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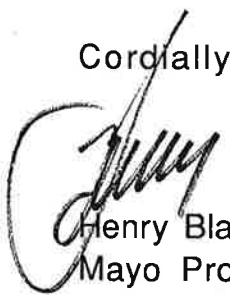
John LaRosa, MD  
Dean for Research  
George Washington University Medical Center  
2300 Eye St, NW, Suite 713  
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Dear John:

I am delighted to hear that you are going to be in the saddle at Tulane. My alma mater seems to be on an important upswing and it looks to me like a wonderful time for you to join and give it of your many skills. It must have been a marvelous offer to get you out of the center of activities and energy where you and Judith are so effective. On the other hand, having seen what Curt Furburg and others have done who left that environment and set up in other locales, they have been able to build remarkable institutions.

If you and Judith are in New Orleans during homecoming week in October (12-16), we would like very much to see you. At this late date, 50 years since entering Tulane Med. School (as an adolescent prodigy, of course), somebody put me in for Alumnus of the Year. Stacy and I will stay in the Napoleon Room above the Royal Cafe at Royal and St. Peter and I hope to get caught up on long neglected jazz friendships. It would be wonderful to have dinner with you guys in "the Quarter," or wherever.

Cordially,

  
Henry Blackburn, MD  
Mayo Professor of Public Health

*P.S. The enclosed is sort of where I am -  
a good place! H*

## A CERTAIN AGE

At a certain age, one would like to know that he or she has matured in judgment and behavior, yet remains playful as in childhood, idealistic as in youth, sound as in his prime.

One would like to know that he has done one thing well, a few other things useful, and, after all, has done little harm.

One wants to feel satisfaction rather than pride in what he has done.

One wants to have been actively involved, the more the better, with the central issues of his time, not just an observer from the fringes.

At a certain age, one wants to be understood and accepted as he is; perceived neither as much smaller nor much larger than he truly is.

One wants to forget if not forgive his enemies and accept if not embrace his adversaries, but lose not another night's sleep over any of them;

And one wants to acknowledge gratefully, before it's too late, those who made his way smoother or his voyage richer.

At a certain age one wants to say what needs to be said and no longer worry whether all the world agrees.

One wants on occasion, however, to say or do things that make people smile.

At a certain age, one needs to do mainly what one loves to do rather than mainly what others want him to do.

At a certain age, one wants to hold and admire and amuse and inspire his grandchildren and see them light up at his presence.

Finally, at a certain age, one should allow a little pleasure in hearing nice things said about him, but neither need nor seek to hear them.