

Dear Walter,

3/19/34

Not until yesterday did I get a chance to talk to Leda. She was over to bring things from their garden and to tell me how happy Eddie is with a power tool I loaned him, one it is now not wise for me to use. It saves him much effort when his back gives him chronic trouble. I had just finished some spraying and had to rest and could appear to have to speak slowly, as I wanted to do so she could follow me carefully. Alas she has put on much weight and ~~she~~ had it all inflated before I finished with the cautions. She is all up in the air with happiness and visualizes a script, not a book, finished in no time at all. Little by little I'll go to work on that. But she is happy and she looks forward to seeing any or all of you. Including Yvonne, from who we heard about a week after you called.

We are prejudiced, of course, but discounting at least some for prejudice I have formed the impression ^{from} her voice and the way she uses it (I do not mean artificially) that she has her feet on the ground, her head screwed on straight, and is a very pleasant person. Her laugh is easy and natural.

It happens that my surgeon, who I see regularly, was chief of surgery at Georgetown until recently. So I suggested to her that she let me know when she completes her present education and is interested in medical research. That happens to be one of his interests. He invented the first heart valve, as I understand it, and other things, and has an eastern shore property he is going to turn into a medical museum for such things having to do with the heart and circulation and for use as a place to hold seminars. He ought to have the kind of connections useful to a young person interested in medical research and also an experienced librarian. And I think he is the kind of person who would be willing to make an effort.

We look forward to Yvonne's visit, either as she returns from her vacation or the first weekend after it ends.

If Rosa's visit coincides with that of one of Eddie's nieces a magazine piece may be possible. She is married to Jeris White, who left the Washington Redskins football team last year as a defensive star when the millionaire owner would not give him a raise and when he had not suffered any major injury. He is a wise young man from Hawaii, with a real estate business in Florida. Sort of class conscious despite his relatively good personal situation. We liked him and his wife, who did a first-rate bootstrapping job to get herself out of a bad environment and into a decent job. She is now, at about 30, getting her college education. I don't keep up with athletics or magazines, although I'm a Redskins fan and we are both Baltimore Orioles (baseball) fans, but I think that a different kind of view of blacks in professional sports could make a good and interesting piece. More the kinds of fine humans they are rather than merely outstanding athletes, and particularly the good things they do that do not get the attention Dave Winfield's foundation gets. The social good done by the blacks (and not alone blacks) on the Redskins and Orioles is considerable, and they are superlative peer models. Even those who get in trouble, for how they handle it and how they come out of it, Redskins Tony Peters a current example. He was involved in a dope transaction as a favor, never using or selling it, told the truth, no baloney, went to jail, no special pleas, and came out to do great community service and to be well and happily received. Saying only the right things.

It was so good to hear from you, to hear that you are doing so well and that maybe we'll have a chance to see you before the summer is over.

Best,