

# May 1994 Commencement - Governor Mario Cuomo

[Mario Cuomo](#), the Governor of New York, was the Commencement speaker at the May 23, 1994 Drew University Commencement ceremony.

An excerpt of his speech appeared in the Summer 1994 issue of the *Drew Magazine* . . .



Sooner or later for some of you, the title, the clothes, the bank account, all the comfort will not be enough. At some point some of you will need to feel that your life has touched and influenced, for the better, a world larger than the one that ends in your backyard.

You will see how peace in this country and world peace are connected, how our personal prosperity and the common good are one. You will see connections between our freedom and our obligations.

I hope some of you will accept the ancient Hebrew instruction, echoed in our age by the great French paleontologist and priest Teilhard de Chardin—*Tikkun Olam*—"Our role is to help heal the universe."

We need you. It is as simple as that. We need you to take what we pass on to you and make something better. That is part of the American dream—that each succeeding generation will be a little smarter, a little stronger, a little surer than the one that preceded it.

I believe Teilhard was right when he wrote: "The day will come when, after harnessing the ether, the winds, the tides, gravitation, we shall harness for God the active energies of love. And on that day, for the second time in the history of the world, we will have discovered fire."

You already have the spark in your eye.

*Mario Cuomo, Governor of New York*

*Excerpted from Commencement Address  
May 23, 1994*

The New York Times (via the AP) also covered the event . . .

## **Drew University**

**MADISON, N.J., May 23 (AP) —** Gov. Mario M. Cuomo of New York told Drew University graduates today that drugs have weakened the nation and that they need to strive to make America great again.

Mr. Cuomo said he hoped that the graduates would look beyond the material luxuries their education would provide and would strive to restore those qualities "that made us great, that won the Second World War, that made us dominant in the world."

He said the nation now suffers from economic and educational inferiority, homelessness and drug addiction. "We lost it in the 1960's when we turned to things like heroin, cocaine and later crack because we became a little arrogant and self-satisfied," he said.

Mr. Cuomo was invited to give the commencement address to 413 graduates by Thomas H. Kean, Drew's president and former governor of New Jersey.