



City of Norfolk

Virginia 23501

April 7, 1971

Mr. Larry Gordon, Director  
Environmental Services  
Health and Social Service Department  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dear Larry:

I was privileged to meet you and witness your presentation in a training program in Charlottesville, Virginia several years ago. ~~The impact of your advice was well received and still very much in evidence today.~~

A brief excerpt from your Environmental Services Program Guide, reprinted in the Environmental News Digest, prompts me to write you at this time. I would appreciate a copy of the subject guide if such distribution is not contrary to the policy of your agency.

Permit me to take this opportunity to commend you on your remarkable achievements in not only the promotion of environmental services but also the enhancement of the image of the environmentalist.

Sincerely,

G. D. Monola, Director  
Dept. of Community Improvement

GDM:bd



P E N I N S U L A

PLANNING

DISTRICT

COMMISSION

2019 CUNNINGHAM DRIVE

HAMPTON, VA. 23366

A.C.703-838-4238

January 18, 1971

Mr. A. Thomas Kurz, Jr.  
State of New Mexico  
Department of Health and Social Services  
Environmental Services Division  
P.O. Box 2348  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Tom,

Thank you for a copy of your talk, Health Department Participation in Planning for Action, which you so articulately presented at A.P.H.A. in Houston.

It's uncanny that among the most provocative papers and discussions I had the pleasure of hearing, the State of New Mexico, Environmental Services Division had the biggest impact on my thinking.

I am indebted to you and Larry Gordon for the intellectual stimulation and vision you impart. I hope we can continue to correspond.

May I take the liberty of wishing you, Larry and your staff all the success that outstanding accomplishment can provide.

Kindest personal regards

Sincerely yours,

*al*  
Albert D. Castano, M.P.H.  
Health Planning Director

ADC:vb



## Health Department

### Section

City of Kansas City, Missouri  
Heart of America

1423 E. Linwood  
Kansas City, Missouri 64109

Please allow me to take a little of your time to say a few words in favor of the candidacy of Larry J. Gordon for the office of President-Elect of the American Public Health Association. This might seem a bit strange coming from a health educator in Kansas City, Missouri, but I really do speak from a longstanding personal and professional association with Larry.

As a brief self introduction, I was a Health Education Consultant with the Arizona and New Mexico State Health Departments during 1951-59, Director of School Health in New Mexico from 1959-69, and have been Director of Health Education with the Kansas City, Mo. Health Department from 1969-present.

When I first met Larry back in the mid-1950's in New Mexico, we were both relatively young and inexperienced. But even then, everyone at both the State and local levels of the Health Department network there thought of Larry as being a public health professional who was years ahead of his time in his work.

What do I remember most vividly about Larry's capabilities? Let's start with his assets of strong but wise leadership in his jobs and the many organizations to which he has belonged; his broad knowledge and concerns for all aspects of public health; his well-known administrative style and reputation of eliciting the best from his staff and the most from his other available resources — all in a team approach to public health problems; his appreciation of the importance of good communications with everyone; his ability to strategically delegate responsibilities as needed and on the basis of others' known strengths; his dignity, sensitivity, and acute sense of diplomacy which continuously enabled him to cope successfully with all kinds of health problems involving a wide divergence and variety of ethnic, cultural, political and professional backgrounds; and last, but not least, his delightful sense of humor, intelligence and perennial optimism.

As a health educator, I also especially remember from personal experiences that Larry was one of the rare public health professionals back in the 1950's who had a true appreciation of the capabilities of trained health educators in regard to planning, evaluating and making subsequent recommendations concerning the educational components of various public health programs, including his own. Again, Larry was a man ahead of his time.

He also helped us in New Mexico to pioneer a successful joint venture between the State Departments of Education and Public Health to go beyond routine inspections of schools at the local level. After these inspections, when major health-related problems were found, efforts were made to locate both State and local resources (expertise, special funding sources, etc.) to assist local school administrators in correcting such problems. This anecdote is cited as one example to help illustrate my personal knowledge that impact, not just amount of effort exerted, is Larry's main criterion for success.

His expertise and outstanding record in environmental health, the many offices he has held, and the many prestigious awards he has received were listed in the last issue of APHA's newsletter "The Nation's Health". In that delineation of qualifications I hope you also noticed that Larry has broad competencies, interests and experiences in the total public health field --not just the environmental aspects. For example, his services to APHA and knowledge of its internal structure and functions are evidenced by his membership (and offices) on such APHA groups as the "Action Board" in 1970-72, Task Force on National Population Policy in 1971-72, the Governing Council from 1974-79, and the Executive Board from 1975-79. His ten years of experience as a Consultant in Comprehensive Health Planning at both the State and local levels in New Mexico and in the U.S. Public Health Service were also strong "pluses" in his favor in maintaining a broad perspective at all health issues.

And then there is the significant fact that he was selected to head New Mexico's state public health agency for the past few years, which speaks for itself concerning the confidence that his professional and political colleagues and supporters have had in Larry's public health knowledge, experience, judgement and leadership capabilities.

Although I left New Mexico in 1969 to come to Kansas City, Larry and I still keep in touch with each other occasionally. We do this as friends and for professional opportunities to exchange information and ideas through various articles we've presented at various places (however his 74 published articles make him a far more prolific writer than I).

In addition to his concerns for the status of public health today, many of Larry's thoughts, ideas and recommended strategies still run well into the future-- again, indeed, a man well ahead of his time but with current abilities to help APHA to grow and become even a greater force in shaping the future of public health in this nation.

Therefore, I'm proud to endorse Larry Gordon as a candidate for President-Elect of the American Public Health Association, and ask for your support as a member of the Governing Council in helping him to be elected to that office at the annual APHA meeting in New York on November 7th.

Sincerely,



John F. Allanson, M.A.(ed), M.P.H., F.A.S.H.A.  
Chief, Office of Health Education

**EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA  
ASSOCIATED HEALTH DEPARTMENTS**

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

139 ARLINGTON STREET  
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN 49783  
PHONE (906) 635-1566

**LUCE-MACKINAC-ALGER-SCHOOLCRAFT  
DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

COMMUNITY BUILDING  
NEWBERRY, MICHIGAN 49868  
PHONE (906) 293-5107

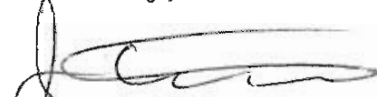
October 27, 1981

Mr. Larry J. Gordon  
President  
American Public Health Association  
1015 Fifteenth Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Gordon:

Your presidency of APHA has touched many. Your requests for action have spurred me on to several actions I would not otherwise have taken. I take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,



James C. Terrian, M.D.  
Director

JCT/tb



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND ENERGY DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

July 3, 1984

Alana Eager

Community and Staff Development Coordinator

766-7290

Larry J. Gordon, Director of the Environmental Health and Energy Department for the City of Albuquerque has been awarded the 4th Annual Davis Calvin Wagner Sanitarian Award by the American Academy of Sanitarians.

