

Fred Goldberg Academic Statement

My college experience at the University of Washington in 1957-61 was an amazing transformation. I entered college as a boy and exited as a man with a wife and an Army commission. I found what I was good at and truly loved. My life-long love affair with financial statements had begun. They are boring to most people, but they spoke to me.

At the University of Washington, I found I was a leader. People listened to me. I was on the inter-fraternity council and was invited to join a fraternity of fraternities. It was perceived as the top echelon of student leaders and tended to be very secretive. When I arrived, fraternities had a separate rush for Jewish students. I eliminated the Jewish student rush. Many in the Jewish community were angry with me for that, but I thought that everyone should be treated equally.

My college years were a time to try new things and find what suited me. I tried out for the college crew team and was devastated when I was cut, but at least I stuck it out. I could memorize my science textbooks, but they bored me. I loved the passion of the radical, socialist economists. I was a frat boy who loved art and the informal study of art. I loved the Bohemian life style around art. I found I could make spending money playing gin rummy and pool. I had a military haircut, was tough looking, and wore khaki pants and button down collared shirts. I wandered barefoot all year long, wearing a hooded loden coat with toggles that didn't get cleaned for four years.

Above all, I loved education. I loved having no obligations except learning. And I loved having the freedom to learn whatever I wanted as long as it was 10-12 credits a year. I could drink beer when I wanted and watch American Bandstand in the late afternoon with my buddies. I could pitch pennies on the front room rug and find great joy in sleeping outside all year long.

In the end, I graduated, without my parents' influence or involvement. I was me – plain, old me – with a fabulous life ahead of me. It was wonderful. It still is.