**Dunbar Speech [No. 15981]**

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Remarks by Mr. Mark Dunbar at San Diego State University’s 2017 Accept-ed-Enrollees Welcoming Luncheon, Feb. 10, 2017 at [place].

i’ve been asked to talk to you this afternoon about my experiences as a parent of an sdsu student — my daugh-ter’s an aztec right now — with the sub-text of why it’d be such a great idea for you to come to san diego state.

but to perfectly honest with you, i don’t think my experi-ences are all that different from those of the tens of thousands of other parents around the country who send their tens of thousands of sons and daughters off to college each year.

it’s always the same argument, the universal debate: should i go to a big school that offers lots of well-equipped learning centers; or to a small, rural campus that offers more intensive, personalize learning in a less pressurized environment?

do i stay here and live at home to save money while going to college; or do get the hell out of town, as far away from my parents — and other objectionable kinfolk — as possible, as fast as possible?

should i attend a school that’s got a good reputation in a field i think i might be interested in; or should I opt instead for an institution with a well-rounded and highly respective general curriculum?

is a “party” school for me; or is that the kind of place that, given my experience, i probably ought ***not*** put at the top of my college-prospects list.

i’ve learned two important lessons through my own experiences and those of others who’ve gone through this process you’re going through now.

The first is that . . . ***there are always alternatives***. You’re never locked into or out of *anything*. certainly not at this early stage of your adult lives. goodness knows, i’d love to see each and everyone one of you fine young men and women c’mon out to san diego state uni-versity. if you’re eager to learn, then by golly, we’re sure eager to “learn” you up.

but even if you *do* end up deciding on san diego state university, i want you to know that you can always change your mind. you can switch schools. you can change majors. you can leave college altogether. Heck, you might even (dare i say it?) get a job? — you know that bill gates never finished college, right . . . ? he got a job, all right: He started a whole industry!

yes . . . it’s true that, as we age, various alternatives are removed from our plates, never again to be available to us. i for, example, would dearly love to play [position] for the [team], but [strike some kind of pose] it should be obvious by inspection that this has a very, *very* low probability of occuring.

the second lesson i learned from the process you’re going through right now is that — for you students: you should absolutely pick the school that you ***love*** the most, period, end of story. and for you parents: allow your son or daughter to pick the highest college on his or her ranking sheet that you can afford to pay for. teach them well, so that the ranking sheet they come up with is reasonable and logical in the context of their intellectual capacities, personalities, interests, and experiences. then . . . ***don’t argue!***

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