Mr. Gordon recommended the creation of the nation's first local environmental health department in Albuquerque in the early 50's and became its first Director. He subsequently developed the Metropolitan Environmental Health Advisory Board and recommended creation of the City/County Air Quality Control Board. He was instrumental in the passage of a state statute authorizing municipal health departments and in the passage of the New Mexico Air Quality Control Act, the New Mexico Water Pollution Control Act.

At the state level, as Director of the Environmental Services Division, in the early '70's, Mr. Gordon recommended creation of the Environmental Improvement Division and The Environmental Improvement Board. He visualized and brought to fruition as its first director, the New Mexico Scientific Laboratory System, unique in the nation as the only comprehensive state laboratory which serves a wide variety of local, state, and federal programs on a reimbursement basis. Mr. Gordon later worked to create and subsequently became Deputy Secretary of the New Mexico Health and Environment Department. In this capacity, he administered all state



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND ENERGY DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

page 2

programs of environmental improvement, laboratory services, personal health services and health planning.

In 1982, he returned to Albuquerque as Director of the Environmental Health and Energy Department. He has promoted the development of one of the few municipal hazardous waste programs in the country. He has published the "Guide to the Role of Local Health Officials in the Local Management of Hazardous Waste", a standard work for local communities in the development of their own programs.

Through Mr. Gordon's guidance, New Mexico has local and state environmental health, air quality and environmental improvement advisory and regulatory boards, all of which continue to serve as national models for other state and local governments.

Mr. Gordon has also promoted public and environmental health on the national and international levels as an active member of the 50,000 member American Public Health Association. In 1980, he became the first sanitarian to be elected President of APHA. Throughout his career, Mr. Gordon has been dedicated to environmental health concerns and to the promotion of qualified health professionals.





720 South Colorado Blvd.  
South Tower, 970  
Denver, Colorado 80222  
Phone (303) 756-9090  
Fax (303) 691-9490

Reply to: Department of  
Environmental Protection  
700 N. Tryon Street  
Charlotte, N.C. 28202-2236

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Larry Gordon, Chairman  
committee on the Future of Environmental Health

**FROM:** John M. Barry, Ph.D.  
First Vice President *JMB*

**DATE:** June 16, 1992

**SUBJECT:** Requested Comments on Draft

I sat down last night and reviewed your draft of "The Future of Environmental Health", and I must say that I was very impressed and enthusiastic about the recommendations that you put forth on the cover memo.

In a way, the Committee's report brings back a lot of memories of things that I have been saying ever since I was elected to a Regional Vice President position. In particular I am referring to the concept that this organization, NEHA, must broaden its membership and expertise to include disciplines other than just those programs which are sanitation related. In proposing this idea, Diane Evans and I worked long and hard on revising the membership brochure to where it would not be "negatively attractive" to environmental professionals not directly associated with the traditional environmental health activities. Most of our recommendations were approved, although I still do not feel that we went quite far enough.

As you know, this organization has been supported in a fantastic way by many members who have given their entire lives to the protection of the public's health through environmental health activities. The unfortunate fact of the matter, and one which is stressed in the draft, is that times are changing and the practice of environmental health is evolving at a very rapid rate. And as such, it is incorporating many more fields of interest than just traditional environmental health fields. It is my opinion that the academic sector is trying to address this change, but I don't feel that NEHA's existing membership has fully come to grips with the idea.

Your connection between environmental health and environmental protection is right on the mark. It is time that we realize this and begin to network more with other disciplines such as land-use, transportation, resource development and utilization, as well as economic development. I have been trying to do this in my area for



Larry Gordon  
Page 2  
June 16, 1992

a good many years, and I must say it is working. We are having more and more instances where we have been asked for our opinion (even by organizations traditionally involved in environmental utilization) and more importantly, have seen our non-binding recommendations used in the development of proposals, both public and private.

I also would agree with your comment that there is no standard organizational model for environmental health and protection programs and agencies. At one time my department had all traditional environmental health programs plus air, water and solid waste. Then due to political pressure, it was decided that the traditional programs were "health related" and should be as a division of the health department and the air, water and solid waste programs were not "health related", and were therefore placed in a Department of Environmental Protection (sounds familiar, doesn't it?). Nevertheless, while seemingly not the best organizational arrangement, we have been making the best of it, even with the fragmentation.

So, as you can see, I am very much in agreement with your report, and you have my complete support. However I would like to suggest that item 21 on page 17 get a little more elaboration. I think this is a very important factor. Environmental organizations and practitioners must be more involved during the planning stages of land-use and similar activities to prevent development in a manner which possibly will have adverse affects on health and the quality of life in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft. I look forward to seeing you in Winnipeg.

2005 185th Pl. S.E. #L-104  
Bothell WA 98012  
March 10, 1993

Larry Gordon, MS, MPH  
Public Administration Division  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque NM 87131

Mr. Gordon,

Please forgive this intrusion on your valuable time, but I have found that you are one of the few voices of reason in the wilderness of "Public Health". I am looking to you at this time for whatever advice that you can provide me, great or small. However, before I elaborate on the problem at hand, please let me give you some background information which will allow you to understand where I am coming from.

I am Master of Public Health graduating student in the Health Service program at the University of Washington. I also recently earned my doctorate in Medical Sociology and Health Policy from the University of California, San Francisco, where my doctoral thesis was on "The Meaning of Self-Rated Health". I have a fairly extensive background, in social theory, quantitative methods, health policy, and medical sociology, with specialized research in social inequality and health care (You can relax, I am not looking for a job, as I have several offers already.) I am also a member (albeit student) of the American Sociological Association, American Psychological Association, American Public Health Association and Washington Public Health Association, thus I am fairly aware of the direction that social science and public health are taking.

To be fairly direct, my issue at hand is something you wrote in "The Nation's Health" in December 1989 and November 1992. In it you stated that Public Health had no business being involved in health care and that the APHA's Health Care for All effort is misguided. Moreover, that "Health care is not public health!"; "Public Health is not health care!". And lastly, that "more and more for health care results in less and less for public health (disease prevention, health promotion and environmental health) - health efforts which could have a positive impact on the health status of Americans, as well as slowing spiraling health care costs".

I absolutely, positively, could not agree with you more! However, and here is my real problem, the difficulty is that I can't seem to get anybody to do anything more than provide lip service to this understanding of the truth. In fact, I am currently reading a "The Limits of Social Policy" by Nathan Glazer, which does parallel the precepts you have

stated, so I do know that somebody else is listening, which is a little encouraging.

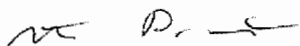
However I wonder, as someone who fervently believes that we must separate public health and health care, and believes as my mentor S. Leonard Syme (U.C.-Berkeley) stated at the California Public Health Association meeting in 1990, that we must return to the premises of "old" public health: public issues which relate to health prevention, promotion, and environmental health, and not health care, how can I continue to support and operate within an organization such as the APHA which refuses to recognize how misguided it's direction is?

Unfortunately, I seem to find that the vast majority of other public health students, academics and professional that I talk to are firmly invested in National **Health Care** (my emphasis), rather than concerning ourselves with more legitimate realms of expertise. Moreover, present day public health as taken over the perspective of acute medicine and has become little more than what I refer to as "Medicaid" medicine.

