

Dear Dave,

5/10/91

We are glad that Elaine is coming along. She is luckier than Bill's younger sister, Belle, who had a medicine prescribed along with instructions to stay out of the sun! We don't know why it was prescribed but suppose that the sun reacts with it somehow.

That Bud left so little for preservation and continuation of his pet AARC does surprise me. And it does confront the board with a serious problem, what to do.

I've not been asked and won't be, of course.

I think they may decide to offer it to a DC area institution, and of them Bud got from Georgetown the FBI's general releases of 1977-8. This alone reflects at least Georgetown's attitude. While I think it no impossible that all or most of the universities would accept the deposit, that means nothing if they do nothing with it. To make it available, to encourage its use.

That is where food would be different and where that material would be most likely to be used.

At the same time Jim, Mark Allen and others might prefer having it close to where they live because they intend to use it, for writing or for other purposes. They have done enough to at least warrant consideration of their desires. My own view is that what is of value in AARC is the records obtained in Allen's litigation. The rest is either largely nutty or duplicative, like the general releases.

But I doubt that most of the board would agree with me on what is nutty.

I doubt that either Jim or Mark could find the time to prepare anything like a documentary or for writing more than an occasional article. But for whom?

Too bad. I'm sorry for the problem these people now face and about which they can do so little, almost nothing without some criticism.

Lardner's story will be delayed a week by the attention already scheduled to the riots in DC. They appear not to be considering any other than a Sunday story.

I did not see/hear Stone on the two sequences of Inside Edition but expect cassettes for the record.

What may amuse you is what my rabbi friend asked, if I'd heard the one about Sununu phoning Dial-a-Prayer and asking, "Any messages for me?"

Best to you all,

May 6, 1991

Harold Weisberg
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Dear Harold:

Everything seems to proceed here as normal. Elaine continues to improve rapidly as science defines the exact cause of her malady and prescribes the cure.

Jim Lesar phoned me last night late. On June 8 there will be a board meeting of the Assassin Research Center to discuss what to do. I will need a thinking cap on he said.

Bud left a 150,000 trust fund to sustain the ARC; its interest is drawn from conservative investments. The fund is obviously way, way too low to even dream of doing what is minimally essential to keep the doors open. The additional hitch comes from the fact they must wait until the sister dies to collect the fund. They have money to keep the ARC open til July 1.

It is unbelievable that this state of affairs could come to pass by Bud Fensterwald; ^{inadequate} Not even the rudimentary base for *sustaining* his great project has been lain down. I always thought his vanity would keep the thing plugging along in its sad way.

Now immediate decisions must be made on what to do. Previous comments by Jim and his buddy Mark on publications to raise the esteem and establish the credentials of the ARC through sophisticated publications, e.g., documentaries, finding guides, etc., now must be tossed overboard as they struggle to keep the boat afloat.

What contingencies have been set forth in the eventuality of a disaster? What to do with the collection, now starting to bulge at the seams? What about the preservation of delicate materials? and on and on.

Just a note to update you. Isn't it profoundly sad?

Regards

DM
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