

I stand before a fork in the road of my education and like Robert Frost in his poem "The Road Not Taken" I want to take the road "having perhaps the better claim, Because it was grassy and wanted wear." My high school era has been less a time of high grades and student politics and more a time in which I have searched for ways to grow, not so that I can get a better job, rather to learn how to understand.

The true value of an education is an intangible thing: the expansion of the mind. My classes, especially in the last two years, have been those which I thought would best promote growth and knowledge. The most rewarding classes for me have always been those which ask such philosophical questions as "What is the meaning of life?;" "What do I want to become?;" and "What am I willing to die for?." Important to everyone, the answers when found are the core of wisdom for each individual.

Outside the classroom I have been involved principally with two school related activities: music and water sports. Since the age of nine I have played the clarinet; it is probably my greatest skill and playing it is one of the things I enjoy most. I have played it in school bands since the fourth grade (when I started), making my best freind five years ago in our junior high school band. I also play two other instruments apart from school: the saxaphone and the guitar. Music has had a strong influence on me, a source of relaxation and the activity in which I have learned the most about team work: each doing his part to complete the whole. The other activity is water sports, meaning water polo and swimming. I started playing water polo last school year, having previosly been uninvolved with high shool athletics. I am



a good player, but not a great one, loving to play the game and be with freinds on the team rather than enjoying the competition. As a swimmer I am best at the short distance sprint, freestyle and backstroke being my two best events. Swimming, for me, is almost more enjoyable than water polo because there is much less pressure and aggression and much more peace of mind.

One of the things I have gained in my life is quite a bit of self-reliance. I have held a couple of jobs in which I have learned responsibility and how to save my hard-earned money. I make many decisions without having to turn to my parents; this does not mean that I don't count on them for support, but when they are not around, I can get on by myself.

As for college, I am leaning towards a liberal arts education. I would like to study the ancient Greek culture with a Humanities field major at U.C. Berkeley. It is my choice because the early Greek culture is the basis of modern western culture and, perhaps more importantly, it is filled with much beauty and idealism; U.C. Berkeley is my choice because the spirit I perceive throughout the campus is kindred with mine. To me it breathes of exuberance.

The intention I have with college is not to find a career and move towards a career goal by aiming my education at it. I will have plenty of time for my career after I graduate. What I want is to become more substantial, to be on firm ground when I take a stand, to better understand that which has made us human. In college a lot of what I am looking for is a kind of osmosis, to be able to take external ideas and deal with them on my own level. My yearning is to plunge myself into the intellectual maelstorm of a great university and come out my own man. I want to be ready for

what the world has to offer. Democritus, an ancient Greek, said "(man's) fate is mostly but the echo of his character and his passions." I agree.