

**Nick Dopuch (Remarks at Reception for him at AAA Annual Meeting, August 2008 in San Diego.**

Shyam Sunder

Time is short, and everyone here knows that Nick has no tolerance for insincerity and verbosity. So, I shall limit myself to three things I have learned from him since I first met him as a doctoral student at the Second AAA Doctoral Consortium in Salt Lake City in the summer of 1972.

First: Telling the truth is more important than looking cool. One day I walked into his office at the University of Chicago and saw a stack of copies of an old Peanut cartoon strip. Lucy was writing as editor: "Dear Author, thank you for your manuscript which we are unable to accept because blah blah blah... I notice you sent your paper by first class mail. ...Junk can be sent third class." I do not know if he actually sent the strip to the authors of any JAR manuscripts, but we know that his stewardship of the JAR, guided by this unbending principle, took not only the journal but accounting research itself to new heights. His editorial stewardship defined the paradigm in accounting research which has prevailed now for over four decades.

Second: Keep your mind open to the possibility that you might be wrong. In other words, don't be too sure of yourself, and nurture some self-doubt. Of course, too much self-doubt is paralysis and too little leads to fossilization of research paradigms and brains into schools of thought and mindless herds. Ball and Brown paper was rejected as "not being accounting" before the JAR published it. But Nick knew too well the dangers of the success of a new research paradigm getting frozen into a new dogma and orthodoxy a decade or two later. Not many may know Nick's critical role in initiating experimental economics (and several other research methods) into accounting. In working with him at the JAR, I repeatedly saw his eye functioning as a bubble chamber for detecting new creative sparks in accounting research; he never flinched from risky new ideas.

Third: It is not the money. We all know the old saying: if someone says it is not the money, you can be sure that it is. I have never heard Nick use or imply these words. Yet from his work, behavior and legacy, this is what I have learned. We academics do not have to live like hermits and we don't. We live comfortable middle class lives. If we are satisfied with that, and don't chase the money beyond that level, a great deal more can be accomplished in our disciplines, and contributions to society.

Nick will probably tell you that I have learned all the wrong lessons. When someone starts to B.S., he just walks away. He hasn't so far, and I should quit while ahead.

Nick, you have been a guiding light for so many in this room, in the U.S. and the world. Neither you nor I know most of them. On behalf of them all, THANK YOU!