

Sunday 1/24/1988 High Noon

Dear Shirley--

Sure enjoyed your nice informative letter and the enclosures. Sounds like it is going to be an interesting adventure. I hope you figure out some way to have more parking space. The one^{for}rents extra rooms in an old restored house across the street (offices on first floor). I especially hope it is a success just because seven women decided to do it. Need I say more? The large turnout for your opening should be a good advertisement. We are looking forward to seeing it.

Your saying that it gets harder and harder to run the ~~form~~ because the decisions are made so far from the trenches reminds me of black acquaintance during the integration and civil rights movement. She said 'they keep saying what the blacks want, but they do not ask us'.

We hear so much about the poor quality of the education in the U.S. but it is all from those who are not teaching--or learning. I still think the emphasis should be put on the earliest grades--not start the reforms in the colleges--although they may be very much in need of it, too. I recently heard a University student talking on the phone--while several customers were waiting--and he said "Me and him are going to work it out." And he was talking to his boss.

I feel the same way about building more and more prisons--if the money was spent taking care of small children I am sure there would much less need for prisons.

Talked to Michael, Josh, and Tyler this morning. Faye was at the washateria. I needed some information from them. Michael said they had been out digging out the driveway, etc after last night's six inch snow fall. Josh wanted to know if we had any snow. Tyler told a long tale that needed interpreting and Michael said it was about his getting in trouble for taking snow off the cars and eating it, which is verboten.

Had letters from both Eleanore and Elva this week--as well as Faye. She does not write often but when she does it is long. It seems that Laura was staying in the hospital a little longer than most--several stitches apparently. All those good muscles may have some advantages but perhaps not always.

Janis is back at work part time and that sure is good. I was afraid she would give it up entirely and that would be awful.

I am glad Chris enjoys college and also realizes he is there to learn--and gets such good grades. I agree with you about half time shows--that used to be the main reason I watched football. Now I do not watch at all--I go off in another room and read etc. Frankly, the game is too violent for me--plus the very boring commentary as though we were all so dumb we did not know what is going on in front of us. But it is a good excuse for not interacting with your families and it gives me something real important to talk about when they see each other.

A friend of mine, who is running a youth (10-17) emergency shelter, used to supervise the staff in several day care centers in Dallas and that age group is her line of expertise. When I told her of your possible interest in young mothers she put a list of good books together for you and I will mail it when I pick it up. She was also active in PARENTS ANONYMOUS.

Did I tell you I have gotten involved in the literacy program? A grant ran out and the instructor (a University student single parent) had to give up her class and the librarian ask me to help out. No trainging, starting in the middle, etc. My students are from Iran, Germany, South Korea and they just

added one from Mexico. The last one may be in the wrong group. He is here to learn English so he can go to a seminary to be a priest. He is high school age. The South Korean has been here ten years--married a US soldier, I think. The German is here for a year to learn English so she can be a stewardess--she speaks Spanish, too. The Iranian is a mother and ~~housewife~~ housewife whose son is in the University, her daughter in fifth grade, and her husband in Dallas. I really enjoy them and they try so hard. This week I start a series of six training sessions. I am not sure whether it will be the "English as a Second Language" or a mixture. What I am already doing they call ESL. →

I just finished "Sisterhood is Global". Although I don't think I should say 'finished'--I read all the introduction and then skipped around and read the parts about the countries that really interested me. The author is Robin Morgan. I am about to pick up Tip O'Neils book.

I have not read as much lately, I guess. We are into politics in a big way, again. We want to elect a good sheriff, a couple new county commissioners and for the city a mayor and one or two council members. To say nothing of our state rep. and president. One of the men running for commissioner is on his way over here right now for some materials I have to share with him. Sure hope he wins. This past week has been a merry-go-round about the state (through a private outfit) ~~and~~ place a pre-release type prison here. We want it but these for did not get really active until it looks like we may have lost it to a town down the road about fifteen miles. The 'aginners' were loud and active through spreading a lot of false information and of course there ~~are~~ political egos involved. So we shall see and I will fill you in on the details someday.

Bill is baking bread today and trying to make white for a change. He is following Eleanore's recipe and it is quite interesting to say the least. I am on call for the Women's Center.

Thought the enclosed editorial would interest you.

Time to quit.

Love

Thia