

Tom Johnson

Sunday June the 30th
SF Calif

Dear Sylvia:

Hope this note finds you doing all right; we're fine.

Eric (my son) spent the spring semester at the State University of Leningrad after his graduation from Stanford. He spend a week out here with us after he got back from the USSR and was full of all kinds of interesting stories. He said Gorbachev has electrified the country in much the same way that John Kennedy did here in the early 1960s. (That gives me a glimmer of hope for the world.) Eric said he was very favorably impressed with the Soviet Union except for two things: no freedom of speech, and no freedom of travel. He is trying to move to NY and will probably be up there maybe by this fall; I will tell him to give you a ring and say hello.

Speaking of NY, Carol Anne and I may be moving there at long last. It won't be for about a year (summer of 1986, probably) but all developments now seem to point in that direction. She's doing very well at the Bank of America but they are moving her department to Concord next year. Concord is suburban California, across the Bay and on the other side of Oakland. SF is a great city, second only to NY in the US, but Concord is something else again. So we won't go. She is getting offers (though she has not looked for any yet) from IBM in White Plains and a couple of the big banks in Manhattan. So when the BofA makes its move to Concord, we will probably make our move to the East. That makes sense from my point of view, too, as I've become a Marxist academically and should be able to get a teaching job much easier in the NY area than in any other part of the country. I should be able to finish my MA at SF State (in Marx, in the Philosophy Dept) next summer, so that would all work out well; I can go on for the PhD in NY, while teaching a few courses at the same time. (I hope.)

I have just about given up on American politics. IN VIEW OF television's stranglehold on the country, propelling people like Reagan into the White House, there can be no fundamental change. Ted Kennedy and House Democrats are making a bee line for the Center, preparing the ground for a broad agreement on things like Nicaragua, terrorism (when 'they' do it), welfare, defense and all the rest of it. So we're stuck with the Cold War mind-set for the foreseeable future. That it will tear the guts out of the productive capability of this country, reduce it to a debtor nation for the long haul and impoverish the whole world through moronic schemes such as Star Wars, to say nothing of increasing the chances for nuclear war, seems not to matter. But I won't go on with this, as you know it as well as I.

Drop a line if you get a chance. Will keep you informed of the NY possibility as it comes about. Hello to Ted. Take care...

amigo,

