them in '98...
- Just because my poll numbers dip doesn't mean I'm not going to stay the course to do the right thing for the State of Minnesota...
- When I was mayor of Brooklyn Park and visiting Washington, D.C., I got a piece of advice...make decisions without worrying about re-election



- Some people may focus on the poll's "how popular is Governor Jesse Ventura," but if you read the story in today's paper, it shows that the majority of Minnesotans agree with my plan to use a combination of cuts and taxes...