

Mary Schmich: Wear Sunscreen (1997)

This [famous commencement \(graduation\) address](#) to students has been attributed to Kurt Vonnegut and been covered by different singers and artists including Baz Luhrmann, but it was never presented at any college. It was written in 1997 by Mary Schmich, a columnist from the Chicago Tribune.

In [her article](#), she introduces her advice to imaginary students as follows:

Inside every adult lurks a graduation speaker dying to get out, some world-weary pundit eager to pontificate on life to young people who'd rather be Rollerblading. Most of us, alas, will never be invited to sow our words of wisdom among an audience of caps and gowns, but there's no reason we can't entertain ourselves by composing a Guide to Life for Graduates.

I encourage anyone over 26 to try this and thank you for indulging my attempt.