

Friday, 22 January

Dear Melvin,

I would like to start out by thanking for taking time out to write, but unfortunately with the scope of interests that you mentioned in your letter I'm afraid you would find me rather uninteresting. As far as sports are concerned, there are very few that I know anything at all about, and have never been interested enough to take time out to learn a few things about them. I've tried skiing a few times and almost went to meet my maker so I finally gave it up as a lost cause. Skating (ice), hiking, swimming and canoeing are some of the activities that I enjoy, plus a few "indoor sports" which I will not mention at this time because I am not sure of your intentions. However, I would like to get to meet you. We could probably discover a few things that we do have in common.

By the way, I hope you will excuse my English if it doesn't come up to par sometimes, you see I am of French descent and I have by no means mastered the English as yet; probably never will either. I am American-born but my parents are French and I didn't speak anything but French till I was 15. I hope you will bear with me and keep this in mind.

Now then, a few things about myself; I am 5'10" tall and I weigh 160 pounds. I'm fairly well built and have light brown hair and blue eyes. I have done a considerable amount of traveling while I was in the service (Air Force) both here and abroad. I've been to Hawaii, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, and to just about every country in Europe with the exception of Norway, Sweden and Finland. Unfortunately, I was "straight" at the time and missed out on a considerable number of what could have been some wonderful experiences, especially in Denmark. The first Experience I had along these lines was when I was released from the Air Force, which will be two years ago this coming June. I'm not the least bit ashamed of what I am and of the things I do; I enjoy it tremendously! I've had some wonderful and very satisfying experiences, and others that I would rather forget about. Of course this has to be expected, you can't win them all. (What a pity!!) I am quite considerate of my "friends" and I expect them to have some consideration for me in return. To me this is only fair and the only way for both to enjoy themselves. Over these past two years I've met several phonies and I would like to stay from this type of people. Please don't get me wrong, I am not insinuating that you are this type, I could hardly tell that from the letter you sent me. I am merely stating a few of the things that I like and some of the things that I would like to stay away from.

I would like very much to hear from you again. However, if you find that you are not interested in carrying this any further, it would be greatly appreciated if you wrote me a note and told me so. Please don't just drop the whole thing and forget about it, like most people do.

I never send a photograph of myself in the first letter because the majority of them never answer. If you want one I'll have it for you in the next letter; I own a polaroid. I sincerely hope to hear from you again.

Your Hopeful Friend,

*Art.* W235-5

P.S. I am 28 years old.