

Remarks of Harold Kuhn at the Galefeast, Stonybrook, NY. 12 July, 2007

I have known David Gale longer than anyone in this room (and that includes my wife, who is a close second, and John Nash who comes in third^{*}). We met as entering graduate students in mathematics at Princeton, 60 years ago next September. We studied for the General Examination together with Bill Massey in the Common Room of the old Fine Hall --- there were no elementary courses offered that were any help. In the summer of 1948, we were both hired by Al Tucker to study the relationship of linear programming to zero-sum-two-person game theory, which sent both of us off to careers that mixed mathematics with economics. With this history in common, I would like to share with you some snapshot memories of David.

David has changed less than anyone I have known for 60 years; he is still a little boy who delights in presenting you with a puzzle any time you meet. So tonight I am going to give him a puzzle called "Escape from Alcatraz" which should drive him crazy for the foreseeable future. The proximity of Alcatraz to Berkeley makes it particularly appropriate. If he wants to cheat, he can find the solution on Metacafe.com. (PRESENTS PUZZLE TO DAVID)

My next story is an illustration of the fact that David has always been ahead of the crowd in popular culture. In 1949, he was a devoted fan of a sport that was in its early days then, which died in the 70's but which, I was assured recently on National Public Radio, is the fastest growing sport in the United States. He was so enthused about the sport that he took me and my wife, Estelle, to a match in Trenton. The name of the sport is ROLLER DERBY and is played by teams of athletic women skaters with names like Suzy Hotrod, Ana Bollocks, and Joey Hardcore, who try to inflict damage on each other while skating around a circular

track. By the way, David, there is a "bout" this Saturday at CCNY between the Brooklyn Bombshells and the Queens of Pain. Tickets are available on the Internet.

For the last twenty years, David has divided his time between Berkeley and Paris. He acquired a beautiful apartment in the Marais in Paris in late October 1987, I remember the date because he closed just after the crash of October 19, 1987. On that day, the market lost \$500 billion, the largest one-day percentage loss in history. Of course, David was paying for his apartment using his stock holdings. The moral of this story is: never trust a mathematical economist with managing your stocks. On the other hand, David made a great move in acquiring the apartment in Paris and has never regretted it.

David has been a happy man in recent years. He has had a second career with his columns in the *Intelligencer* which were collected in the book "Tracking the Automatic Ant." Chandler Davis got it just right when he wrote: "the book contains as much to savour on each page as a compendium of short stories by Saki." His marvelous web site was a finalist in the prestigious Pirelli Prize. His bipolar life in Berkeley and Paris seems to suit him. Most important, he has a marvelous woman to share this life, Sandra Gilbert, who is here with him tonight

Join me in wishing David and Sandra many more years of happiness!

"This statement was written before I learned that David's sister was to be present at the banquet; that fact moves me, my wife and John Nash to 2, 3, and 4, respectively.