In addition, as you stated in the August 1990 editorial of the AJPH, we have a lack of leadership in the direction of environmental health and other traditional realms of public health.

At any rate, I would truly look forward to knowing more about what you think on the matter, and whether, in the current social and political climate, there is any chance of the APHA getting "back on course". I am very appreciative that you have the courage to take a stand, and state the facts as they truly are, rather than being quiet or jumping on the band-wagon like so many others I find.

Respectfully,



Steven D. Preston, Ph.D.

Date: Wed, 10 Apr 2002 14:54:23 -0400  
From: Rebecca Head <headr@CO.WASHTENAW.MI.US>  
Reply-To: CEH - Environmental Health General  
<ENV-HEALTH-GENERAL@LISTSERV.CDC.GOV>  
To: ENV-HEALTH-GENERAL@LISTSERV.CDC.GOV  
Subject: Re: Nursing and Environmental Health

Thanks, Scott - articulate as always - and what a good exchange this is!!! of course, having Larry weigh in with his paper is wonderful - okay - maybe those are enough of the pats on the back...though h all comments are appreciated & Joe - you initiated this - so that is helpful, also!!!  
/Rebecca

Scott Holmes wrote:

> As the founding member of the "I want to be like Larry" club, I offer the  
> following. For those of you who are not part of the club, you are advised,  
> "This e-mail contains statements that may cause apoplexy, angina, or  
> gastrointestinal upset."  
>  
> First, for those who haven't, please take the time to read the definitions  
> of "Environmental health and protection professionals" and "Professionals  
> in environmental health and protection" in Larry's attached paper - they  
> are exquisite.  
>  
> Second, in my short years of experience in the field of environmental  
health and protection, I have come to believe that perhaps the greatest  
downfall of our profession is the lack of buy-in ... NO. Let me rephrase  
this - our lack of competency in gaining (or lack of attempts to gain)  
buy-in from and/or fully involving those professions listed in Larry's  
definition of professionals in EH&P. Not only that, but we have also  
tended (please keep the historic context in mind here) to have an  
arrogance\* about us, which often kept us (myself included), EH&P  
professionals, isolated both from public health professionals in our own  
agencies and environmental protection specialists in other agencies. \*By  
arrogance I definitely do not mean that we have high confidence in our  
competencies (risk assessment, communication, and management) which may be  
misconstrued as arrogance, but an overinflated view of our role and place  
in the time-space continuum of public health, environmental health and  
protection, and environmental protection. I'm referring to the old "We are  
THE EH&P professionals you know!" and the old "We should be seated at the  
best place at the table!" attitudes.  
>  
> I think we will and I believe if we go forward as Larry said, "building  
> castles rather than laying bricks" a new day will dawn for EH&P  
> professionals as we share a vision of managing the environment so that we  
> are "protecting public health and the environment upon which all life  
> depends." \*\*  
>  
> \*\* A slightly modified part of EPA's mission statement (will the blasphemy  
> never end?).  
>  
> Respectfully submitted,  
> Scott E. Holmes, REHS, MS  
Chief, Environmental Public Health  
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department  
> Lincoln, Nebraska  
>  
> Thanks Larry, I love you man. You are one of my heroes.  
>

Date: Wed, 6 Feb 2002 10:25:52 +0000 (GMT Standard Time)  
From: Norman Parkinson <norman.parkinson@kcl.ac.uk>  
To: LarryGordon <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: Re: -- No Subject --

Larry,

Thanks for sending me your presentation paper.  
As your papers always are, it was thought provoking and  
self-challenging.

I was thinking of you, and quoting you too (with an  
attribution!), recently, when I was asked to compose a  
ten year 'vision statement for EH administration' for our  
Health Development Agency. I started with your 'Blessed are  
those who expect little....'

Hope to see you again soon.  
Norman

Date: Wed, 6 Feb 2002 11:11:26 -0500  
From: bresnick@naccho.org  
To: eljaygee@unm.edu  
Subject: RE:

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Thanks Larry --you're points are right on! I'm heading down to CDC tomorrow  
and will be talking with Mike Sage about your two proposals -- I'll let you  
know how it goes. If you have any specific ideas/thoughts you want to share  
let me know - thanks.

All the best,  
Beth

Date: Wed, 6 Feb 2002 08:16:03 -0600  
From: Carol.D.VanderMey@us.ul.com  
To: LarryGordon <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: Re: Commentary

Thanks for the commentary, Larry. I'll be happy to put it on the docket for  
the next issue of EPH Insights.

Carol VanderMey  
Senior Communications Specialist  
Global Communication Services  
P: (847) 272-8800 ext. 42478  
F: (847) 509-6235  
E: Carol.D.VanderMey@us.ul.com

Date: Wed, 6 Feb 2002 11:30:53 EST  
From: JerroldMM@aol.com  
To: eljaygee@unm.edu  
Subject: Looking for love (support) in the right places

Larry:

As usual you have hit the nail on the head. It remind me of an old Yiddish proverb that my Dad used to repeat frequently ; "The person who can't dance says the band can't play"

More of us should also subscribe to the notion that opportunity for progress and recognition in our profession stands beside us every moment and one of its favorite disguises is that of imaginary obstacles.

Jerry

Date: Wed, 6 Feb 2002 09:56:50 -0700  
From: "Roan, Olive" <oroan@utep.edu>  
To: 'Kathleen McPhaul' <Mcphaul@son.umaryland.edu>,  
'LarryGordon' <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: RE:

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Larry, Kate, this is a neat connection between environmental health professionals (Larry, and the many organizations he represents) and professionals in environmental health, especially nurses on the listserv. I shall enjoy the results of whatever you decide.  
Olive

-----Original Message-----

From: Kathleen McPhaul [mailto:Mcphaul@son.umaryland.edu]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2002 5:43 AM  
To: 'LarryGordon'; 'Roan, Olive'  
Subject: RE:

Thank you for keeping me in the loop, do you want to distill any of this information, so I can post it to the environmental health and nursing list serve?

Kate McPhaul  
Department of Community and Behavioral Health  
University of Maryland School of Nursing  
655 Lombard St., Room 665  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
(410) 706-4907 voice mail  
(410) 706-0295 FAX  
<http://envirn.umaryland.edu>

Date: Tue, 5 Feb 2002 16:24:49 -0500  
From: "Jackson, Richard J. (NCEH)" <rxj4@cdc.gov>  
To: 'LarryGordon' <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: RE:

[The following text is in the "iso-8859-1" character set]  
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[Some characters may be displayed incorrectly]

Your points are right on, Larry.  
dick

Date: Tue, 05 Feb 2002 16:29:15 -0500  
From: Vincent Sikora <sikora@ACCESS.ETSU.EDU>  
To: LarryGordon <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: Re:

Thanks for sharing that with me. You always have a keen insight to what  
ks and why.

Date: Tue, 5 Feb 2002 15:30:43 -0500  
From: Robert W Powitz <sanitarian@juno.com>  
To: eljaygee@unm.edu  
Subject: Re: Looking for love .....

