

March 2, 1993

3125 Tecumseh River  
Lansing, MI 48906

Dear Mom and Dad,

Thanks again for the Valentine's gift. I sent it on to Tom and Amy. Tom has moved. He is sharing a 3-bedroom apartment with two other guys. It has 2 pools and is closer to the University of New Orleans, where he is going to school. He pays only about \$125 a month. He says one of his roommates has allergies, so they have no pets. He said he is learning to cook with a wok. One of the courses he is taking at UNO is Music Appreciation, and he is finding out that there is some classical music he can enjoy. He is still not very enthusiastic about computer science. He said he almost switched to Philosophy. He has been playing racquetball a couple times a week. He is still delivering pizzas. He's not seeing anyone, but he just put an ad in the personals. He's still intensely interested in Ayn Rand-style economics/politics. His new address is 1035 Lake Ave., Apt. A33, New Orleans, LA 70005. His phone number is (504) 831-6815.

Amy says she is going to stay at the ashram until September, at least. She says she's been learning that by only focusing on ourselves, we only become more miserable, and although one must contemplate one's life and live thoughtfully, to get rid of suffering the thing to do is not focus on the problems. Instead of trying to get others to help you and make you feel better, you should shift your focus and try to see what you can do for others. She says Gurumayi (the Indian woman who is the spiritual leader at the ashram) has challenged them with a contemplation for 1993: What can I do to make this world a better paradise? "And frankly," Amy writes, "I haven't thought about it very much yet."

It is spring break for Carol, the student, so we are going to take a couple days off and take a trip. We decided on Cincinnati for no particular reason. We are leaving this Thursday morning and coming back Sunday. So you will have to celebrate Dad's birthday without us.

I got a package from Edith last month - 34 color sides of me and the kids and other family members. John Bailey is in several of them, and Grandma Harry is in one. Edith was not in any of them. There was no note included, which seems out of character, and the return address looked like an office address rather than a home address. Maybe her new mate is the jealous type. I will try to remember to bring them next time we visit.

We have been doing a lot of duck watching, and Sunday there was a little possum in our yard eating corn for about an hour. Besides the mallards, which are always there - even up on the deck after sunflower seeds, lately - we see American mergansers, American goldeneyes, old squaws, and one day there was a lone pintail

hanging around with the mallards. Some are fun to watch because they are divers. Tonight I dipped a coffee can full of seeds out of the bag in the garage, and when I poured them into the feeder on our balcony, a mouse jumped out and fell to the lower deck. The squirrels are getting aggressive. One came up on the balcony tonight when I was filling the feeder.

I volunteered to be treasurer of the City Council Recall Committee. We want to get rid of all but one member of the Council - the only one who voted against the early retirement plan. There are about 7 of them. Our recall effort will be directed only at the 3 who are not up for election in the fall. We've had a couple meetings, but I'm not sure the effort will really get off the ground. I think the citizens are angry enough, but it takes a lot of work to collect enough signatures.

Dayna is home on break from Ferris this week. Doug is getting married in August. He is studying for his Masters at Western. Alick is doing fine; we had him most of the day Saturday while his parents were moving from their flea-infested apartment to a new place, this time a house in St. Johns. Alick is saying a few words; his first was "pretty".

Happy birthday, Dad.

Love, Steve & Carol