

October 25, 1993

Mrs. Martha Cederberg
c/o Everett School District No. 2
Administration and Educational
Services Center
4730 Colby Avenue
Everett, Washington 98203

Dear Mrs. Cederberg:

Many years have past since my days at Everett High School (Class of 1966). My memory has not dimmed so much, however, that I do not recall with fondness my classmates and friends from those days, and my excitement at learning about so many new subjects, both within and outside of the walls of the, then, newly-remodelled EHS classrooms.

World history was your métier, but the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greece, and Rome were your special passion, and you were enthused with the objective of imparting to all your students the wonder of those ancient times and their relevance to our modern world. On one occasion, your enthusiasm went so far as to permit our class to hold a classroom party during final exam week -- so long as we played "Egypt" games, such as building a human "step pyramid."

During the intervening years, I have been fortunate to travel to many points of the world, and to live and travel widely in Southeast Asia. This year, however, was particularly special for me because I finally had the opportunity to visit Egypt and to see first hand the wonders of the great pyramids at Giza and Saqqara, including the real step pyramid. As a college student studying abroad and, later, a globetrotting economist, I have enjoyed previous excursions to see many ruins of ancient Athens and Rome. But, seeing the Egyptian pyramids, the Sphinx, and the wondrous artifacts from the tomb of Tutankhamun (at the Egyptian Antiquities Museum in Cairo) has rekindled my memories of your classroom and studying for the first time the history of pharaonic Egypt and the other ancient civilizations.

My career and international travels have broadened my perspective on the world, its peoples, and their differences in culture, customs, and history. The beliefs and views I hold today, however, remain importantly founded upon the instruction and other guidance that, after my parents and extended family, you and many other teachers gave me during my childhood and adolescence in Everett, when the city was still more "mill town" than the center today for the assembly of high-technology aircraft.

I do not know whether you still survive your husband and fellow EHS instructor, Theodore Cederberg. I write this open letter, however, to record my gratitude to you, your husband, and other former teachers now living in retirement from the Everett public and private schools, or passed away, on the occasion of my recent trip to Egypt but also in regard to the countless times I have drawn reliably upon the store of knowledge and understanding that you and your colleagues handed down to my generation with much dedication.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dean", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dean DeRosa
2115 North Hollister Street
Arlington, Virginia 22205

cc: The Editor, *The Herald*

Note: Dean DeRosa is a Research Fellow with the International Food Policy Research Institute, located in Washington, D.C. He lives in Arlington, Virginia, with his wife (a primary school teacher) and two daughters (not yet of primary school age).

The accompanying photograph is one taken of the author in September 1993, standing before the pyramid of Khafre at Giza.

