political science, literature, art, theology, philosophy and music, and don't think you have to graduate in 1992. Visit the Cleveland Art Museum whenever you can, and go often to Severance Hall.

"Take that semester or two for study in the British Isles and take side trips to the continent. Talk to students of other countries. Visit the great cities of Europe. Go to Berlin and stand on the Wall. Venture into some of those Eastern bloc countries and talk to the people about what freedom means. Read Henry Adams' 'Mount Saint Michel and Chartres' and then spend a week at the magnificent cathedral of Chartres to learn what the human spirit is capable of doing when it is not motivated by greed. Then come home and get involved in local politics."

That's the advice I would give Dave. It's not the advice most college students hear. As a result, the best of our students go into professions other than politics.

Robert Frost wrote a poem called "The Road Not Taken." It's about a person walking in the woods and coming to a fork in the road. It forces him to choose one path over another:

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —

"I took the one less traveled by.

"And that has made all the difference."

Those of us who are teachers, businessmen, scientists, clergy persons, journalists, lawyers, doctors and nurses once came to that fork in the road and decided not to go into politics. That road is still "the one less traveled by."

What would have happened if we had chosen to walk that road? Maybe for ourselves and for our country, it would have made all the difference. And that's why we should encourage our bright young men and women to venture down that less-traveled road.

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Mikhail Gorbachev, an agreement was made to use this oblast as the locale for a German-populated constitutent republic of the Soviet Union.

For Bonn, this solution is seen as a means of stemming the flood of German emigres from the Soviet Union.

For Moscow, it is seen as a solution to an ethnic problem that has been dogging the Soviets for many years.

Until 1941, there was a German Soviet Republic in the USSR, known as the Volga Autonomous Republic, located along the Volga River. In 1941, after the Axis invasion of the Soviet Union, Stalin dissolved the republic and exiled the Germans to the Kremlin's Central Asian republics of Kirghizian, Uzbeckistan, Tadzhikistan and, especially, Kazakhstan.

During the 1960s, the communists scrapped Stalin's decree that declared all Germans in the Soviet Union a fifth column of Hitler. This, in turn, led to demands by the Germans for their own republic.

This request was given tacit support by Leonid Brezhnev in 1972 through a decree authorizing the return of the Germans to the Volga region. Konstantin Ehrlich, editor of a German magazine in Kazakhstan and a leader of the German minority in the Soviet Union, revealed that decree in 1988, under the auspices of glasnost.

But the Russians, now rediscovering their own national awareness, are adamantly opposed to losing land to a new republic.

The Kremlin also toyed with the idea of creating a German republic in the northeast corner of Kazakhstan. Indeed, a proclamation to that effect was read in April 1989, at Yermentau. But the Kazakhs, like the Russians, are unwilling to see their republic divided up and also staged demonstrations.

Consequently, when, in July 1989, the people's deputies in the central government at Moscow read a declaration creating a commission for solving the problems of deported demand that the capital be restored to tened Konigsberg.

If the Soviet Union does establish a 16th republic, another Stalinist legacy will have to be addressed.

In 1945, as an attempt to appease Lithuanians rightfully upset at their forced annexation by Moscow, Stalin separated the 1,100-square-mile extreme northern sliver of East Prussia, known as Memelland, and united it with the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic. Hence, as part of de-Stalinization, Memelland would have to be returned to the new German Soviet republic.

Creating a German republic in northern East Prussia also would contain much historical irony.

When the first German state was established on the shores of the Baltic at the mouth of the Pregel River during the 13th century, it was the only German-populated area outside the control of the Holy Roman Empire. Today, a re-created German republic in East Prussia would also be the only German area of Europe outside the successor of the old empire, the European Economic Community.

While this fourth Baltic state is only planning on being a constitutent republic of the USSR, sovereignity may be an issue if Lithuania's secession attempts succeed since if Lithuania is independent, northern East Prussia would have no land connection with the remainder of the USSR.

In addition the fourth Baltic state, may have problems with its southern neighbor, Poland. Warsaw, despite concerns over declaring postwar European boundaries as sacrosanct, has been dickering with the Kremlin for several years to have Moscow cede the Kaliningrad Oblast to Poland. In addition, last summer, several Polish historians at a conference in Warsaw issued papers justifying Warsaw's annexation of eastern Lithuania in 1920 — the present-day area of Vilnius, Lithuania's capital.

The chilly waters of the Baltic are heating up.

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