Well stated !

Regards,  
Bob

Date: Tue, 5 Feb 2002 15:11:00 -500 EST  
From: Alan Moberly <amoberly@hhcorp.org>  
To: LarryGordon <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: Re:

Hi Larry,  
, don't you just tell us how you really feel? No seriously, I  
appreciate you sending your thoughts. I always look forward to reading  
your latest! Thanks. Alan Moberly



Date: Tue, 5 Feb 2002 14:41:23 -0500  
From: "Schletty, Arthur V." <avsl@cdc.gov>  
To: 'LarryGordon' <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: RE:—

[The following text is in the "ISO-8859-1" character set]  
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Larry, thanks! Over the past few years, I've been largely out of contact with what's going on "out there" so I generally too often have to rely on anecdotal information and instincts to tell me what's going on. The information you send me from time to time fills in the gaps (and frankly is consistent with what my instincts and anecdotal information are telling me).  
Art

Date: Tue, 05 Feb 2002 14:23:29 -0500  
From: Noreen Poor <npoor@hsc.usf.edu>  
To: LarryGordon <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: Re:

Larry,  
What a great essay!!  
Noreen

Date: Tue, 5 Feb 2002 10:52:33 -0800  
From: "McGurk, Jack (DHS-DDWEM)" <JMcGurk@dhs.ca.gov>  
To: 'LarryGordon' <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: RE:

[The following text is in the "iso-8859-1" character set]  
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Well done and on-target! I enjoyed your commentary very much.

Date: Tue, 5 Feb 2002 10:45:46 -0800  
From: "Knight, Mel" <KnightM@saccounty.net>  
To: 'LarryGordon' <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: RE:

Larry -  
As usual, well stated and focused on an issue we can all identify with. I will enjoy sharing this commentary and insight with others.  
Mel

Date: Tue, 5 Feb 2002 11:47:02 -0700  
From: "Roan, Olive" <oroan@utep.edu>  
To: 'LarryGordon' <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: RE:

Thanks, Larry - I am giving this to our students and forwarding it to the Director of our local branch of the Texas Nurses Assoc. - what you say about environmental people can be directly applied to nurses also.  
Olive

te: Wed, 06 Feb 2002 14:37:06 -0500  
From: Thomas Burke <tburke@jhsp.edu>  
To: LarryGordon <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: Re:

Thanks for the words of wisdom Larry. Very nicely said, I will make sure my students get the message.

Hope things are well with you. These are interesting times for the public health infrastructure, I think the value of practitioners in the Schools is finally being realized.

Tom

Date: Wed, 06 Feb 2002 10:28:23 -0800  
From: Rich Gabriel <rgabriel@phd2.state.id.us>  
To: eljaygee@unm.edu  
Subject: Re:

Larry, first of all, thank you for this message. It is very enlightening. I don't think I have had the pleasure of meeting you, although I have heard many good things about you. I am going to Minneapolis this year for the NEHA conference and if you are there would like very much to have an opportunity to meet you. Did you also send this message to the others on the BOD ? NEHA?

Again, thank you for sending this message.

Rich Gabriel

Date: Wed, 6 Feb 2002 13:17:53 -0500  
From: tmlne@naccho.org  
To: eljaygee@unm.edu  
Subject: RE:

[The following text is in the "iso-8859-1" character set]  
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Outstanding, Larry. Thanks for sharing!!! I would love to use this...any problems with that, citing you as the source, obviously....

Hope all is well with you.  
tom

Date: Wed, 6 Feb 2002 12:49:20 -0500  
From: "Beck, Joe" <Joe.Beck@EKU.EDU>  
To: eljaygee <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: Re:

[The following text is in the "iso-8859-1" character set]  
[Your display is set for the "US-ASCII" character set]  
[Some characters may be displayed incorrectly]

Really like it, this is book material and not just for EH.

Date: Wed, 6 Feb 2002 16:06:43 -0600  
From: SHolmes@ci.lincoln.ne.us  
To: LarryGordon <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: Re:

Larry, thanks for remembering me in such e-mails. This is right on the money (as always). I strive for these ideals every day in my career.

Date: Wed, 6 Feb 2002 13:17:08 -0800  
From: gnakamur@hsd.co.contra-costa.ca.us  
To: LarryGordon <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: Re: Cosellian Commentary

Great to hear more pearls of wisdom from the voice and conscience of our profession. I hope you will share your commentary with as many public health practitioners as you can. It is continually refreshing that you are able to relate the Smith Barney concepts to environmental and public health. I think that if you are able to intersperse some Dilbert managerial concepts into your repertoire. I would be willing to sign up as your business manager. Take care and stay in touch.

George Nakamura  
Supervising Environmental Health Specialist  
Contra Costa Environmental Health  
2120 Diamond Blvd. Suite 200  
Concord, CA 94520  
925 646-5225

Date: Wed, 06 Feb 2002 15:05:17 -0500  
From: ELN/nmcclelland <nmcclelland@earthlink.net>  
To: LarryGordon <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: Re:

Thanks, Larry. I did not receive this before and the timing now was perfect. I am giving a talk on leadership this weekend in Phoenix. I hope you don't mind a bit of plaguerism.

Best regards,  
Nina

Date: Fri, 8 Feb 2002 10:43:36 -0600  
From: Peter Rich <peter.rich@CO.OLMSTED.MN.US>  
To: 'LarryGordon' <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Cc: Giesen Pete <giesen.pete@CO.OLMSTED.MN.US>,  
"Inman DJ (E-mail)" <djfoodwizzard@orci.com>,  
mlmyszka@mail.co.marathon.wi.us,  
"Hibberd Sue (E-mail)" <sue.hibberd@health.state.mn.us>,  
"Schroeder Dale (E-mail)" <schroederd@co.st-louis.mn.us>,  
"Smith Sharon (E-mail)" <sharon\_s@co.kandiyohi.mn.us>,  
Lee Terry <lee.terry@CO.OLMSTED.MN.US>  
Subject: RE: Leadership Essay - Looking for Love in all the Wrong Places

[The following text is in the "iso-8859-1" character set]  
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Larry-

I just had the opportunity to read and identify with your short "Looking for Love in all the Wrong Places". I have been an admirer of your spirit and philosophy for many years.

<<Larry Gordon's Lookin for Love 1-23-02.DOC>>

Your writings in NEHA's Environmental Health Journals and/or END have been a powerful guide for me, through out my career in Public Health. They provided significant support for many accomplishments our small Env. Health Division has made and continue to progress with in Olmsted County MN. I hope you will be submitting this one to the Journal. It might help a significant portion of our colleagues recognize and avoid the "Woe is Me" syndrome.

I hope you will be able to attend and present at the NEHA Conf in Minneapolis, MN this summer. I am copying some of our colleagues that I know also enjoy and practice your upbeat style and energy.

Thanks and Happy New Year!

