

Fri afternoon

1971

Dear Mom + Dad -

We're winding up the childrens
programs tomorrow + then

I have a slight "calm before
the storm."

with the pastor at Immaculate
Heart Ch - where we're having
our summer program. He likes
Sister Marie - but feels that
Father & Gene are "dangerous
revolutionaries". He told Father
Ford that "he'd had us thoroughly
investigated by the FBI." (He
really did) - At any rate the
summer program will be conducted
at IHM - as planned. A lot of
Irish hot air I guess.

Doctor Mead was charming. She's
a brilliant woman. - She's got a
lot of vision as to where things
are headed. It was fascinating

I had a 24 hr virus this
week that was brutal - but
I got a lot of sleep &
feel much better. I was
nursed back to health by
Margaret Huggs, Johnnie Brown
& Sister

Dh - well - So much
for now.

Love
Dave

Wed PM Feb 3 1A

Dear Mom + Dad -

Feb 3 1971

Would you believe I'm finally getting around to writing. Funny how minds work - me calling you + you hearing just called.

Things are going good. The last half of Jan I hit sort of a slump + couldn't seem to do anything right. It was like being on a treadmill + wondering what the hell am I doing here. Now I know what some of the prisoned volunteers are talking about when they hit slumps. At least it's over.

I've got several more in the fire now. I'm starting to get involved in working on a coalition between the NWRO in our

area - a group of white welfare recipients¹⁰
in a white ghetto (?) called - aptly -
Cabbagetown. The organizer on the other end
is a great woman named Esther Kefauver.
She & her husband worked for Mennonite
Service Committee for a long while - including
a stint in Vietnam. She is now a school
community worker & her husband teaches
at Spelman College. I was in for
a surprise today - among their 4 children
is a 3 yr old black child that they
adopted. (They're both white). She
said that it's difficult for the poor
whites that she works with to accept
the situation - but they come around.

In my continuing battle against
the damned gas company - I ran

across a woman today who had had her
gas cut off - As a result the baby
caught pneumonia & wound up in the
hospital. Now today she brought the
kid home from the hospital & paid off
the gas co. & they told her - that they'd
took her back up tomorrow - All
the men were too busy to do it today
(probably with cut offs). Well -

I saw to it that the shit hit the
fan (if you'll pardon the expression). I
had to go all the way to the director
of the state public service commission -
but by God - the family has heat!
It just didn't register that bringing a
kid home from the hospital to a cold

I mean COLO.) apartment after a 215
bout with pneumonia - was not healthy

I'm sort of concerned - tonight we
had some light rain + its starting to
freeze - Snow trees are a non-
entity here in Me. It really gets
cold. Our houses have been cold -
Heating these high-ceilinged houses
is ~~like~~ ~~damn~~ with these little gas
heaters is like draining the ocean
with a thumbtack - We have hot air
heat also but its effect is nil.

Set. Im taking an all day
course in draft counselling at the
Quaker House. I'm thinking of starting
a counselling service here.

Well I better close - its late

Love

Dave

Spring 71

Dear Mom & Dad -

I hope I answered all of your questions on the phone. I regret that I didn't call on Tuesday - but as a matter of fact I went out drinking beer - & those occasions are mighty rare. Gene & I went to visit a friend of his that used to be a VISTA in a neighborhood near here. It was a fun evening.

Wed was a fun evening too - but in a much different way. Mrs. Mathews + I went to speak to a church group - not really speaking - but more getting acquainted. It was hilarious because it was a demonstration of the worst in churches. For example - the

women who says "I'm so glad to see you here"
when she knows nothing about you + in actuality
doesn't really care to. (an Ethel Petty). That
kind of thing was nothing compared to
this other guy who had the attitude that
the Church + the clergy should never be
criticized. Well - I begged to differ with
him + we were off + running. He got on
the war + I didn't really get into that
with him. He went on to say that Russia
was an atheistic country. + that
our govt was Christian - well Round 2
started. Sister Marie was eating up the
rebeling of it - she says that the
people from this house make quite
a circus. At any rate he hadn't bargained
for all this from someone who was there
to talk at a future time about urban
problems. Needless to say Mrs.
Mathews got in her jibes too. Well -
I think we're going back in a few wks

to talk to the whole group.

