

These are selected messages from what Edward sent to me - his father - via his laptop, modem and international telephone call to my house. All going on during the Tienamen Square Crises in China.

Begin section 1 of 4 of file "DAD"

July 10, 1989

Dad,

Just to let you know up front that I tested negative for hepatitis. However last Monday after you called I broke-out in a really bad rash. After a lot of typical antics that occur around here I got to the hospital and got treatment for the allergy and a blood test for hepatitis. The Doctors still could not offer any explanation as to why I was sick or my allergy but all seems to have gone away and am still a little tired but am getting better.

If I have time I will enclose another file about going to the doctor in China. If it isn't there I didn't have time and try for next time.

My there journal file is a brief editorial concerning

alternate points of view coming from my constantly "evolving opinions". You may not wish to put it online. If not, don't worry.

The letter from Regina Odasz did not come through last time. I don't know if you forgot to capture it when you packed it. There was an error when I did a "PKA/V" and "PKX". All the files seemed alright, though. I did seem to get the meaning of what she wants to do. If it were anywhere but this school it would be a great idea. That is something that I tried to introduce to them repeatedly but they just aren't interested. And I am not going to give this school any more time than what is required. I get angry with myself for having that attitude but right now that's the only way I can get by.

I sat down one night and typed all the things I could think of that were relevant problems here. When I finished I generated about 4 pages. I have tried to be patient but they

just don't get it here.

One example of the BS I run into. I wrote in a brief letter, about half a page of very simple words, some of the things that I wished to explain to the school: problems and suggestions. One of my suggestions/requests was to discuss my teaching schedule for next term. A week later, today, a teacher told me my schedule without any benefit of discussion or opinion from me. Nor did they offer any suggestions for teaching.

Another example that about sent me through the roof. I called Zhu Lei, the Foreign Affairs Officer in Da Gong, the one you told me to contact. I asked him which hospital that recommends that foreigners to go to because I might have hepatitis. He was very concerned, told me a hospital, but asked why I hadn't approached the school. I told them that I couldn't get appropriate help. He said he would call the Principals Office at the school that day, which he did.

Later that afternoon I went to the Principals Office to see

what they were going to do. They had gone home. I called Zhu

Lei back and asked if he had talked with them. He said he had talked with both Principal Yang and Principal Wang. Zhu Lei told me that they both had talk with me and I said that everything was

OK. Not true. I hadn't talked with either one in weeks. Zhu

Lei told me that the Principals told him that they would see me

that day. Well like I said they both left and I was in my room,

100 meters from the school, the entire day.

I have to fair and understand that maybe there was a misunderstand, or miscommunication. But I am pretty sure what I have told you is accurate.

The teacher that I told you about before, Patrick Dallas,

met with the same BS and he warned me carefully. In fact the day

after I met Patrick (I believe because I met him), he was told to leave.

My opinion of the leaders of this school are very afraid of

making mistakes and getting "caught" or getting in trouble. So

"cover-up" is a way of life here. Such as telling Zhu Lei that I

told them everything was OK, when I had not talked to them at

all, and everything wasn't OK.

The "common" people here are for the most part friendly and

want to help but they have little "power" to do anything.

And not

much gets done unless Principal Yang gives his say so.

And he

thinks everything is fine and is willing to cover mistake.

When

people report to him they are very afraid of him, and they should

be, so people always tell him that everything is fine, even if it

isn't. This includes my being as explained by others.

End Section 1 of 4, file "DAD"

Begin Section 2 of 4, file "DAD"

My situation here isn't dangerous or unsafe for that

matter.

I just cannot depend on this school for anything. I know my way around Dalian pretty well so I can get what I need. But essentially what that means is that it takes a lot of my time, especially from teaching. And because of all this crap I really am not interested in doing any more than I have to. I have repeatedly tried to use the structure that they gave me. I have tried communicating directly. That didn't work. I have tried to give the people, including Principal Yang, my very polite and well chosen feelings and opinions, but if it's bad news he doesn't want to hear. Like one teacher said, "he isn't accustomed to hearing anything bad".

I have talked with other foreign teacher, before they left China, and their situation is nothing like mine. They get a lot more than I get. Less time having to teach. Better living conditions. More responsive and responsible action and

interaction. etc. etc. etc.

I'm fine. I'm just tired of fighting everything, even those things that don't normally involve problems. Patrick Dallas told me that teaching in a high school is a lot of fun... just not this school.