Rich Peter, Director of Env. Health  
Olmsted County Public Health Services  
2100 Campus Dr. SE, Rochester, MN 55904  
507.285.8335 Fax 507.287.1492  
peter.rich@co.olmsted.mn.us

Date: Thu, 7 Feb 2002 10:33:40 -0500  
From: Holly Coleman <holly.coleman@ncmail.net>  
To: LarryGordon <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: Re:

[The following text is in the "iso-8859-1" character set]  
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Larry,

I am putting together the program for the Environmental Health Management Section for NEHA's AEC in Minneapolis. Would you be willing to present your "Looking for Love" on July 2nd?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Holly Coleman  
NEHA Technical Chair  
(919) 542-8209  
Chatham County Health Department  
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2002 09:45:49 -0600  
From: Bob Galvan <bgalvan@hsc.unt.edu>  
To: eljaygee@unm.edu  
Subject: Re:

Thanks, Larry. I appreciate you sending me your comments and I read them with great interest. Your comments are always very insightful and thought provoking. Thank you for sharing them with me. I hope you and Nedra are doing well and look forward to seeing you in Chicago. My best.  
Bob

Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2002 00:41:29 EST  
From: Dunloper@aol.com  
To: eljaygee@unm.edu  
Subject: Re:

Larry,

Your comments to RIHEL are well taken. I agree with your points and no longer feel like I am in the swamp alone. When I present similar thoughts I sometimes am met with blank stares. I have often said we have to learn from educational initiatives, transportation initiatives, nursing issues, etc. They are the ones that get funded because they have constituents that come to their aid. They are supported in the legislature because they are supported on the street.

I feel we have two significant challenges before us: educating the existing workforce, and educating the academic schools of public health to advance their curriculums to reflect today's workplace needs.

Thanks for listening. See you in a few weeks in Atlanta. Tom

Date: Sat, 9 Feb 2002 15:15:56 -0500  
From: "Buchanan, Sharunda D." <sdb4@cdc.gov>  
To: 'LarryGordon' <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: RE:

You have a awesome way with words...thanks for sharing!

Sharunda Buchanan, Ph.D.  
Chief, Environmental Health Services Branch (EHSB)  
Division of Emergency and Environmental Services (DEES)  
National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH)  
Phone: (770) 488-7362  
Email: sdb4@cdc.gov  
fax: (770) 488-7310  
mailstop: F-28

Date: Wed, 27 Mar 2002 11:24:09 -0500  
From: "Herring, Michael" <zhy2@cdc.gov>  
To: 'LarryGordon' <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: RE:

Thanks Larry. I also enjoyed meeting you. I had heard much about you from my colleagues at CDC and elsewhere. Your reputation as a visionary and one of the true leaders of the environmental health profession are well-deserved.

I have read your attached comments before from a paper you authored. I couldn't agree more.

Take care and keep in touch.

CAPT Michael E. Herring, REHS, MPH  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Environmental Health  
Environmental Health Services Branch  
770-488-7351  
mherring@cdc.gov

Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2002 18:20:01 -0500  
From: Patricia Elliott <pellott@ASTHO.org>  
To: 'LarryGordon' <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: RE:

Larry - I liked this one a lot - it was very inspirational! In late May, ASTHO's Environmental Health Policy Committee will be meeting to do some strategic planning and I think your comments will be good to keep in mind as we move forward.

Look forward to seeing you in March.

Best, Pat

Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2002 13:20:46 -0500  
From: "Paul A. Locke" <plocke@tfah.org>  
To: LarryGordon <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: Re:

Larry:

Nice piece -- thanks for sending it.

Paul

Paul A. Locke, JD, DrPH  
Deputy Director  
Trust for America's Health

Date: Wed, 27 Mar 2002 14:44:12 EST  
From: CSOsaki@aol.com  
To: eljaygee@unm.edu  
Subject: Re:

Larry. Your commentary is an excellent preface to some projects that I am working on. Thanks for sharing. Hope all is well. Regards, Carl Osaki

Date: Wed, 27 Mar 2002 14:24:46 EST  
From: WTCarls@aol.com  
To: eljaygee@unm.edu  
Subject: Re:

Thanks Larry I welcome you commentary in the spirit of Mort Hilbert. Bill Carlson

Date: Wed, 10 Apr 2002 11:26:16 -0400  
From: JIM DRAZE <JRDRAZ@KALCOUNTY.COM>  
Reply-To: CEH - Environmental Health General  
<ENV-HEALTH-GENERAL@LISTSERV.CDC.GOV>  
To: ENV-HEALTH-GENERAL@LISTSERV.CDC.GOV  
Subject: Re: Nursing and Environmental Health

Larry,

Thank you, once again, for putting our EH profession efforts in a broader perspective. I continue to hope that we expand our thinking, and improve our practice as professionals.

Thanks

Jim Drazé R.S., M.P.A.  
Kalamazoo Co. HSD  
Kalamazoo Co. Michigan

Date: Wed, 27 Mar 2002 11:36:08 -0500  
From: "Margolis, Stephen (NCEH)" <stm3@cdc.gov>  
To: 'LarryGordon' <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: RE:

Thanks for sharing your optimism with me. I've passed it on to others in the group.  
Stephen Margolis

Date: Tue, 12 Feb 2002 09:45:58 -0500  
From: "Renard, Paul" <pgrl@cdc.gov>  
To: 'LarryGordon' <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: RE:

Thanks Larry, I enjoyed it and hope we have a cadre of folks committed to the points you make. Hope all goes well and I look forward to the opportunity to cast a fly with you sometime. My Best, Paul



Date: Wed, 27 Mar 2002 17:23:33 -0700  
From: Jim Dale <JDale@co.jefferson.co.us>  
To: eljaygee@unm.edu  
Subject: Re:

Thanks Larry

I have a motivational presentation to make in a couple months so would like to use some of your stuff...I'm a fan of M Scott Peck too.

Jim  
James E. Dale, DVM, MPH, MBA  
Director, Environmental Health Services  
Jefferson County Department of Health & Environment

Date: Fri, 05 Apr 2002 17:53:02 -0700  
From: Sarah Kotchian <skotchian@comcast.net>  
To: LarryGordon <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: Re: MPH Environmental Health Advisory Committee 4-24 Las Cruces 5-6:30

[The following text is in the "iso-8859-1" character set]  
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I wish you would have an opinion on something once in a while! Gee! You need to get rid of that Adjunct Professor title and replace it with Dean, FH...

Great!  
Sarah

Date: Wed, 10 Apr 2002 08:46:09 -0700  
From: Vijit Singh <VSINGH@CI.SIMI-VALLEY.CA.US>  
Reply-To: CEH - Environmental Health General  
<ENV-HEALTH-GENERAL@LISTSERV.CDC.GOV>  
To: ENV-HEALTH-GENERAL@LISTSERV.CDC.GOV  
Subject: Re: Nursing and Environmental Health

Prof. Gordon,  
Brilliant! Thank you for an objective reminder in all the hyperbole, that all disparate disciplines, function to serve one world.  
Sincerely,

Vijit Singh  
Household Hazardous Waste Program Mgr.  
Tel: (805) 583-6782  
Fax: (805) 583-6301  
email: vsingh@simivalley.org  
website: <http://www.simivalley.org>

Date: Wed, 10 Apr 2002 13:40:11 -0400  
From: Rebecca Head <headr@CO.WASHTENAW.MI.US>  
Reply-To: CEH - Environmental Health General  
<ENV-HEALTH-GENERAL@LISTSERV.CDC.GOV>  
To: ENV-HEALTH-GENERAL@LISTSERV.CDC.GOV  
Subject: Re: Nursing and Environmental Health

Hey - hello & thanks - I wanted to provide this to other folks & haven't yet  
this is very timely (as usual)! Hope all is well with you.



# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
500 S. Broad Street  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19146

MAURICE C. CLIFFORD, M.D.  
Health Commissioner

June 9, 1988

Larry Gordon, Secretary  
New Mexico Health and  
Environmental Department  
700 Camino de Salude NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Dear Larry:

I wish I could be there with you to help honor you with your many friends, co-workers and family.

Apart from the official celebration, I want to add my personal congratulations on your retirement - and of course my heart felt thanks for your dedicated service and concern for Environmental Health.

Things will not be the same around New Mexico's Health and Environmental Department, nor in the National Field of Environmental Health. You've earned your retirement, but we're going to miss you.

When I think of you goin' fishin I must admit a twinge of envy. And it's not only because you're leaving the 9 to 5 routine behind - it's because you managed to do it while you're still young enough to enjoy it.

So wherever you decide to spend your time - on the fairway, or at the ball game - heartiest congratulations.

Regards,

Rudolph L. Sutton

RLS:arf



# City of Albuquerque

P.O. BOX 1293 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87103

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

June 15, 1988

Larry J. Gordon, Secretary  
Health and Environment Department  
P. O. Box 968  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0968

Dear Larry:

Is it possible for a Larry J. Gordon to retire? Physically, perhaps yes. Mentally, historically, institutionally, inspirationally - no! What you have conceived, designed, obtained funding for, created, directed and statutorized will live on for many decades. The principles you have fostered, written about, expounded, and lived by have been and will be institutionalized by your students. Your influence on the field of public health, on schools and programs of public and environment health, on students and employees, on public health professionals for over four decades, has been enormous, as evidenced by the many thoughtful thank you letters you have received over the years. We who carry on the torch of public health do so partly for your sake but more importantly because you have taught us the importance and the solemnity of our entrusted mission of protecting and preserving the public health for this and future generations.

I have personally spent the most challenging and rewarding years of my work in public health to date in an environment in which you allowed creativity, initiative, questioning, leadership. I thank you for allowing me and all of your employees that opportunity, which for me has enriched my professional skills and my personal, family, and community life.

I have learned from watching you the importance of sticking to public health principles, of educating all of our publics, of not holding the reins too tightly, of objectively hearing both sides of any problem before acting, of the need to show leadership in difficult and ordinary times, and of a sense of humor. You have been important to me as a mentor and as a valued friend.

Air Pollution  
Division  
768-2600

Animal Control  
Division  
291-6250

Consumer Protection  
Division  
768-2600

Environmental  
Services Division  
768-2600

Weed and Litter  
Division  
823-4038

Community  
Education  
768-2600

Epidemiology  
768-2600

Larry J. Gordon  
June 15, 1988  
Page Two

I only have one regret; that distance and economics constrained me from attending that renowned university in Ann Arbor, instead receiving my MPH from a place between Puget Sound and Lake Washington. Such are the trials we all must bear.

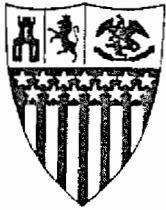
I look forward to your continued interest and involvement in public health in our city, state and nation.

Best personal regards,



Sarah B. Kotchian  
Director

SBK/jas  
6677V



# City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

P.O. Box 909, 200 Lincoln Ave., 87504-0909 (505) 984-6500

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Debbie Jaramillo, Dist. 1  
John T. Egan, Dist. 2  
Bernie Beenhouwer, Dist. 2

**Sam Pick, Mayor**

Thomas E. Baca, City Manager

**Councilors:**

David A. Schutz, Dist. 3  
Carlos A. Gallegos, Dist. 3  
Peso Chavez, Dist. 4  
Phil Griego, Dist. 4

May 31, 1988

Mr. Larry Gordon, Secretary  
Health and Environment Department  
P.O. Box 968  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0968

Dear Larry:

Retirement! Don't kid me. I've heard of your retirement at least six times over the past 24 years only to see you emerge as Director of this, or Administrator of that. Perhaps the future President of the U.S. has already talked to you (you always had a sixth sense) about the EPA position. An even better guess would be for you to take over the Environmental Section of the Public Health Services. Retirement? Not in my life time . . . I'll play along, however, to humor those who really believe this nonsense.

You remember when we first met, it was in July of 1964. I was offered my first professional job by Peter Griego. I expected to retire from that job. You were very cruel when you informed me that you didn't want to see me around in three years. Graduate school? I did fool you, however, by staying around for four years. One year longer than I should have.

I played along with you, graduate school, EIA, EID, etc, like a duck following its' mother. Little did I realize that I was on my way to becoming a well known Gordon "Clone". You never played fair, however, everytime I got comfortable in a position you were off again to be Director of this or Administrator of that. You were a great mentor but you really couldn't hold a job for very long.

The years have been good to you Larry. You survived the City of Albuquerque, "Ferdy's" power curve, and managed as you always have, to keep ahead of Governors and Legislators. You may be wondering about your position as Secretary of Health and Environment Department. Not too many people know this

L/Larry Gordon  
May 31, 1988  
Page 2

story, but I was first offered that title. I knew that I could not take the job until after you had served in the position. I told the Governor that there was this fellow in Albuquerque who liked to be Director of this and Administrator of that, and who might enjoy being Secretary. That's the rest of the story.

I am updating my resume which I'll send you right after you "RETIRE". I would enjoy and request an EPA position or perhaps a commission as "General" in the Public Health Service. Retire? You don't fool me.

Best Wishes,



Thomas E. Baca  
City Manager



# City of Albuquerque

P.O. BOX 1293 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87103

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

June 14, 1988

Larry J. Gordon, Secretary  
New Mexico Health and Environment Department  
P.O. Box 968  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-0968

Dear Larry:

My very best wishes to you on your "retirement!" Your career of dedication and accomplishments on behalf of the New Mexico and Albuquerque environment, as well as the health of our citizens has been outstanding. I know that your local and national commitment has been acknowledged by many well deserved awards over the years. But, I think an even more valuable, though less tangible, award is that, here in New Mexico, the words "environment" and "public health" are synonymous with the name "Larry Gordon."

I am happy and honored to have had my small part in your administration, to have shared a common environmental ethic, and to have known you personally as well as professionally. And I know -- that "retirement" doesn't mean that you won't continue to "do good things!"