Last p.m. we went horseback riding
near Stone mt. - that was fun - tho
it sure got dark quick.

Tuesday PM [possibly Spring '71]

Dear Mom and Dad-

It was great talking to you tonight and very theraputic. The last 24 hours have been wicked. I spent a lovely 3 hours trying to keep an alcoholic with bleeding ulcers pinned down in the surgical emergency room at Grady. The long wait was terrible & he'd go spit up blood & then two minutes later, when I had my back turned, he'd go bolting down the ambulance ramp. After about two hours, his wife - also alcoholic - got very abusive with the nurse about the long wait. At least it ended well.

I'll be happy to give Gene his picture. He wants to give it to his girlfriend. Oh, Dad- he paid you a compliment of the highest order (though slightly dubious to the untrained observer). He's always talking about people's roles when the revolution comes-- And he believes that although your [sic] too old for the front lines for the front lines, you would make a good general. How would that hit some of our Illinois kin.

B's] chances of getting straightened out are hopeful. We may have nabbed this before it got out of hand. We're counting on our ability to match her charm with some rich old dowager's money to get her into a good school.

Well - so much for now.

Don't take the early part of my letter and decide I'm depressed- 'cause I'm not really. It's all very unfortunate and sad. I'm just temporarily drained. That's life.

Things are looking up.

Love,

Dave

Tues. PM

1A

Dear Mom & Dad -

It was good talking to you tonight - very therapeutic. The last 24 hours have been wicked - last night I spent a lovely 3 hours trying to keep an alcoholic with bleeding ulcers pinned down in the surgical emergency room at Grady - the long wait was terrible & he'd go spit up blood & then two minutes later when I had my head turned - he'd go bolting down the ambulance ramp. After about

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NOVE

DWZ

Thurs. - Apr. 1

Dear Mom + Dad -

Would you believe that I'm finally writing?

Things have been pretty busy - were marching on the regional HEW office tomorrow - so I'm trying to get some people up.

I'm going to be working with 3 or 4 first graders on reading within the schools - ought to be fun.

I'm either coming down with a cold or spring allergy - I don't know which yet. Whatever it is -

I wish it would go away.

Mrs. Magby - our housekeeper - was operated on last wk for kidney - bladder difficulties. Apparently she's coming along fairly well.

So much for now - I'll write again later.

Love,

Dave

P.S. - I didn't forget the maps

I'll send them separately.

D.

Wed -

Dear Mom, Dad -

June 71

I thought this weekend would be the calm before the storm - but no such luck. I'm trying to complete a grant proposal for the Washington trip - put the final touches on my youth program + get everything

wrapped up into a neat little package

This weekend we're all going away to Lake Allatoona - to orient the new staff - + have what Sr. Marie refers to as a "weekend of fun".

Ought to be a nice breather.

I've got my new roommate - John Zugnorie - a law student from Albany, Calif. (near San Francisco). He's
(best)

worked here before. We also got 2
new staff members yesterday from
Union College in N.Y. We expect
5 more.

We had some sad news on Sun. -
Dennis Goldstein - who left shortly
after I came - lost his father. The man
had been very ill for sometime. Cause
of death was TB. No one even suspected
that. They could have controlled it had

they discovered it.

Last Sat was interesting. One of the former volunteers here was ordained at the Cathedral. It was a pretty service. I saw our bishop - a real tottering old man. I said I didn't realize he was so frail - Fr. Ford said he wasn't - that he'd been tottering for 25 yrs + it was all a big act. Such is life.

Well - so much for now -

Love

Dave