

8 October 1981

Recommendation for HUBERT ALLEN

Hubert Allen worked as a research assistant for me for several months in 1980. I found the work he did during that time to be of very good caliber. His responsibilities included locating and tabulating an extensive data set from very diffuse sources, and conducting extensive analyses of the data once the file was assembled.

The strengths I observed in his work during this time were an obviously quick and intelligent mind, patience in doing the boring parts of a large project as well as the interesting ones, and substantial enthusiasm for all parts of the job. While working for us he actively participated in many aspects of the university, well beyond what would reasonably be expected of someone working for the sorts of slave wages we are able to offer. His intelligence, enthusiasm and willingness to work very hard for low return make him an excellent candidate for a successful graduate programme.

The weaknesses I observed in the time he was working for for us, were a tendency toward carelessness in the handling of some parts of the job, and a tendency to somewhat overdo things (in the sense that once turned loose with analyses of the data, he was ready to try everything). Neither of the weaknesses would impede successful completion of a graduate research programme. He is aware of the occasional lapses in his carefulness, and is more than willing to put in the extra time necessary to check things adequately. The second point, on overdoing projects, is no fault in a potential graduate study; a modest amount of supervision will assure maintained productivity. I would much prefer such a student to one with a tendency to cut corners in a project.

In summary, I feel that Mr. Allen is a good candidate for graduate work. His strengths are ones important to successful research, and his weaknesses are both slight, and in areas of small consequence. I am confident that a supervisor would get a very large return in production for a modest investment of supervisory time.

Please feel free to contact me, should additional information be of use.


Dr. Jake Rice