You can put this online. Yes, the connection with home via telecom is very helpful. Not so much that I am feeling down and depressed and it brings me up. No. The telecom is a link with a way of life I understand and simply helps maintain a normalcy that I can relate to when other things are so clear.

When something "pisses" me off (I laugh here at the thought of what makes me angry and my word usage to describe it to you: pisses). So, when something "pisses" me off I can come back to my room and express it in writing and that helps organize and clarify my feelings and ideas. Helps put things in perspective.

So, don't worry. I want to do many of the things that have been suggested. It's just this school is a battle ground of childishness and bickering and lack of interest. I no longer wish to play there game. So for now please keep the suggestions coming but until I can find another school or job for next year I don't think much can or will be done with this school.

Speaking of a job. I asked last time if you could help with that task. When I asked I thought you might have get lucky and have a connection or something. Now I am asking if you have the time to actively prusue it. My contract isn't finsihed here until Jan 30, 1990, but I can't wait until then. I don't have much access to the people for the thigs I want to do. I don't really wish to teach conversational english. I want to work at either a University or Company in the area of computers and or science. I can help teach scientific english, including assitance with translation. I would perefer doing teaching and

assisting the development of telecom at a University.

So if you can 'crank it up' online please do so. I am willing to travel to just about anywhere in China if I have to;

or Asia if nothing is available. I am also willing to work pretty cheap. You can speak for me as you need but I can supply you with any information or letters that you think are necessary.

It's just at my level I don't have the right connections. My problem is that I meet the people that are really interested.

But they have little or no power to get me further involved. And

as everywhere in China unless you are talking to a leader and

underling isn't usually going to speak up, at least not very loud. Otherwise, it could be his butt in a sling.

You might want to contact Princeton in Asia and explain what

I want to do. As you know, Barney Williamson won't know much

about the telecom concept but he does contact with a lot of

schools in China and Asia he might suggest some with addresses or

he might even be willing to contact some. Although his

program
is suspended now I believe he might be contacting
schools for the
future school terms. If he asks about this school and
whether he
sould send another teacher. Tell he should think very
carefully
and get a teacher that is very independent and previous
Asia
teaching experince would be a great help. Right now if
all
somebody cares about is getting to China then maybe
here, but
that's about all...

End Section 2 of 4, file "DAD"

Begin Section 3 of 4, file "DAD"

Tell Mom I hope she is feeling better from blood
poisoning.
I hope she didn't have too much trouble. I know that you
where
the perfect husband attending to her every need... See
things
aren't so bad here that I have lost my since of humor. No
matter

how bad taste it is.

Actually, even now as I think about what's going on this is pretty silly. It reminds of one of those movies of what else can go wrong/you can see it coming -- but you still surprised when it happens. A Wood Allen imitaing Shakespearian sarcastic humor with the irony of an ancient Greek tragedy or comedy; I haven't figured out which yet.

I think this is a repeat: tell Mom that the correct saline solution arrived but she need not send any until I give further notice. When I do ask for more I will ask and that I will probably recommend surface/sea mail; therefore, I will give her enough lead time. She said that Also was closing. The saline is available at K-Mart and Target. If that still poses a problem then call my eye doctor for his advice. His name is Dr. T.W. Clyde.

No news about my jacket yet. But I still haven't given up

hope. I still don't see anyone in the Dalian Post Office with a nice new American Jacket. The only thing I can think that might halt it is if any put something with the jacket that would make trouble. Like literature or pictures... I doubt it, but...

Speaking of mom. She wrote me and said that she received an "unpaid check" from the Bank of China via American Express. Let me explain. When I got my first phone bill you said that you would cover the \$100. I went to the Bank of China and used my American Express to get \$100 plus a .50 service charge. I was going to write a check and use the American Express to endorse but the Bank of China just gave me the money with only my American Express, no Personal Check was used, just a counter check. The number mom asked about, 071476718, is my passport number. I have since done this again for \$140 about a month

later plus a .70 service charge. Therefore, Mom should be receiving another notice. I don't think I have used the card otherwise, but I have been really busy and I might have.

Two issues.

Please tell Mom that you are/where going to cover those two costs for me.

Second, the way Mom described that notice from American Express the way I got the money was not correct. On each American Express statement there are some 800 numbers for service.

If she could call them with the American Express card number at hand and please ask American Express people what is the proper way of getting money from the Bank of China using my card. I am not sure but either they give me cash with my card or I use the card to endorse my personal check. Or maybe some other way.

