

BOWDOIN COLLEGE
Commencement 1991

ROBERT BRACKETT ELLIOTT, comedian and entertainer, half of the BOB and RAY comedy team, neighbor from Cundy's Harbor, Maine, we honor your contributions to a part of our daily lives that is often overlooked--our all too somber state of mind. Amidst the clutter of the daily routine, as we often take our work and ourselves more seriously than we ought to, you have lent much needed perspective to our harried lives. Through your varied work in all facets of the entertainment medium: on radio for more than four decades, performing live, often ad-lib performances of original irreverent humor; on television; on Broadway; in commercials, especially your wonderful creation of the Piel Brothers, Bert and Harry; in sold-out performances at Carnegie Hall; on record; and, in print; you have regaled us and reminded us of the endearing value of satire and humor in everyday life. It is somehow fitting and comforting that after all these years we can still listen to you on radio as you currently perform with Garrison Keillor on the American Radio Theater. You have been deservedly honored with three Peabody awards for your work on radio, but perhaps more important than the awards themselves, is that you have reminded us of the wonderful possibilities of that neglected medium. where generous doses of imagination and creativity can soothe our souls in a way that television and videos can not. Finally, we celebrate your long standing ties to Maine--your grandmother and mother were born in Brooks, every summer as a child you spent your vacations there, and since 1961, you and your wife Lee have made Cundy's Harbor your home. Your love of Maine is also illustrated by your avocation for painting--in fact, some years ago the Moulton Union was fortunate enough to exhibit your water-colors and oils of Maine seascapes. Today we honor you, Bob, just as we would toast an old friend whose companionship we treasure, for your many contributions to one of our most priceless gifts, our state of mind. President Edwards, I am honored to present to you, ROBERT BRACKETT "BOB" ELLIOTT, for the degree of DOCTOR OF LETTERS, *honoris causa*.