Warm Regards,

Alana Rae Eager  
Community/Staff Development  
Coordinator

Air Pollution  
Division  
768-2600

Animal Control  
Division  
291-6250

Consumer Protection  
Division  
768-2600

Environmental  
Services Division  
768-2600

Weed and Litter  
Division  
823-4038

Community  
Education  
768-2600

Epidemiology  
768-2600



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DISTRICT 4

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DISTRICT 5

RON OLGUIN, COUNTY MANAGER

# County of Bernalillo

State of New Mexico

ONE CIVIC PLAZA, N.W.  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87102

ALVIN J. CAMPBELL, SHERIFF

ROBBIN BISHOP, TREASURER

GLADYS M. DAVIS, COUNTY CLERK

JOSEPH F. THOMSON, ASSESSOR

ROBERT H. SCOTT, PROBATE JUDGE

June 1, 1988

Dear Larry,

On behalf of the County Environmental Health Department, permit me to extend our staff's best wishes for a restful and well-earned retirement. I'm sure that on this special occasion there will be numerous accolades from a number of friends and professional colleagues, all of who are most familiar with the outstanding contributions you have made to the field of public health.

In keeping with the occasion, and of a somewhat lighter vein, I happen to come across this literary work in the public library:

## ODE TO RETIREMENT By Len Ingebrigtsen

Old age is golden, I've heard it said  
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed -  
With my ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup,  
My eyes on the table until I wake up.

Ere sleep dims my eyes, I say to myself,  
Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?  
And I'm happy to say as I close my door,  
"My friends are the same, only perhaps even more!"

When I was young, my slippers were red  
I could kick my neck right over my head  
When I grew older, my slippers were blue -  
But I still could dance the night through  
Now I am old, my slippers are black;  
I walk to the store - and puff my way back!

The reason I know my youth is all spent?  
My get up and go has got up and went.  
But I really don't mind when I think, with a grin,  
Of all the grand places my get up has been.


Since I have retired from Life's competition  
I busy myself with complete repetition:  
I get up each morning and dust off my wits;  
Pick up my paper and read the "Obits."  
If my name is missing, I know I'm not dead;  
So I eat a good breakfast - and go back to bed.

June 1, 1988

I hasten to add eat a good breakfast, relax, but don't go back to bed. Although your retiring from the realm of state and local bureaucracy, I trust that you will still find time to serve on a number of committees and in an advisory and consultative capacity.

On a final and personal note, I have and will always respect the man Larry Gordon, for it was he who gave me my start in the field of Environmental Health, it was he who taught me the basic skills of being a sanitarian, it was he who inspired and paved the way for furthering my professional education and it is to him that my family and I will be grateful and indebted. Larry, I truly thank you for the many things that you have done for me. I wish you and your family the best as you join the ranks of the Griegos, Kneafseys, and others who have contributed so much to our profession.

Best regards,

  
GENE CLEMENT

GC:km



# City of Albuquerque

P.O. BOX 1293 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87103

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

June 15, 1988

Larry J. Gordon, Secretary  
Health and Environment Department  
P. O. Box 968  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0968

Dear Larry:

On the occasion of your retirement, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for what you have given to me as an environmental health professional and for what you have given to the State of New Mexico and City of Albuquerque throughout your years of leadership in environmental health programs.

I feel privileged to have had you as a mentor and friend throughout my 18 year career in environmental health with the State and City. Your leadership, counsel, support and friendship have meant a great deal to me. While I know that, occasionally, my actions and decisions may have disappointed you, you should also know that, invariably, I later realized that your guidance was correct.

Certainly, the State and City have benefitted immeasurably from your vision, leadership, perseverance and professional approach. The legacy you leave will continue to serve as a national model.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to work with you, for being a role model, and most of all for being a good friend.

I do have a favor to ask. Now that you have gotten your priorities in order and will have more time to devote to some of the more important things in life, it would be helpful if you could do a bit better job of locating huntable quail populations. Neither of us wants to claim responsibility for killing the last quail in Luna County. If you could also locate a few "private pheasant patches," I'm sure I can find some green heads for Charlie to retrieve.

Good luck and best regards,

*W.C.B.*  
William C. Bennett

WCB/jas  
6676V

Air Pollution  
Division  
768-2600

Animal Control  
Division  
291-6250

Consumer Protection  
Division  
768-2600

Environmental  
Services Division  
768-2600

Weed and Litter  
Division  
823-4038

Community  
Education  
768-2600

Epidemiology  
768-2600

# MACOMB COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

CLINIC SERVICES  
469-5372

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
469-5236

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES  
469-5520

43525 ELIZABETH  
MOUNT CLEMENS, MICHIGAN 48043

(313) 469-5235

DANIEL C. LAFFERTY  
Director/Health Officer

LELAND C. BROWN, M.D.  
Medical Director

June 14, 1988

Mr. Larry Gordon, Secretary  
New Mexico Health and Environment Department  
P.O. Box 968  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0968

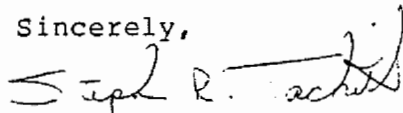
Dear Larry,

Recently, I was informed of your decision to retire and would like to add my sincere congratulations. I'm sure you are looking forward to this new career with the same enthusiasm, dedication and stamina you have given to both the citizens of New Mexico and the Public Health profession.

While I have not had the opportunity to work with you, I have had the benefit of the contributions made by you through your authorship abilities and your quest in searching for better avenues to respond to public health problems. However, it is your qualities as a role model for which I am most grateful. Your commitment to the well being of the public, your vision as to what is possible and your propensity to effect change are all attributes that many are seeking to emulate.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts, your vision and your energy and may you richly enjoy your new career.

Sincerely,



Stephen R. Tackitt, Director  
Environmental Health Services Division  
Macomb County Health Department

bsp

Mark A. Steenbergh  
Chairman

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Vice-Chairman

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H. L. J. VanderPutten - District 24  
Randy J. Johnson - District 25



HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
Bureau of Consumer Protection  
and Environmental Health

Constantine Panagis, M.D.  
Commissioner of Health

June 16, 1988

(414) 278-3676

Larry J. Gordon, Secretary  
New Mexico Health and  
Environment Department  
P. O. Box 968  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0968

Dear Larry:

I have been given the opportunity to write this letter along with others of your friends and colleagues from throughout the nation. The subject of your retirement is not one I looked forward to and yet I know of no one who is better deserving of a rest than you.

I recall quite vividly that about twenty-eight years ago, as a fairly new sanitarian, I became involved in some of the national organizations such as the American Public Health Association and what is now the National Conference of Local Environmental Health Administrators. Being the new kid on the block I listened intently to the old-timers as well as some of the more active individuals and soon learned that the name Larry Gordon was present in a majority of the conversations. The more I listened, the more I surmised that this individual I was hearing about was a person of foresight and many new and innovative ideas. That impressed me to the extent that I began to seek out papers you had written and attend, when possible, sessions you were giving or chairing.

