

13 April 1977

Dear Harold:

A short note to bring you up to date.

The enclosed clips from the Chronicle all are extras, so don't return.

Jenifer now is well into her second week of radiation therapy and is responding well. Each day we both think she looks and feels better. So does her GP. She's eating well. Much less nausea.

Radiation itself is of course painless, but the positions she has to get into under the linear accelerator involve muscles and joints she has had to avoid using for more than two months. The first week was rugged indeed, but beginning with the two-day weekend lull she showed marked improvement and it has continued into the second week with each day's session involving less pain than before.

I continue to spend as much time as possible with her, convoying her to and from the once-terrible sessions under the accelerator. I get a tray from the cafeteria and usually eat lunch and/or dinner with her, then get her ready for the night etc. These things and the colostomy I can help her with as the nurses can't, although again the entire staff gladly stands on its head to do anything whatever that she needs or wants, arranging special things, spending many of their breaks just talking with her. This includes several from the floor where she was last year who have found out she's back. She draws them both as a patient and as a person, and their devotion is so constant and unflinching that she remarked the other day it's like living in a cocoon of love. All this helps immensely; particularly does it help a shy and sensitive person like Jenifer. For all ~~xxx~~ its fine personnel, the hospital is chaotic at times, particularly in the mornings when she's trying to get breakfast and lunch out of the way in time for the 1:15 radiation sessionx and otherwise collect herself for what she knows is ahead. I may have mentioned last year that the whole thing reminds me of a Chinese street scene, with chaos the rule until the last minute when a miraculous resolution takes place and things fall into place ~~wixxxdixxxxxx~~ without disaster occurring.

We both appreciate your 4/9/77 remarks.

And send our best.

jdw