Additional, when someone does call American Express could

they inquire how I could get my replacement card safely when the one I have expires this fall. I really don't want to have you mail it to me unless the US Post Office can fully insure it with out any loss to myself if it gets lost and used. If American Express can the can mail it to me, to the Bank of China, or there is a Holiday Inn that they might be able to cooperate with. What ever you think is best. American Express suggested going to (I think) the Bank of China and getting a temporary replacement card for use in China. I don't want to do this because of the hassle you can get using a replacement card.

It is important that I get the card, simply put, it is my lifeline in case I meet serious trouble and have to leave China quickly.

Does Mom read what I send you online? If she doesn't because of the hassle let me know. I am planning on writing here direct via telecom, but maybe you could print some things

out for

her, I know she doesn't always like to use your system, I don't want to be more of the trouble.

Concerning the EVAN.COM and CANADA.COM. I think they both worked but I am not sure. I got these two files but you didn't tell me what to do. When I typed EVAN and EVAN.COM something happened but I wasn't sure. Later when I did a directory I noticed a file called EVAN that I didn't remember seeing before. Then I looked at them via Word Perfect. Correct me if I'm wrong:

when I see a XXXX.COM file I just type XXXX and this creates a text file, or what ever, for me to look at.

End Section 3 of 4, File "DAD"

Begin Section 4 of 4, File "DAD"

If you could send me a few 3.5" disks. I am not hurting but

I have backed everything up and that suck up a few disks and I have some left and they are in Dalian but the supply is not consistant (they aren't available now, for instance). They also cost about \$10 apiece! The last shipment that David mailed of Word Perfect 4.0 came through fine, but I recommend sending the disks individually or small groups.

Also, small packages can delivered to this school. This means I don't have to go 1 hour into town to get it at a post office that may or may not be open where the person at the counter may or may not want to help me where I have to pay 1.60Y for a package they may or may not have been opened by customs.

If I send you some files for people online, like Becky, David, etc. and I label them as private will they get to them without anyone reading them... including you? Nothing personal, I just wish to discuss some things with people that I don't

want
everyone to know.

Is Liz Dempsey still online reading my journal stuff and the mail that I sent her?

Enough Business!

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Today is a beautiful day. A calm breeze blowing outside with moderate and comfortable temperatures. As I work I listen to the BBC on my shortwave, my window is open and I sit here in my shorts and flip-flops enjoying such a nice day.

Even with the lack of ability that this schools constantly demonstrates I ws visiting with a teacher when she turned around and gave me two containers of two different kinds of peanut butter. I have been looking for peanut butter for months now. I was told by an American teacher that peanut butter can be found.

It will just show up one day by the thousands. One container is peanut butter with a lot of sugar. The other is my favorite: just simple peanut butter, very little added.

Regarding the first container and all the sugar it has.

I always thought that only Americans had a sweet tooth that isn't satisfied. As a nation I am sure that China doesn't consume as much sugar as the US. But as individuals, when a Chinese has access to sugar, that consumption is just as much as any American.

A dish that gets served up occasionally is wedge sliced tomatoes. In America I would expect maybe a little salt added.

No not in China. Literally a pile of sugar is pour on top. With five or six tomatoes would call for about a cup of sugar.

It seems that food here is has good a quality that it could be so everything is usually cooked. And when it is cooked it is cooked a lot. Often destroying much of the nutritional value.

But just as in the West, the younger Chinese seem to be getting bigger and taller than their parents before. I think that the reason is that the food they are getting when they are going is better quality and greater variety. A Chinese teacher from another school told me that Chinese in Dalian are taller than most Chinese. He explained that they were taller because they ate seafood; and seafood contains a lot of zinc which helps in making people taller. I am sure that a similar result can be found in many other coastal cities in China as well as elsewhere.

Another interesting fact about Dalian. As far as northern cities in China go, I was told that the people in Dalian were very fashion conscious. As I am able to tell this seems true. A friend even joked that the young people will spend more money on clothes than food!

My friend also said that he liked Dalian because the

women

in Dalian where very pretty compared to other cities and his job

requires to travel all over China. I think I agree with him.

As

a young man I can quite an enjoyable time just going downtown to "look around".

So, life in Dalian can be good for one reason or another,

it's just this school doesn't got it... So I'm taking my time elsewhere!

Anyway, i close it now. I have a lot of other work to do before you call tonight. Talk to you later.

Ed in China

End Section 4 of 4, File "DAD"