It was refreshing to see a sanitarian who was advocating new and better ways to approach the problems of environmental health and was willing to buck trends and take any criticism that might result from such a stand. The long and short of it is that you soon became my ideal. I determined that that is the type of individual I would like to be as it appeared to me to be the most productive way for the long-term good of our profession. Throughout the years, Larry, I must say that you have never disappointed me. Not only have you continued to be the person I wanted to model after, but you have become what I consider to be a close friend. I can't count the times that you have helped me personally by giving me advice or by helping me in the ways you were able to in our professional association.

In the annals of the history of environmental health your name must stand among the very top of persons honored for contributing the most in technical knowledge, program development and unique management techniques. Your thoughtful papers, studies and presentations have served as constant references for

June 16, 1988

all of us as you have continued to pioneer our field from those early days right up until the time you have announced you were going to retire. Not only have you developed our field but you have developed people and relationships. That accomplishment is perhaps as important for the long-term good of our profession as the technical aspects of the profession itself. It has always been a pleasure to work with you and to fellowship with you. There are few who have influenced my life as much as you have and for that I want to thank you.

In the beginning I indicated a concern over hearing of your retirement. I guess that is natural because when a good leader such as you decides to retire the profession cannot help but suffer. On the other hand, I get the feeling from our recent discussions and what I have heard that perhaps the more accurate term would be that you are leaving one job, however your activity will not cease in the promotion and development of the field of environmental health. I suspect and hope that your influence will continue at least to some degree in the coming years.

As far as I am concerned, and I hope you concur, our friendship will never cease as I hope our fellowship will also endure. You enter your retirement being able to say "I ran a good race and finished strong." I want you to know, Larry, how very much I hope and pray that God will grant you a prosperous, happy and satisfying retirement and will maintain your health so that you can enjoy those things you have looked forward to for so long. Perhaps you will be able to get that boat out of the driveway more often now and for that I am happy for you.

Again, I wish to say "thank you from the very bottom of my heart for all you have done for me individually and our profession as a whole, and for being such a good friend!"

I look forward to our continued involvement and fellowship in the future.

Sincerely,



George A. Kupfer  
Director

GAK:dfj

From: <rgalvan245@charter.net>  
To: "Larry and Nedra" <1016Larry@msn.com>  
Subject: Re: Larry Gordon Papers  
Date: Friday, February 23, 2007 4:17 PM

Larry, thank you so very much for sharing these papers with the world. I know of no one more intellectually astute in the area of Environmental and Public Health than you. It is an honor for you to share a lifetime of knowledge and experiences with the world. I am personally most grateful to have you sharing this wisdom with me as you have in the past, but most importantly, to have you as a friend and colleague. My very best regards to you, Nedra and the family.

Bob



## **Main Identity - Backup**

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**From:** <rgalvan245@charter.net>  
:  
"Larry" <1016larry@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 05, 2007 1:18 PM  
**Subject:** CONGRATULATIONS

Larry,

I wanted to send you a note of congratulations on the wonderful recognition that will be bestowed on you - Doctorate of Letters - by your University. It not only is a wonderful recognition of you lifelong achievements but also the respect and admiration of your educational institution. You are a glowing example of uncompromised dedication and commitment to the Environmental and Public Health profession and I am extremely fortunate to have you as a role model, mentor and friend. Congratulations again on your recognition by your university and the world. My very best regards to you, Nedra and your family. Your friend, Bob

3/24/2008

## **Main Identity - Backup**

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**From:** "Conway, John B. (HSC)" <John-Conway@ouhsc.edu>  
**:** "Larry and Nedra" <1016Larry@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 14, 2007 12:50 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Honorary Degree

Larry,

Fantastic and well deserved. Those of us in the environmental health field owe you much and are proud of you. When someone asks me who my mentors were in Environmental Health, I always mention my academic advisor at Minnesota, Ted Olson, and then the following three professionals: 1) Larry Gordon; Ray Watts of Ohio; and Sam Reed of Washington. How could anyone do better?

My best to you and your family.

Jack

John B. Conway, MPH, PhD  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Occupational and Environmental Health  
College of Public Health  
The University of Oklahoma Health Science Center  
P. O. Box 26901  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104  
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Fax: (405) 271-1971

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**From:** Larry and Nedra [mailto:1016Larry@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 14, 2007 11:44 AM  
**Subject:** Honorary Degree

Larry: I want to thank you for posting all of your papers for the benefit of all environmental health practitioners. Working with you on EHAC and other projects has been one of the highlights of my own career. When I think of you and what you have contributed to the profession I sincerely believe that you were the only voice in the woods with a real sense of a vision for environmental health. You guided the profession in developing a philosophy for environmental health. That was a most difficult task. It is also an enduring gift to the profession.

I first heard of you in class at CSULA and UCLA from Charles Senn. I never thought that I would have a chance to work with you in those days. I was fortunate in that I did have that opportunity. Best wishes always and I look forward to seeing you at NEHA.

Warm regards,  
Frank Gomez

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**From:** Larry and Nedra [mailto:1016Larry@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 23, 2007 11:36 AM  
**Subject:** Larry Gordon Papers

NCLEHA Board of Directors:

Most of my papers have now been posted on the NCLEHA website as you authorized in 2005.

<http://www.ncleha.org/larrygordon/default.asp>

This website offers the opportunity to share 169 presentations, publications, policy letters and a sprinkling of media items.

The papers are those of a practitioner who has devoted considerably more than half a century to environmental health and other aspects of public health, including roles as a county sanitarian, district sanitarian, state sanitarian, chief sanitarian in a municipal health department, municipal health department director, founding director of a city-county environmental health department, PHS consultant, PHS Commissioned Officer, state environmental services division director, founding director of a state environmental improvement agency, founding director of a state scientific laboratory system, state administrator for health and environmental programs, APHA president, state deputy cabinet secretary for health and environment, state cabinet secretary for health and environment, visiting professor of public administration and adjunct professor of political science.

The papers include discussions of management, organization, public relations, marketing, planning, leadership, programming, mentoring, vision, values of environmental health, competencies, public policy, legislation, definitions, health education, scope of environmental health, the future of environmental health, awards and recognition, educational needs, mission, history, curriculum, community support, priorities, creating agencies, enactment of legislation, congressional testimony, continuing challenges, and numerous specific programmatic issues, as well as the future of environmental health.

The papers discuss victories and successes, as well as defeats and failures. Good ideas and ideas whose time had not arrived.

The papers should be of interest to students and environmental health practitioners desiring to lead and achieve.

The papers represent the career of a sanitarian.

**Main Identity - Backup**

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**From:** <rgalvan245@charter.net>  
**:** "Larry and Nedra" <1016Larry@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 08, 2008 10:23 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Train Ride

THANK YOU NEDRA AND LARRY.

YOU CANNOT BEGIN TO REALIZE HOW MUCH YOU HAVE ENRICHED THE LIVES OF SO MANY INDIVIDUALS WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE, EXAMPLE AND PROFESSIONALISM. LARRY, YOU ARE TRULY THE BEACON AND I AM HONORED YOU HAVE YOU AS MY COLLEAGUE, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, MY FRIEND. MY VERY BEST REGARDS. BOB

---- Larry and Nedra <1016Larry@msn.com> wrote:

3/24/2008