

>>>>No surprises, and I think this is healthy

I am sorry we haven't spent more time together lately.

>>>>Me too. But I'm afraid that I wouldn't be good company. I've been fairly miserable these last two years. Moving to Stanford was the biggest mistake of my life, by far.

There are few people I trust as much as you, and as you know am there if you need anything.

>>>>Yes. And the same for me, as I hope you know.

As we used to spend many Sundays reviewing the world, I wondered why that had ceased. I would really appreciate a direct, blunt, answer.

>>>>I loved those conversations; they were the high point of my week. They stopped for two reasons that I am aware of: (1) You used to call me, at least 90% of the time. I think that stopped when I was moving here and my whereabouts were uncertain. (2) I became bad company. I've really hated being out here, and have been struggling for a way out. In the last month I've talked to three different lawyers and two head hunters (I'm not very good at sitting on my hands and praying for rain). It's clear that I've put myself in a bind: (i) The only places I would rather be are NYC or DC -- I don't want to move back to Boston. (ii) If I move before I've been here at least 3 years, my rep will solidify as somebody who can't be counted on to "stick with it." (iii) My shelf life is rapidly evaporating. I got an honorary doctorate from the University of Berne last month. On my 64th birthday (which they did not know), over lunch my hosts were talking about how they must retire at 65 -- and by age 63 they are already being denied space and resources, in the run-up to being put out to pasture. I was so grateful to be an American, but also aware that we have a similar system, just displaced by five years or so. (One of the head hunters told me that "70 is the new 65," which essentially means that 65 is the limit for moving.) In response to all of this, I've just accepted a part-time job with a startup here, which is putting together a new university from scratch (seamlessly melding the virtual with bricks-and-mortar... one campus will be in NYC). They want me to be their "Founding Dean," and I plan to do that. Larry Summers is chair of the board (which also includes Steve Hyman and various other people you know.) I'll send you the Strategic Plan, if you are interested.

I recognized, when you were still at Harvard that my more colorful

past had strained some of your relations with others however, . I am trying to make some course corrections as i approach the springtime of my senility, and look to you in hope of inputing some new coordinates.

>>>>Actually, I've never much cared what other people think about you. That was never a big issue for me. I would be more than happy to help you in any way I can -- you've certainly helped me a lot! (Btw: you are thanked in the Preface to my new book, on the top-brain/bottom-brain stuff -- you played a critical role when I first had the idea, which you probably don't even remember now. I of course put in the disclaimer that neither you (nor or Pinker, Gilbert, or others who helped me) necessarily agree with where I went with the ideas...)

I am hoping to be in NYC at some point soon. When plans start to gel, I'll run dates by you so that we can find a couple of hours to talk in person.

Thanks again for the note.

Warmly,

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