

October 4, 1975.

Dear Elena,

I was very much disheartened by the contents of your telephone call yesterday, but glad that we were available so that you could unload your problems.

I am grateful for your call this morning, first because you seemed in better spirits, second because you found a place where you could go to in order to remove your melancholy, and third because you were thoughtful enough to realize that we would be concerned and you thought enough of our feelings to telephone. The fact is that both your mother and myself could not sleep part of the night because of our concern, but this should never inhibit you from calling under like circumstances or when you feel that it might be helpful.

It is very good to know of places to go when you want a change of spirit, and perhaps you should paste on the wall such a list that you found helpful in this respect.

One of the greatest frustrations in my life has been my inability to convey to you my thought and advice for whatever it was or is worth. The other day I saw a few minutes of "Star-Track" which seems appropriate at this time. The two main characters were transformed into the recent past but had the facility to know the events that were to follow. There was a very nice girl who one of them seemed to like, but then they saw that she was going to be killed by an automobile, but they could do nothing to stop the event. The helpless frustration was very effective.

I guess most parents have the same problem of trying to convey to their children the wisdom that experience has given them. Generally their counsel is ignored or they become so overbearing as to destroy the relationship, if not the personalities themselves.

Socrates, the wisest of men, was condemned to death not for offering answers, but for posing questions.

I shall not tell you what to do, but only give your some thoughts with the hope that they help in your choices.

First of all, who ever told you that you were going to find great or inspiring teachers in college? In all my college and law school day I had 3 good teachers, and that is 2 or 3 more good teachers that most college graduates ever had.

If college is supposed to be so inspiring why did kids eat goldfish in my days and in more recent days turn to pot and dope for excitement?

Finding a good teacher has its dangers for many times you are pulled away from your intended field of study into their subject.

So while looking for the good teacher is of great importance, it cannot be dispositive of the situation since it more likely will result in failure.

The idea is to look to oneself and find selfinspiration. The college gives you only the place where you might find other students of capatable interests. College is an essential stage of learning, of less importance then the stage that you learned to crawl or stand, but nevertheless a stage.

College should be a time when you waste endless hours with your fellow students in the coffee shop, having a good time, and a little soul-searching.

If you want to learn, you get friends who have like interests. It is a mistake to build up your hopes about college as a place of learning, as it is a mistake to build your self up about anything. I am certain that if you speak to college graduates they will tell you that they doubt whether 5% of what they learned in college was of any use in later days.

As far as courses are concerned, I divide them up into 3 categories. 1. Science where, because of the labs, formal schooling is almost essential for proper learning. 2. The other endbasically reading courses ((like history) where absent an exceptional teacher, it is a waste of time. 3, The reading courses which need discussion and direction for better and proper understanding. A good course on basic psychology, philosophy, and economics you might find worth while..

Philosophy is hard and you have to learn how to limit your time in the subject. I would suggest that you pick up the one volume book by Durant "The Story of Philosophy" and just read a few chapters. It will only take you a few hours and I think you will find it very exciting.

Wm Hazlett's little book "Economics in Ten Easy Lessons" is very short, can be read in a few hours.

Right now I am on a "psychology" binge. I think I had Mrs. Smith psycho-analyzed better than her psychiatrist. To me she represented a sort of "galapagos". Darwin saw that island and saw a million years, it was a "searchlight into human development". Mrs. Smith actions and reactions are so strongly propelled that you just know what will be the result under certain stimuli. Of course, as you probably know, I spent many days in the medical library

reading everything I could find on the subject. But I found it fascinating.

Never worry about hard work, and certainly do not worry if you find me working hard. Some of the hardest work I do I enjoy and wish sometimes that I could work harder at it and spend more time.

It is the frustrations that you must learn to overcome.

We will talk more when I see you next week, most of all learn to relax, enjoy every minute of the day, particularly while you are in college, do not spend your valuable time gripping, and find enjoyment in what you are doing not the inadequacies of teachers or other people.

I watched today the repeat first chapter of "Ascent of Man". There is one part that I found very exciting and that is the part that you see a child crawling across a transparent plate and you watch the movements of his feet and his hands as he is moving along. The movements are reptile-like, then he keeps moving on with all "fours" and the background music is beautiful, and as he moves along you see him approach something that looks like a bale of cotton and as he approaches it with running commentary by Bronowski, he says "and at about the age of 14 months the command is stand" and this baby stands up against this bale of cotton and has a very big smile at his accomplishment. When you recognize that this process took billions of years of development the whole episode is overwhelming.

Try to find excitement and enjoyment in life. Learn in spite of your teachers but look for exciting ones. Do you remember how you liked Physics because I think you liked your teacher. Spend a lot of time talking to friends that you find enjoyable.

It is all worth it , but you have to make it pay.

Love,

Your father.