

3/30/89

Dear Howard,

The main thing is that you (pl)enjoy what you are doing.

I've never known anything about Lucas Films other than the little you mentioned so I knew nothing about the changes. I hope they are all good and keep you happily occupied.

Sure all that travel was tiring but it must have been worth it, getting paid for seeing so much of the world.

You were lucky to be far removed from what was done to commemorate the 25th anniv. last year. With one exception they were bad. The one was a master's thesis documentary done by a student friend, Gerard "Chip" Selby, aired by A & E. Reasonable Doubt. When he completes his degree, which should be soon, he plans doing more.

You are right about the press, to a degree. When it wants to it can grab and use very small things, only not many of them at a time. For years it just hasn't wanted to.

I don't know whether or not you realize it but not a single part of Lifton's theory is even tenable. This comment based on what you said about the press not being able to deal with what he says. And even the theory may have been stolen by him from Fred Newcomb. Newcomb did have that theory in an article of long ago, long before Lifton's book.

Thanks but the recovery from the cataract operation appears to be about complete. I've new glasses that are wonderful for driving and TV but not as good for readings as I see the doc on that next week.

I'm not doing much work because I'm not physically up to it. I stay tired and I've not much strength but I'm not sick or in pain save when I force the pain in my walking. It is possible that a new cause may have turned up Tuesday on a checkup, when I heart murmur was detected. I've having some tests done Monday on it and will later perhaps know more. I have filed a malpractice/negligence claim under Maryland's Health Claims Arbitration Act, pro se, against the local hospital and the urologist. I'm too old for lawyers to see enough recovery so I had no choice other than merely forgetting it. I don't know whether I ever told you any of what happened 1/86, we've been out of touch for so long. If you are interested I will. As best I can evaluate it technicalities may be a problem, and my own ignorance, but I think fact will not be a problem. The SOB went off of his way to give me more clots.

I'm glad that the end of the tax season is nigh. It drains Lil too much. Save for her chronic arthritis and headaches she is OK.

Your electronic typewriter or computer reminds me of what may amuse you. I had to be hospitalized for what is ordinarily outpatient surgery, for five days, returned home with a don't know how many stitches in the eye (two have been cut and the others do not dissolve), with no pain at all but with temporarily impaired and distorted vision. This early morning when I went out for the papers is the first time in five months that I've not seen towers of lights for each individual incandescent. So, I had trouble seeing this small type face and reading and correcting it, especially when I could not use the better eye at all. So, I thought I'd take a crack at an electronic, got a fabulous buy on one, liked its appearance and that if its product, and never did get to where I could control it, not it control me. The difference in keyboard slope, the way I have to sit and the gadgets at the ends of the shift bars did me in. I had to give it back. I was getting all caps when I wanted not, erasing entire lines I did not want to erase, and where I now get one, even the wrong one of two keys that I strike by accident, with that modern marvel I always got at least these two.

Glad you are both well and happy and hope your folks and sister also are.

Our best,

Harold

March 21, 1989

Dear Harold,

It was wonderful to get your letter. It has been a very long time. Your letter was right; I am busy and detached from the past. I've thought about you and Lil a lot. As you can imagine, I've been caught up in the hectic pace of my current life and the result is that I've been pretty awful about staying in touch with people who I care about.

Things have changed dramatically for me since the last time we were in touch. I'm still working for Lucas, but the company has been through many changes. A few years ago, I began growing quite restless with practicing law and decided that it was time for me to move on to more creative pursuits...undoubtedly inspired by the environment that I work in. At about that time, I hired a very senior attorney to work for me, and he ultimately succeeded me. I was asked to assume the role of Vice President of Licensing. Licensing is the division of the company that is responsible for marketing all of the ancillary products that come out of our film properties...things such as Star Wars toys, books, records, and the like. I'd had a lot of exposure to this field as General Counsel, but now, for the first time, I was asked to run a business on my own. It's a very different responsibility, and one that I was eager to assume. It's been a trying, growing process for me, but on the whole I've been very happy.

The new job combines the best of business skills and creativity. Like always at Lucasfilm, there are a myriad of opportunities just waiting to be seized. This job allows me to seize more of them. I'm also responsible for marketing our properties worldwide, which means that I have had to do extensive foreign travel. That's been a mixed blessing. I've become the resident expert on Japan, having travelled there now several times and done a few major deals. I'm also travelling a lot to Europe and Brazil. It's wonderful to get such a global perspective and participate in so many diverse cultures, but it's also quite draining. I spend too much time on the road, which is one of the reasons that my time has been so limited.

Duane is doing well and sends his best to you and Lil. He is working as a systems analyst for Pacific Bell and is happy with his job, other than the fact that he has a very long commute (50 minutes each way). We've enjoyed living in San Francisco.

With the 25th anniversary of the assassination last year, I was reminded of how distanced I feel from the subject. I was

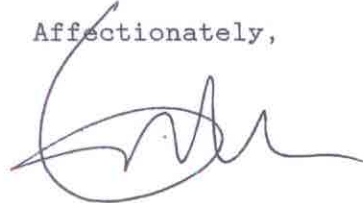
approached early on for the NOVA special, and in talking to those people it hit me that my research into the assassination has become a part of my past. It was a vitally important part of my life and my development, but today it is remote. I knew they were talking to Tink Thompson, who is now also living in San Francisco and is a minor celebrity with his private detective practice (which I suppose is a bit more interesting than studying Kierkigarde). I figured then that they would wind up dedicating a big part of their show to him, and indeed they did.

The press coverage of the 25th anniversary taught me something about the press that I should have learned a lot earlier. The press as an institution is able to deal with macro things -- with trends, with concepts, with the "big picture". It is not equipped to deal with micro things -- with details, with elaborate facts. The reporting on the 25th anniversary, particularly the specials, was for the most part pure bullshit. The press can find a man like David Lifton and interview him, but it's not equipped to deal with what he has to say. The result is that pure fiction gets embraced as a sort of quasi-fact. It's sad, but it's real.

I hope that you and Lil are well, and that your recovery from your cataract operation is successful. When you have time, please write to me to let me know more about what is happening with both of you. I'd like to know what you are working on now, and hear your reflections -- about the past, as well as about where we are today. If you feel up to it, I'd love to hear from you.

Please send my love to Lil. I miss you both.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. M. L.', written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.