

September 29, 1994

3125 Tecumseh River Rd
Lansing, MI 48906

Dear Tom,

Thanks for the book and the loan repayment. Amy sent me *Couplehood* by Paul Rieser. I read that and I am just starting on *Private Parts*. I haven't read a book in a long time. All I read is the newspaper and Newsweek. I don't seem to have time to read. Fiction seems like such a waste of time, and when I read non-fiction, I think that I'd rather be writing my own stuff. But I haven't been doing much writing either. The enclosed is the last thing I wrote, and that was months ago. It presents my new theory that the cause of unemployment is the high cost of living.

What are you doing besides selling prints? Any social life? Other interests? Are you going to make a career of this, or are you saving money for something else? What might that "something else" be? I told Amy last night that she should get a Masters in Journalism. You are a good writer - you should consider that, too.

What is the Edwardsville area like?

We have been doing a lot of landscaping. We had most of the old shrubs removed and we put in new stuff. Now we are putting in edging to separate the lawn from the old stone and the new red lava rock that surrounds the shrubs. We have spent some nice weekends working in the dirt when we should have been playing.

Carol is 1 week into a 2-week course of antibiotics prescribed to get rid of a suspected bacterial infection of the stomach. The bacteria is called *Helicobacter Pylori*, and it causes stomach discomfort, peptic ulcers, and allergic reactions. We don't know for sure that she has got it, but the symptoms described in the literature are very much like what she has been experiencing for years. Her doctor is treating her without waiting for the blood test results, which may not be conclusive. This is not her regular doctor; her regular doctor has been telling her that her stomach problems were due to nerves, and didn't act quickly enough when Carol presented her with the information she had found on *Helicobacter Pylori*, so Carol called a doctor whose kids she had babysitted for years ago and he readily agreed to give her the prescriptions. Carol learned of *Helicobacter Pylori* from a Reader's Digest article her mother had told her about a year ago. More recently, I read an article saying it could cause allergies. When she finally got around to doing some

research, she convinced herself that she is infected. She has high hopes of feeling well, like a normal person, at the end of the 2 weeks.

Carol will finish her bachelors degree next spring and she plans to start working on her Masters in Social Work at MSU next fall.

I'm thinking about running for mayor in 3 years, even if there is no chance in hell of winning. It will give me a platform to talk about ideas like real/electronic democracy and getting the unions out of government. Also, the City of Lansing has a rental inspection program in which landlords are forced to register rental dwellings and submit to inspections every 2 years. The registration fee is \$100 and the inspection fee is \$64, but the biggest expense is the repairs demanded by the inspectors. I think the whole program is a violation of the 4th amendment to the Constitution, which bans "unreasonable searches and seizures", but I have yet to do any legal research.