

9/26/74

Dear Harold,

I deliberately waited until classes started and until I felt settled in to write. Well, classes began this past Monday, 9/23 after a 3 day orientation last week. I hope I do not later have to take back these words, but right now my feeling is that this is the place for me. I love it, and think I could have made no better choice as to preparation for a career.

I am very happy with my apartment. It reminds me of your house because of the rustic wood paneling and the large windows, except that it does not compare in terms of noise pollution. The one drawback is that it is acoustically transparent. Often I have to stuff my ears with tissue to block out even low noise levels. This is a problem in most places around here, and I now learn that I am quite fortunate to have a place at all. The U. over-enrolled by 2000 and there is a terrible housing crunch. Private families are being urged to rent rooms to students, hotels are being rented by quarters, and dorm lounges are being filled with up to 6 students. I was also lucky to get one of the few decent landlords around; his service and his prices cannot be beat.

The "city" is beautiful, in many parts breathtaking (especially when you go past city limits). I am not used to such an immense campus, but I love it (The campus contains 6 ponds, 1 lake with alligators, 2 golf courses, and several acres of farm land, some of which is rented to students). The law school is about 5 minutes from me by bike and is located in one of the nicer parts of the campus, virtually in the woods.

I have met a number of people and have assumed friendships with only a couple. The social adjustment will take some time, but I expect no problems. It is easy to meet gay people here, for there is a gay bar which is the big congregating place for students.

My courses (Contracts, Torts, Criminal Law, and Legal Methods) all interest me, but criminal by far the most. I was very pleasantly surprised to find out just how much my previous experience had prepared me for this type of education, and now everything that I am doing seems entirely natural to me and thoroughly enjoyable. The intellectual challenge is there, of course, and welcome. I have already begun a pet legal research project, both out of curiosity and as means of gaining practice and familiarity. I wanted to find out about the state of the law and court decisions (esp. most modern) on sex laws involving so-called "crimes against nature".

I feel dangerously remote from the NY-Washington news media elite, so to speak. I can't get the NYT here, and I get a variety of local papers (state) each day, hoping that they will supplement each other. Occasionally they'll carry WP or NYT dispatches. As for TV, I can't afford a cable, and the only news I can get here is ABC, which is really bad. In a way I suppose it helps my analytical abilities, for I must continually ~~XXX~~ attempt to decipher what really happened on the basis of what they say happened. I know this is true ~~XH~~ with every network, but ABC is by far the worst.

All in all I'm very happy here and I think I've made one of the best decisions in my life. You are among those I thank for helping me make that decision. *Best, Howard*