

A couple of months ago I was at a dinner in Pasadena and at one point people were talking about where they went to university: Harvard, Radcliffe, Yale, MIT, and Rockefeller. Princeton and Columbia were not represented. I had a flashback to that Sesame Street song, "One of these things is not like the other, one of these things just doesn't belong." Sesame Street meant to teach children to take notice of differences in addition to similarities. Certainly I belonged at that table, but I definitely was "one thing not like the other."

Abraham Lincoln was occupied by something called the Civil War, but in his spare time he signed the act to create the National Academy of Sciences (1863) which he made sure was not government supported so that he could get straight advice. Lincoln also signed the Morrill Land Grant Act in 1862. I believe that Land Grant Universities democratized higher education in the US. This made it possible for naïve less privileged kids to get a decent education, were they inclined. There is at least one land grant university in every state in the union. The original directive was for agriculture and the mechanical arts, but my own Oregon State introduction to the humanities has sustained me for a lifetime. Institutions evolve.

I arrived on the Oregon State campus in fall 1960 and spent one term in a dorm. In a math class I met Lowell Euhus, a new freshman from Clatskanie, and we took a room in a decaying house near the edge of campus owned by Mrs. Milch, a name I swear I did not make up. (Had the Beatles heard the name Mrs. Milch I believe she would have been immortalized. I can hear them singing *Mrs. Milch* but I can't quite make out the rest of the lyric.) Neither Lowell nor I were destined for fraternities or student government. Lowell was very good at math and science and we were both passionate about literature. Lowell decided to get an MD. He has retired from his family practice in Enterprise Oregon after 33 years of service and was active in health care issues in Oregon.

You never know what people will or will not do if they are given an opportunity. Just in case I am born again, I have several very different careers and lives mapped out for myself. World enough and time! Given the state of the world today, the role of Land Grant Universities is in 2021 even more important than it was in 1960. Thanks to Oregon State, thanks for propelling me and so many others into the world, thanks for the opportunities you opened for us.