

UNIVERSITY OF NATAL

FLaudation

spoken by the University Orator

Professor P.J.H. SCHOLTZ, 8.4 (Hons.), H.E.D. (Natal)  
in presenting  
SYBIL CECILIA HOTZ

to the Chancellor at the Graduation Ceremony  
held in Durban

on 12th April, 1984

Mr. Chancellor,

I have the honour to present for the degree of Doctor of Social Science, *Honoris Causa*, Sybil Hotz, daughter of a bounteous mother indeed, for this Alma Mater has given birth to many distinguished daughters, but few who have demonstrated in like manner qualities of leadership, civic responsibility and compassion for the less privileged members of our society. She has the distinction of being the first woman who completed her professional studies at the University of Natal, to be awarded an

Honorary Doctorate by the University.

Sybil Hotz was educated, indoctrinated and perhaps sublimated at the Durban Girls' High School and at the University of Natal, where she obtained the Diploma in Nursing Education. As with Florence Nightingale and other kindred spirits who dedicated their lives to the welfare of others, the lamp of dedication has burned brightly in the life of Sybil Hotz. Her Nursing Training was undertaken at Greys Hospital in Pieter-

maritzburg and at Queen Victoria Hospital in Johannesburg.

Even at an early age she demonstrated those qualities which have enabled her to scale the heights and reach the summits of achievement. Those were smaller peaks, but no less important serving as a preparation for more formidable challenges. She was Prefect and House Captain while at school and President of the Student Nurses' Council at Greys Hospital in Pietermaritzburg. She has lectured at King Edward VIII Hospital, Entabeni

Hospital and St. Augustine's Hospital in Durban and was appointed

Examiner for the South African Nursing Council and External Examiner for Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland. In 1973 the prodigal returned to the welcoming arms of her Alma Mater and was appointed as a Lecturer in the Department of Nursing, a position she held until her election as Deputy Mayor in 1978.

Leadership has been described as a relationship which exists between one individual and other members of a group.

Effective leaders display a multitude of common qualities and characteristics - human understanding, professional competence and a strong independent character. A moment's reflection reveals effective leadership as a totality. And S soRNEISE o surprising that Sybil Hotz displayed the same energy and commitment, the same qualities of leadership in the service of the community at large and in her civic responsibilities.

Joseph Conrad once said that 'being a woman is a terribly difficult task, since it consists principally in dealing with men.' Not the least of Sybil Hotz's achievements has been the realization of her exceptional potential in a society dominated largely by patriarchal attitudes. For those men who may have subscribed to the theory of male superiority, Sybil Hotz has cancelled the subscription. She has been and remains a fine exemplar of enlightened counselling, an example to others that ability, integrity and skill, not sex, race or creed, are the criteria for achievement.

She was elected to the Durban City Council in 1974 and has served as Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee and as Deputy Mayor from 1978 to 1980. In 1980 she was elected Mayor of Durban.

One of the attributes of greatness is to have the vision which can inspire others. In this respect Sybil Hotz was most appropriately named, for Sibylla or Sibyl was the name for a prophetic woman. One of the most celebrated of that name

was said to have come from the East to Italy and to have brought with her the Sibylline books. These books were kept in the Capitol by a college of priests and might be consulted only by order of the senate. The collection which was destroyed by fire in 83 B.C. was frequently consulted by the magistrates for guidance. From her inspiring record as Mayor of Durban in guiding the affairs of the City Council, the uninitiated or superstitious might be forgiven for believing that deep in the vaults of the City Hall resides another collection of Sibylline books, which are consulted by those Councillors who make wise decisions.

As an avid reader and lover of literature and music, she has had to make many sacrifices to achieve her goals; she now spends her time reading agendas rather than literature, and listening to rhetoric which is sometimes far from melodious. leShasBbeeni riimotred thamt shel intends writing her memoirs,

which will be entitled, "Come into my Parlour."

Sybil Hotz is already the recipient of many national and international awards for her leadership in local government affairs and for her outstanding efforts to improve the quality of life of all race groups in the City of Durban. The University of Natal adds its voice to those of others in honouring a distinguished daughter who has "kindled the life quality in others."

Mr. Chancellor, I have the honour to present to you for the degree of Doctor of Social Science, Honoris Causa, Sybil

Hotz.

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