

Opening Remarks

Walk Down Memory Lane

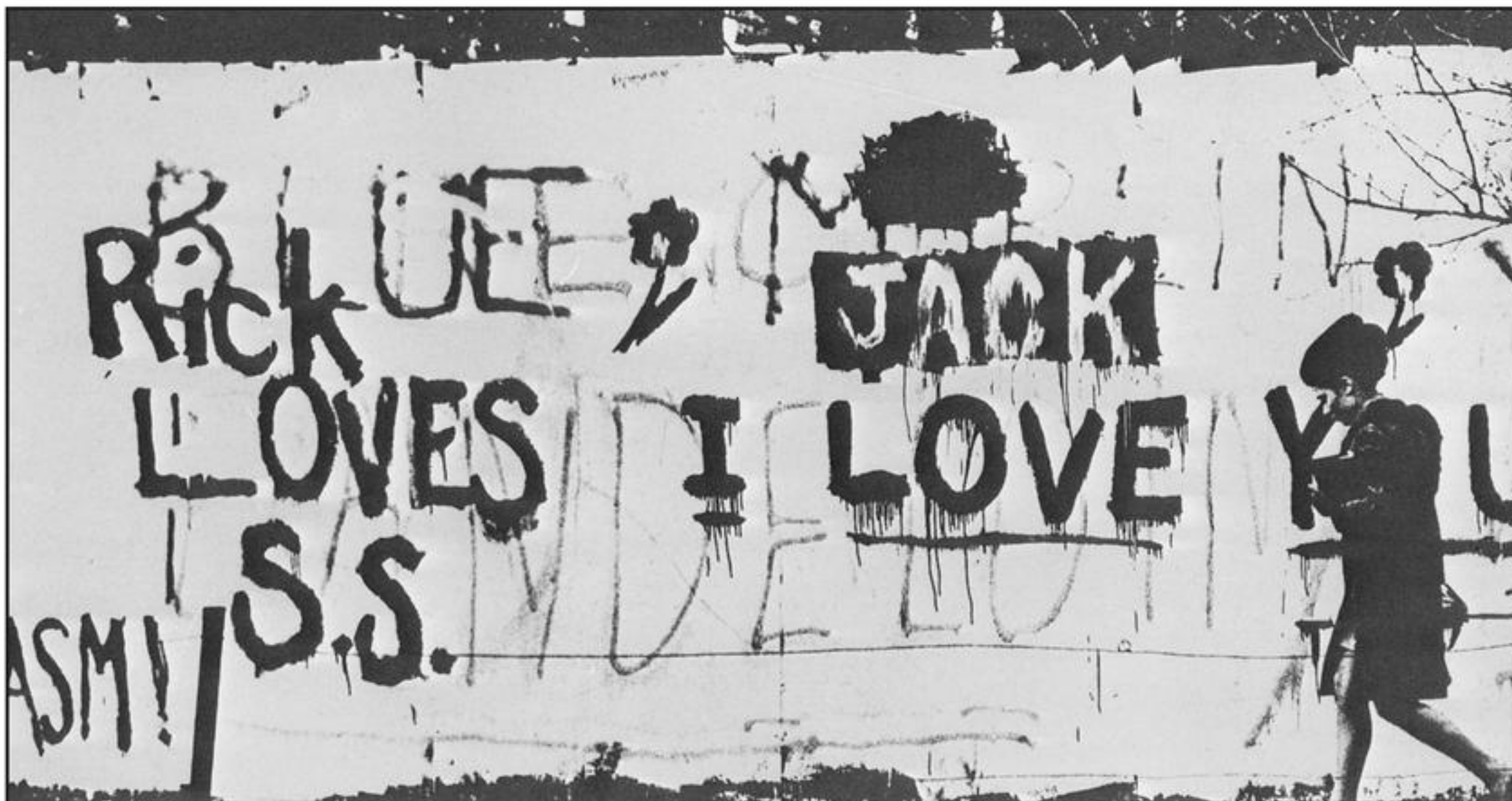
Walking about campus recently, detouring around closed sidewalks and construction fences, reminded me of my days on campus in the late '60s when the Patterson Office Tower and the Kirwan-Blanding Dorm Complex (a.k.a. University Commons) were being built.

Since then, just two years ago, UK added to its on-campus housing with the addition of Baldwin, Ingels and Smith Halls on the south side of campus and New North Hall on Euclid Avenue.

Aah, dormitory life . . . what a great place to be your freshman year! That is, once you get over the shock of close quarters. Stephanie Hurlburt, Jeannie Hill and I were all three in Jewell Hall in a room made for one. One bunk bed and a single bed, two dressers (we each had two drawers) and one desk with a chair took up about all of the floor space. The closet was about 42 inches wide by 52 inches deep with a bar along each side and across the back, with just enough clearance to hang wire hangers. It's amazing how much you can stuff into 17 inches of allotted hanging space and 11 inches of shelf space.

We were close to central campus, the M.I. King Library and the donut shop on Limestone. (A warm batch was ready at 9:45 p.m.; Curfew was at 10 p.m. so there was always someone in the dorm willing to keep watch at the side door if that night's runner was delayed by a long line of donut customers.) The UK Bookstore across the street was the only other quick source of sundries.

UK was growing and the first class of Baby Boomers had arrived! UK President John Oswald had high aspirations for the university. Enrollment during my four years as an undergrad went from 9,855 to 13,364 students. We had to navigate our way around the construction fence surrounding the footprint of the tower and engulfing the plaza. But it was an interesting walk! Part of the fencing became a long, wooden graffiti wall. The wall is a major visual element in the 1968 *Kentuckian*. Editor Tom Graler's introductory feature chronicles the 1967-68 academic year in which discourse was intense during the regular coming and going of college students. University PPD employees were kept busy painting over one set of messages that were soon replaced by another.



Many of my classmates have gone on to grand things, such as renowned *National Geographic* photographer Sam Abell, historian James Klotter, long-tenured judge Julia Kurtz Tackett, CEO of the Urban League of Lexington Fayette County Inc. Porter G. Peebles, retired CEO of Ashland Inc. Paul Chellgren, and UK's own entrepreneurial president Lee T. Todd Jr.

Some of the professors who were top in their field back then were Thomas D. Clark (history), Ben Black, Michael Adelstein and writer Wendell Berry (English), Lyman Ginger (education), Cecil Carpenter (commerce), Lewis Cochran (mathematics), Wally Briggs and Elizabeth Taylor (theater), and Neil Plummer (journalism).

All this leads me to a final thought. Today the UK campus is growing in reputation and vibrant with outstanding, talented students and distinguished professors. What's different this time is that we have a viable roadmap — driving momentum — called the Top 20 Business Plan.

Let's avoid detours.

Liz