

Dear Dave,

6/31/95

I've been reluctant to try to change this incorrect ribbon <sup>Bill</sup> sent me that I had to force onto the spindels from fear that may have caused a difficulty in removing them. But when I return from walking at the supermarket in the mall in which I've been walking three mornings a week since Carnac's closed I'll have to do that.

I have s<sup>e</sup>c<sup>o</sup>n<sup>d</sup> such ribbon he sent that I hope to be able to get on and use. It is made by the same company as the overly-inked ones available locally.

But first background for why I write now when for the first time in some time I've been able to return to writing for a couple of days and have almost finished the Afterword to the Newman book.

Lil has been failing markedly for several months. The diverticulitis added to that. It weakened her while she was still eating, then she could eat virtually nothing for several days and now she has been eating a little more but not enough and not what she needs. I've feared her falling for several months and when she had a very slight fall, from a squat, May a year ago she broke a wrist. She has also been even so much more tired. It was not until yesterday, after unseen pressure from me, that she consulted her own books on food for a proper diet for her. I'd been asking her to ask Hanh Truong and she did not. Then I brought her the card of a consulting nutritionist she'd met, the wife of her physical therapist. That is what led her to check her books and she now has a better knowledge of what she can and should eat. But she's had no appetite.

Nicole of Hana's may have made a change in this. Saturday I took Lil there because she could at the least eat rice. When I told Nicole the problem, she stood still, thinking, then smiled and then returned with a special sauce for a special tofu. Lil liked that so Nicole prepared a second one for Lil to take home. She enjoyed that Sunday. Then Everett phoned Monday to say that Nicole was preparing for her a special Korean soup that was very nourishing. I said I'd happily come for it Tuesday. But Tuesday I saw the motor temperature in the danger zone so I could not. I could not open the hood or radiator cap but a neighbor came and we added two and a half quarts of water. The dealership's service manager who is somewhat of a friend squeezed me in yesterday morning. The repair, leaking freeze plug, took until almost noon. They'd driven me home, picked me up and on the return trip I stopped at Hanna's and lo! Nicole had prepared what looks like about a gallon and a half of that special soup! Too heavy for Lil to handle safely, that large a container of it. She heated a bowl for supper and liked it so much she heated and enjoyed another bowl and a half. It has shredded chicken breast in it that I saw and tasted. So, with this beautiful gesture to make it more enjoyable, I hope her appetite returns more. She had a bad day yesterday but she was much better about nine last night.

But we have learned that when she stands still for any length of time she has joint trouble and pain and is weaker and in more danger of falling. Aside from the danger in this there is a special immediate problem I'll come to, copying. I'll have to do that. I can't for a while sitting on the bar stool and with my left leg on the two-drawer cabinet in which she keeps the copier supplies and paper. Of which we have a carton in the car to get brought in.

I had my delayed semi-annual cardiovascular check on the legs at Hopkins Monday. The technician never returned to do the printout dopplers so when the doctor came he did lesser dopplers with a hand-held one. He said I'm holding my own, that it is a bit better than last time, but I know it has been in the danger area for some time. If there is an improvement in pressure there it comes from my physical therapy and I am not aware of it from how the legs and feet feel. The left leg in particular swells rapidly on the briefest standing. Last week I saw a bit of outer-layer skin had peeled back on my right shin. I had not been aware of it. Because it peeled down underneath the TED it appears that it happened when I took that TED off. It is like a stocking. Not having a sterile pad I put a bandaid on it and now I can't get it off without the possibility of taking more skin with it. The message I got from the doctor's office was to soak it in salt water, which I did for a half hour on each bit of adhesive and it remained so tight it was like part of my leg. I've been putting a lotion that keeps adhesive from sticking to the skin in hope it will soak through but as of a few minutes ago it has not. Last time I had any slight (for others) trouble there it took months to heal. That came from some unwise electronic tests at Hopkins the doctor doing them for the neurologists refused to complete.

My legs are giving me more trouble so I'll have to find time to walk more.

Without more detail we are both deteriorating a bit more rapidly, I'd right now much more so. This leads me to think a bit more of the future than I have been. Some time ago I suggested that when I am no longer able to work on or add to what I have in rough perhaps you should get it all to work on, with it ultimately to go to Hood. We have not as I recall discussed this. What brings it more to mind again is that the girls who have been doing the retyping recently have either done none or not done well. Two from Malaysia have worked on the Newman writing, one doing the typing, she has been very careless and she was two weeks late bringing back the last. I suspect that was as part of a ripoff on time and in part so I could give her no more corrections to make. She was here Saturday and she left for a new college on Monday. The girl who was to have taken over on Inside did not respond when I left messages and when I finally got her, neither she nor the one who was to have turned what she had over had done a thing. Now the girl who had done very well and got too busy on her job to continue it is no longer at that phone and I got no callback from the message I left. I wrote her where she work

to get what she has. Hopefully! About 20 chapters on a diskette.

There is one from the Barbados I got early in the summer. She did some work and then she went back to visit her family. I should hear from her soon. She was OK but a bit slow. I also heard from one from Ghana as soon as she got to Hood. I sent to the Epilogue to the Newman ms to her with the other Malaysian student who knows her. So, first will be their schedules and then the kind of work they do.

When the MacDonalds were here and heard about the delay in getting Inside retyped Dennis volunteered that the two of them would do it. He said that "ancy works only two days a week. I have had in mind copying that and sending it to them but then the girl on the Mailer book who graduated and had to work around the clock because she was broke and had a good job on which she got paid by the hour for her work at home has to leave to go home this weeked because her mother lost a leg and will need help. She got three chapters done. And as of now I think getting that done may be more important. But of course I do not want to take advantage of the MacDonalds and also do not want to overload them.

When I hear from one of these girls I'll see if I can get one to do the copying on our machine. If not I'll have to get the copying done commercially. Or maybe I'll do a chapter or two at a time. Much as I do not want to use time that way.

Then I'll have to see how much they produce and how long that takes them. This involves their speed and their time from school work.

I think there is an advantage in the MacDonalds doing as much as they can because in that they'll be getting some information and because they may perhaps make notes on what should be done, corrections or changes.

I have the Newman diskette and a copy of it or two but most of the corrections of the many to be made are those I made and the Malaysian girl ignored. She also made an unnecessary problem for checking by changing the margins! I do not know of any immediate need or use for it but it is easiest to finish and I believe he is doing a book on Cuba that from this one will be a bad one. I've not heard from Jim so I have no news on that. Or on anything. The reporter on the local paper who was going to go to the press conference phoned him at my suggestion on the 24th to be sure it would be on the 25th, there was no answer, he left a message and he had no response. So perhaps Jim was delayed returning and I hope that was not from any medical reason!

The other Malaysian girl got the Hoast chapters I wanted printed out and I hope to get back to adding that to the Mailer book soon.

If you have any thoughts I'll appreciate them.  
9/1: She fell backward yesterday into a sitting position without harm. With a chair for her to push on with one hand and me to pull on the other she got up OK.

Best,

Harold