



"One Day in May"

(May 15, 2020)

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Class Year: 1978

Connection to the College (student? faculty? alum? friend of the College?): Alumnus/alumna

Describe your day today -- did you go out? what did you do for fun? did you cook or eat anything special? did you do work or chores? who did you spend time with?

I am a physician and have been working from my home office doing telehealth during Covid-19 quarantine at the University Health Service where I work in Tempe, Arizona. In March, classes moved online as they did all over the country. It has been an interesting experience, and worked well, but I am eager to be back in the clinics again.

That being said, my day began as most of my days have lately, with my dogs and my alarms driving me reluctantly out of bed. I am glad I spend the day in front of a Zoom encounter screen, or I might not be able to keep to my routine of getting up and showering and getting dressed each morning. My dogs and my responsibility to my work have helped structure my life during this time, and I'm grateful for that.

It is warm in Phoenix, where I live, but not hates-hot yet. It can be terrible already in May, but it is a mere 93 degrees here now. The quarantine of the past few months has decreased the noise, air traffic and vehicular traffic and so while walking and feeding the dogs, I marveled, as I do most mornings these days, at the number of birds in my trees. J. Dan Webster, my Hanover field biology professor, would be proud and amazed that I now care about what kinds of birds these are and how they are different from the ones in Indiana. I think he thought I was a lost cause as far as ornithology was concerned.

My housekeeper no longer comes into the house to clean due to my self-quarantine, but he does still come to clean outside, do the trash and errands and get my groceries and other supplies. Today we had to rejigger my security cameras outside. While we could do it via our iPhones, he continues each time he is here to say, "I hate not being able to see people in person." I think he is terrified that my cleaning job has been so terrible that when he comes back in finally, he will have hours of work to do to get the place back in shape. It's not that bad, but cleaning is not really my thing.

I did go out to lunch at Arby's today. I rarely go out for meals these days and even now that restaurants are open, I have elected to avoid them along with barbers and other public gatherings until we see what the summer brings with Covid-19. So, masked and gloved, I ate my roast beef and potato cakes in my hermetically sealed Jeep and watched the people moving back to some sort of normal. We can only see what will happen over time. I feel optimistic that science and medicine will permit the world to move back closer together again, but I cannot know when that might be.

I have been thinking about Hanover a lot these days and recently I have been scanning old photos into digital storage. Last night when I learned of this opportunity, it was just after I had scanned in photos from my graduation from Hanover in 1978.

So what other random things occupied me today? Let's see.... I checked Facebook to see what was up with friends, zooming past negative posts and targeted ads. I checked on Leslie Jordan's daily posts from his quarantine in West Hollywood. He keeps me sane. I ordered dog food from Amazon. I found a digital recording of one of my favorite choral anthems, "The Lord's My Shepherd (Brother James' Air)" by the Choristers of St Paul's Cathedral, London. I try to listen to something that makes me cry every day. It helps keep my heart open amid all the darkness in the world. I cleaned my kitchen.

And finally, speaking of Hanover, the last thing I am doing tonight is to finish consigning most of my

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Hanover College notes to the recycling bin. I found them a few days ago carefully saved in old boxes in my storage shed. I will keep a few for my nieces to laugh over. I will not have a biographer who needs them, I am sure.

And I will think of Hanover, and various glorious days in May that I spent there. And think of friends I made, and loved, and who helped to make my life going forward rich and meaningful. All that in a place high above the stately river a long time ago.

What do you remember best about being on campus in May of other years?

My last time at Hanover in May was for my graduation in 1978. I recall that day vividly. It was warm and muggy, but not terrible as Indiana late spring days go. I recall how close I felt to fraternity brothers and choir friends and random other people in that moment. I've never felt that same sense of community at any other time in my life. I am fairly sure Senator Richard Lugar spoke, but none of us were really listening. I remember seeing the river from The Point and imagining I would return often. That is not how my life has turned out, so that memory is precious to me as I have not been back in decades. I do not recall what the Choir sang, but I remember J. David Wagner at the organ. I had taken a semester break my Junior year, so I graduated a year later than I might have and was one of the last students to graduate who had gone through the April, 1974 tornadoes. I recall thinking that was an interesting thing. I recall how quickly the campus emptied out and remember taking one last long walk from the FIJI House to the Campus Center and marveling at how empty the place seemed suddenly. I do not recall being sad, but I do recall that sense of melancholy that settled over the empty campus late in the day, I still think it was one of the greatest days of my life.