

5/88

FAREWELL

As my attention is drawn increasingly Westward in recent weeks, I think about all the things I'll miss and things I won't miss about my sojourn in the East.

Among the things that I'll miss are these:

1. I'll miss the collegial environment of HGSE. When I came for my interview 8 years ago, I expected to find faculty colleagues who were intellectually able and stimulating, knowledgeable and on the cutting edge of their fields and specialities; productive and contributing to research and practice in education. Such is the reputation of Harvard, even on the West Coast.

What I did not expect was that they would also be such interesting, engaging, and personable people. I was also pleasantly surprised to find faculty so dedicated to students and to teaching, generous with their time, support, wisdom, experience, and knowledge.

Yes, certainly, I'll miss my faculty colleagues.

2. I'll miss the Ed School's rich diversity of students, whom I found genuinely interested in learning -- and genuinely interested in grades. They work hard, juggle incredibly mixed demands with good humor and grace -- up until about Feb, anyway. And then with the coming of Spring and the end of the pressures of the year, their sunny dispositions return as does their inevitable optimism about getting a QP thru COD and finishing their

dissertations in time for June graduation.

Yes, certainly, I'll miss the students.

3. I'll miss the staff of APSP and of HGSE, who within the constraints of a very moderate bureaucracy remain, human, friendly, and genuinely helpful. I'm tempted to name names because I came to depend so heavily on various staff people throughout this organization, but you know who you are, and Yes, I'll certainly miss you.

4. Finally, I'll miss what I consider to be one of the finest leadership teams heading graduate schools of education today. Special kudos to Pat, Jerry, and APSPs Dave Kuechle. I not only respect them as professionals and leaders, but I genuinely like them as people. Yes, I'll miss the administrative teams of HGSE

When I got to this point in my list, I wondered if things are really this good, why am I leaving? So to justify my move, I constructed an equally long list of things I won't miss.

1. Boston winters -- and I can now add long-delayed Boston Springs, with their uncanny proclivity for rain on 8 consecutive weekends. And I'm not all that crazy about Boston summers, when you get right down to it. But, yes, I'll genuinely miss the colorful and delightful New England Falls.

2. Gutman elevator, especially the required nature of the transportation. Despite an 8-year search for viable alternatives, I never really found any. So I concentrated on positive thinking and eventually found two advantages:

(1) The Gutman elevator slows down Type A behavior. Like aspirin, which is usually taken to relieve headaches, but has been touted recently to ward off heart attacks, the Gutman elevator is usually taken to get to the 4th floor, but it may eventually prove more useful in warding off heart attacks.

(2) The second advantage of the elevator which, I understand, has recently been christened Godot, is that it is the heart of a communications network, which if not always reliable, is usually interesting. I have met more new people, heard and overheard more interesting conversations in the Gutman elevator than at any faculty or committee meeting. It may explain the common perception, at least among APSP faculty and students, that APSP folk are better informed than anyone else at the Ed School.

3. Third, I'll miss the Sumner and Callahan tunnels, especially the Sumner at 4:00 on Friday afternoon, after a delayed flight into Logan. Perhaps traffic on the Bay Bridge will replace jams in the tunnels, but at least the scenery is better. While on the subject of travel, I should not forget that I will not miss Eastern Airlines, snow on the runways, full parking lots anytime after the sun comes up, and Boston cab drivers with their innocent assumptions that almost anyone picked up at the airport does not know the shortest route to their destination.

4. Fourth, I'll miss Boston drivers. I suppose you don't

have to be crazy to drive in Boston, but a certain amount of
about what happens to you as you fellow human beings
carefree abandon, casual disregard for all known rules of social
behavior, coupled with ignorance of certain laws of physics such
as two things cannot occupy the same space at the same time and
an object going downhill gains momentum, is helpful to a fully
certified Boston driver.

if you are going to do that, some things are necessary;

I'll miss you all. I just hope after 8 years at
Berkeley, I can draw up an equally unbalanced list of the pros
and cons of being there. All in all, it has been a great 8
years, thanks to you all.