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Review

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Letters

A Motivation to Write

I HUGELY ENJOYED YOUR WELL WRITTEN piece on [psychology professors] Edward Deci and Richard Ryan (“What Motivates You?”, July-August). I was one of their grad students, getting my doctorate in clinical psych in the late 1980s. Their theory and their thinking has been one of the most influential and powerful influences on my life as a private practice family clinician, as a father of two, and as a man wanting to live fully and to my potential. The care and skill these two take in mentoring their students for a life of high professional and personal motivation with little regret is something worth studying in and of itself.

Congrats, Ed and Rich!

Steve Freilich '93 (PhD)
Medway, Mass.

Getting the Lead Out

THANK YOU FOR DOCUMENTING THE PRAISE-WORTHY and much needed efforts of the people in the University community working to reduce the risk of lead poisoning in Rochester children (“Home Work,” July-August). In addition to the necessity of dealing with the continuing effects of lead poisoning on contaminated individuals as well as its social impacts, the sad truth is that most of it could have been avoided.

Australia banned lead in interior paint in 1897; France, Belgium, and Austria in 1909. The League of Nations Charter adopted by most Western nations in 1922 banned its use. By 1928, even the most backward European nations participated in the elimination of lead in interior paint. The inherent dangers were universally known. In the United States, which rejected the treaty, free market capitalism had 50 years to do the right thing on its own. But thanks to the power of the American lead lobby, lead in interior paint was not completely eliminated until 1978 in the United States, the last industrialized country to do so. How much of Rochester’s now deteriorating, contaminated housing stock was painted with lead paint after the rest of the civilized world had banned its use? Most of it.

Maybe sadder still is that industry and business groups continue to spend millions yearly on lobbying, and think tanks crank out rationales for resisting reasonable and modest regulation of products, ingredients,

and practices that are unhealthy, unsafe, and even potentially deadly. And their political enablers are all too happy to oblige. So much for lessons that might have been learned from the lead story.

So in 2010, the University is helping to remediate a problem that could have been avoided if free markets really were capable of self-regulating and the problem had been nipped in the bud 85 years ago. It’s wonderful that the University is making this contribution but a great shame that it has to.

Bill Glasner '69
Victor, N.Y.

I READ WITH INTEREST THE ARTICLE “HOME Work.” On one hand, the progress and commitment of the University and community partners are to be commended. On the other, lead is still an issue 40 years after I was a resident in pediatrics.

I remember finding a lead level of over 100 µg/dL in a child at 4:30 on a Friday afternoon in early 1971. After a frantic and futile search to find a public health person to contact the family that late on a Friday afternoon, I spent a large part of the weekend trying without success to find the family. However, on Monday the mother called me, bearing fruit to my leaving messages in every business in the area they lived in.

Although we were told the apartment had been abated, a community advocacy agency found lead in the stairwell where the child often played. The city housing folks refused to move the child because the property was going to be razed within the next six months. I arranged for a Community Legal Services lawyer to sue the city, resulting in a move to a new home. The mother became one of my loyal patients.

When I left my residency she told me that she had never kept an appointment with any other person in her life. The lesson she taught me about what happens when the priorities of the patient and family are met was a lasting legacy for my practice of medicine for my entire career. Serving the needs of that child and mother should have been easier.

I salute the progress in addressing lead in the Rochester community and the role of the University and its partners.

Barry Lachman '72M (Res)
Dallas

Et Tu, Tofu?

IN 1974, WE HELD AN ORWELLIAN THEMED “1984 Week,” filled with activities aimed at predicting what life would be like 10 years in the future. A time capsule was buried with letters to be mailed in 10 years, and one of the great debates was who would put the correct amount of postage on their envelope.

As part of the celebration, we had “foods of the future” in the dining halls with a focus on sustainable and eco-friendly cuisine. One of the items was a white, spongy cubed substance called “tofu,” and no one quite knew what to make of it, or what to do with it.

Fast forward to 2010, and a visit to Rochester with my wife and son to check out prospective colleges. We were treated to lunch in Danforth, and on the salad bar ... cubed tofu, now in the mainstream. (I need also to mention that the “olive loaf” popular



SPEAKING OF DINING: A revamped food court in Wilson Commons made its debut for the fall semester (page 5).

in my college days was not to be found—this is a good thing!) The University is visionary in so many ways, and although this may not be as profound as lasers or super computers, the planners of this event were prescient about culinary trends as well!

