

12/16/19

COLLEGE STUDENTS VS. 8TH GRADERS

Greetings Journal Victims!

I kind of lost the writing bug for a little bit... this may have been because I started substitute teaching again and the end of the semester required a report to the Alumni... but those are just excuses. The truth is I lost the itch and stopped scratching. I expect to make up for that during the Winter break, especially finishing a couple pieces I started and re-reading / editing some... stay tuned.

Miami's schedule at the end of Fall Semester is interesting. Everyone left for Thanksgiving and I got to see Son Ryan and his daughters Ella and Daphne... a lot of driving but well worth the trip (Thanks for hosting, Matt!). When I got back there was one week of classes followed by the dreaded Finals Week... more on those later. But after that the House was cleared by Saturday 12/14 and most of the troops won't be back until January 24th for the Spring Semester. In between it's Holidays and "J-Term" during which students can take an intensive class (on line or on campus) or get an internship. During January, I'm going to do my imitation of the "Baker Mayfield at Home" commercials... only guy in a big space!

Going back to Substitute teaching gave me a chance to reflect on how much the kids grow up between 8th grade (middle school is my favorite to teach) and college. In some ways, not at all... but for the most part you can see the increase in confidence and the eagerness to assert themselves that they gain by their second year of college. The physical changes are obvious... fewer size differences, as by college they have pretty much attained their adult height. They still tend to travel in "packs"... but by college they've had more opportunities to choose their pack... like a Fraternity and roommates.

The college kids are less readily compliant and far more questioning of authority (and everything!)... but to an extent it seems like they lose some inquisitiveness as they become focused on their course of study. In middle school it's about pleasing your teacher and avoiding trouble by performing specific daily tasks... in college it's about "getting your ticket punched" and passing the test rather than an innate desire to learn. I have explained to them that in the "real world" there are tests every day... you just don't get specific notes to study and sometimes you don't even realize it's a test! But by college they make more of their own choices and set longer term directions rather than just respond to structure. I think it's called "growing up!"

So are there differences? There better be in that 5 year span... but they are still kids... defined as anyone younger than me!

I now officially have a "blog"! Brother Doug Diefenbach is the Alumni communications resource for the Miami chapter of Alpha Delta Phi and he went to the trouble of "re-setting" the entries to date in bite-sized pieces. If you would like to read them or refer someone who might like to "catch up", you can visit the site below... just note that the earliest writings are at the bottom.

<http://miamiadp.synthasite.com/house-director-blog.php>

This set of notes and anecdotes comes to you from beautiful Lakewood Ohio where good friend Roger is graciously allowing me to settle during the holidays. I will be here until January 5th and plan on enjoying events such as Xmas at Jimmy & Margaret's, the Annual Vermeire – Wason Monopoly game,

RAMWUBIGO (December 29th if you want to golf), and the Wason Family Holiday Gathering at Moose's house, ably hosted by Critter and Darlene. And if you are interested, I'm planning a family and friends tour of Playhouse Square at 10:30 am on Saturday, January 4th! Let me know if you can make it... and I hope I get to catch all of you sometime while I'm here... Happy Holidays!

PS - As always, appreciate your interest and welcome your feedback... but no problem if you want me to stop sending... just let me know. Thanks!