
Letters to the Editor

Annual Meeting Child Care

I want to take this opportunity to say something I've intended to say for the past seven years since I started using the child care service in Denver. Not only has the provision of the APSA meeting child care enabled me to attend the meetings and be professionally active, but my two girls (now ages seven and five) have had a marvelous time. When they were infants, I never had a second's hesitation leaving them, and now that they are older they have a great deal of fun. Two years ago my girls asked me to let them go back on the last day of the convention even though I had not planned to attend that day; this year the staff of the Children's Center remembered us as soon as we walked in the door! The service at Chicago last year was also excellent—Demelza and Hallie still have the museum souvenirs and art-



Child Care Services at the
APSA Annual Meeting

work they made and enjoyed the pool and hot tub as well.

I don't know if others are as slow as I've been to say "thank you"—but I do know that I am not the only one to appreciate the child care service. Among the open-ended comments in the professional pairs questionnaires are included remarks such as how useful the APSA child care service is, and how helpful it would be if the regional associations would also provide care.

Denise L. Baer
Northeastern University

Editor's Note: Since 1984 APSA has provided child care from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. every day (noon on Sunday) of the annual meeting free of charge to meeting registrants. This year we served 51 children at our meeting in Washington—the largest number ever.

Harvey Mansfield Sr. Remembered

Having just learned after a period abroad about the death of Harvey Mansfield Sr., I would like to add something to the many tributes already doubtless paid. Harvey was chairman at Ohio State when I arrived there in 1955, and he employed me as his assistant on the *American Political Science Review* a few years later. For five years, we spent most Saturdays working through my critical reviews of every article submitted to the journal. I can't make a better statement now of my own debt to Harvey Mansfield than a paragraph I wrote him three years ago, when we renewed contact after decades of silence. I hope that others will recognize in this personal testimony the pattern of his wider contribution, especially through his brilliant

editorship. This is what I wrote him in November, 1985:

Seeing your strong handwriting on the familiar foolscap reminded me how much I enjoyed my years as your assistant and made me acknowledge, not for the first time, how formative that experience was for me. Obviously, you could never bring me to share your confident vision of America and your relaxed comradery with its authorities. (Nor, alas, could you teach me to write your crisp, Anglo-Saxon prose, independent of allusive imagery and over-elaborate constructions.) But you cured me forever of any inclination to patronize American insiders, to consider myself and my allies in the various political struggles of the time as being intellectually or morally superior. And you taught me respect for professionalism.

I can't say that I was his prize pupil, but he had his own acerbic generosity about

grading. At a department meeting one year in the early 60s, he listened to my tortured pleas on behalf of a Black graduate student newly arrived from a teacher's college in the South. I could not give him more than a "C" in the required political theory course, I insisted, but there had to be a way of preventing the ouster of this promising beginner under our rule requiring a "B" average. After all, the stuff I was trying to teach him was unlike anything he'd ever learned. "Well, if you are right about his promise and if you have to give him a 'C'," Harvey said, "I'll have to give him an 'A', won't I?"

I wish Harvey were available to expound the ironic complexities of that case study, as he did so many. He was a man of judgment.

David Kettler
Bard College

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