*Richard Rubin '77
Slingerlands, N.Y.*

For more about news from Dining Services, see page 5; and for lasers, see page 22—Editor.

Remembering a College Bowler

I NOTED WITH SADNESS THE PASSING OF Donald Feinfeld '65 (In Memoriam, May-June), my teammate on the 1965 University's GE College Bowl Team that stunned the country with its victory over a University of Tennessee team that had won four matches in a row. The Tennessee team needed just one more victory to clinch a permanent

trophy and consisted of four clean-cut, all-American kids, all of whom the audience had gotten to know over the four weeks.

Our squad included three freshmen and was a group of hairy kids from New York City and upstate New York. Our only fans in the studio audience, as I recall, were my parents and my two uncles, who all cheered loudly every time we got a question right. No one expected us to win, but we prevailed nonetheless, perhaps helping to enhance the University's academic reputation—or at least its students' skills at trivia. Whatever the impact of the show, I was sorry to hear that Don had passed away.

*Barry Bennett '65
Frenso, Calif.*

Department of Amplification

I'VE READ FOR YEARS THE AGREEABLE REMINISCENCES of my classmate H. E. (Kit) Crissey Jr. '66, and have been most remiss in not adding a few of my own. But now there's another reason for writing: to offer a few “friendly amendments” to his letter in the May-June issue.

Kit says I switched my major to linguistics, but it was actually comparative literature; I went on to a doctorate in classics at the University of Texas in 1972 and a modest career at the University of Illinois at Chicago, retiring in 1999. Strange as it sounds, I've published nine scholarly books, seven of them since that date. A little more embarrassingly, Kit puts me in the same category as the late George Schlein '64 and the recently profiled Paul Frommer '65 (“Avatar of Language,” March-April), calling us “three gifted pianists.”

Alas, I had (and continue to have) no such gift, as was made abundantly evident in a May 1966 performance of Mozart's *23rd Piano Concerto (K. 488)*, which Kit mentions. I did write a first-movement cadenza and some ornamentation in the *Adagio*, gestures of youthful chutzpah which, though rather rare back then, aren't quite enough to justify saying that I played my own edition. (As part of my preparation, I purchased a microfilm of Mozart's original manuscript from the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris and subsequently sold it at cost (a mere \$8, as I recall!) to the legendary Ruth Watanabe '52E (PhD) of the Sibley Library at Eastman.

I'm pleased to report that David Peter Coppen, head of Special Collections at Sibley, has assured me that the microfilm remains available. I owe virtually all my knowledge of, and dedication to, classical music to the priceless experience of being around serious “amateur” musicians like Kit, George, Paul, and especially my three-year roommate Steve Moshman '65, who created and sustained the University's Baroque Ensemble almost entirely through his prodigious command of the repertory and boundless enthusiasm.

So I agree with those who say that you can go to college and get a degree, but some of the most precious learning takes place outside the classroom.

*James Dee '66
Austin, Texas*

IN A LETTER [JULY-AUGUST] ABOUT THE earlier article “101 Things to Do before You Graduate” [May-June], Stacy Stevens '53 claims that, while manager of the basketball team, he heard coach Louis Alexander encourage the team “at halftime of a losing effort against Calvin Murphy and his Niagara bunch.”

Murphy, a three time all-American at Niagara, graduated in 1970, and was only five years old when Stevens graduated from Rochester.

*T. Alan Wyle '70
Mays Landing, N.J.*

We apologize for mixing up the history of Niagara's basketball team. While Murphy's success in college and in the NBA are memorable, during the early 1950s, Niagara was paced by Ed Fleming, one of the team's all-time leading scorers, who went on to a professional basketball career of his own.

We ran out of room to include all of the letters that we received in response to the July-August issue. We've posted a few others, including more about motivation and efforts by Rochester faculty to reduce children's exposure to lead, in the letters section of Review's Web site at www.rochester.edu/pr/Review—Editor.

Review welcomes letters and will print them as space permits. Letters may be edited for brevity and clarity. Unsigned letters cannot be used. Send letters to Rochester Review, 22 Wallis Hall, P.O. Box 270044, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY 14627-0044; rochrev@rochester.edu.