

October 5, 1972

Dr. Albert Sullivan
Box 282
University Hospital
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear Al:

is that
R. Doug. Thorsen, candidate for medical school, has indicated to me that his interpretation ~~of~~ Minnesota admission policies will probably put him in a very weak competitive position because of his age.

In ignorance of those admission policies, I have assured him of my certainty that a careful individual evaluation of accomplishment, dedication and maturity would surely be made before the admissions committee.

But because of his evaluation and his seeking admissions elsewhere I am inclined to add to your file on him beyond my previous note on the admission form.

This man is simply now the most valuable employee in this laboratory. He is the closest to genius of anyone I have ever collaborated with. But he has a non-genius capacity for productive work as well as with concepts.

He is a full partner in the work of this lab. at all levels of meeting and discussion, not just a bright computer technician. We discuss scientific matters and pose together scientific questions and he goes and gets the answers, by designing and performing the experiments and the analyses. He is a direct coauthor with me on two articles in press and several in preparation, involving fundamental and interesting questions in applied physiology and in epidemiology and preventive medicine (see references).

His judgment, decision-making, integrity, and communications indicate a maturity rarely obtained at any age. He is emotionally mature and has a splendid young marriage. He performs as a professional musician, works numerous hours for us here, and nevertheless holds down as close as one can get, I believe, to a straight A average in a tough course plan. He was first



Dr. Sullivan

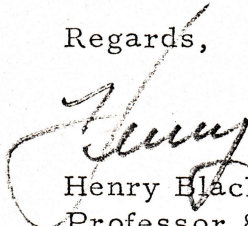
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in a high school class of 5-600. I would bet any amount he will also lead his medical school class.

I will speculate further that he will be one of the outstanding physicians in the country. I also will bet that the truly outstanding nature of this man will be recognized by your committee. It would be a crying shame if Minnesota lost this man, on any count, and a shaming crime if this had to do with his "maturity" based only on age.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry", is written over the typed name.

Henry Blackburn, M. D.
Professor & Director
Professor of Medicine

HB:lc