HI ANN!

BETCHA DIDN'T THINK I'D WRITE HUH? NOT ONLY DID I FOOL YOU, BUT MYSELF AS WELL. TONIGHT I'VE READ ALL THE 5 MONTH OLD DIRTY BOOKS I CAN FIND AND DRANK ENOUGH BEER TO KEEP ME GOING TIL TOMORROW NITE. THEREFORE I WRITE.

MY WORK IS MOST INTERESTING CONSISTING OF 14 HOURS OF GUARD DUTY A DAY. LOTS OF THRILLS. PARDON ME IF I'M IMPOSING BUT DO I REMEMBER CORRECTLY THAT I TOLD YOU AT THE ROLLER RINK I WOULD WRITE? OH WELL IF I DIDN'T THATS JUST TOO BAD. SERIOUSLY, I DONT MIND WRITING AND I LOVE TO READ LETTERS. I LIVE IN A WOOD HUT WITH 6 OTHER HORNY GUYS AND TRY MY BEST TO BE CIVILIZED. TONIGHT I BUILT SOME SHELVES THAT I STOLE WOOD TO BUILD. THEY ARE HORRIBLE AND DONT RESEMBLE SHELVES AT ALL. 9 FEET TALL AND 21 COMPARTMENTS. THIS IS MY 1st PROJECT AND I HOPE MY LAST OF THIS CALIBRE. DA NANG ISN'T REALLY AS BAD AS SOME PLACES HERE, BUT IT STILL RESEMBLES : ITS HOT, TODAY 105°; DUSTY WHEN DRY, AND MUDDY WHEN WET. ALSO WE HAVE LOTS OF LITTLE BASTARDS RUNNING AROUND SHOOTING AT US ALL THE TIME. VERY IMPOLITE. WELL I'VE GOT ALL SORTS OF STUFF TO DO, SO I REGRETFULLY LEAVE YOU IN THE HOPE YOU MIGHT DROP ME A LINE —— TAKE IT EASY KID

LOVE
MARTIN

3-9-1967 (1)

Dear Ann

Hey thanks a lot for the quick return. I was really surprised at the speedy service our postal department provides. I really appreciated & your letter and really dig your precise rundown of the present situation on the home front, laced with your personal reflections of the gossip side of the sheet. "When I don't raise hell no one does" That's very good dear, not only are you an aspiring scholar but a swinger too! You know I don't feel exactly like that, not that I'm anti-social or anything, but I swing any damn time I feel like it and whether people particularly participate or care is all very mundane to me. I still remember it, or should I bring it up? that night at the drive-in when we doubled with Gordy and somebody. God you screamed. Forgive me I'm laughing like a son of a bitch right now. That seems so long ago and I can almost see your face now reading this. I hope you laughing Ann. You better be. If it were any other girl I wouldn't even mention it again; but I think you very progressive. — I'm off my dirty books now. I decided there all the same and to be avoided due to the fact you faintly remember the same book from last year. I might write quarter books for a living you know. I'm sure my imagination is as good as the guys that toss these off and I could even stuff a plot into them too. Good money in the dirty book business. OVER

Do you realize when I get back you will be more educated than me? Any problems I have I will come to you, an advanced collegiate. I can't believe the same Chum Thomas I did battle with over the debate table will be smarter than me.

Only one consolation for me. I've seen a hell of a lot of life running around the world for what that's worth.

I will graduate with a PHD from the school of Practical knowledge in 10 months hurray!

Well Joan she's just an amateur as far as the betting goes. I won 76.00 on the cock fights down in Puerto Rico last fall. It's a very precise racket. If she sticks to the odds she'll be alright.

Tell all your sweet virginal freshmen associates HI from a real gross bad guy. Maybe they'll get scared. On second thought don't, I might need a date.

We had a real good fight on the perimiter 2 days ago that I really enjoyed hearing. However they came and got about 15 of us as reinforcements which I really didn't appreciate. I was a machine-gunner and in 3 hours out there, fired 8000 rounds of ammo. I don't know if I hit anyone, but I'm sure I got a few of them I was pretty busy dodging bullets to tell for sure. Anyway we killed 130 of them and as I reflect now, it was a very sobering experience.

I hope the daffodils don't get their damn heads froze because my mom will go crazy if they do.

Write soon Love Martin

P.S. If you see Sonny tell him hello I'm too lazy to write him and don't have his address anyhow.

Hi Ann

Times like these I wish I were back in good old Fayetteville. Nothing but rain for the last week and the mud is a quagmire, and pardon the expression, looks like a big shitpile. It's not supposed to rain this time of the year but you never can tell. Got a letter from my brother Jack and he relates he's running for SC president. Not posessing the qualities I have, I dont know how he'll fare, but I hear nice guys finish first. I'm really beat from last night. One of our Squadrons went on a bomb run up in Ho's territory and we had to stand-by til about 3:00 AM. How's school, social and love life? Undoubtedly somebody is putting the rush on you. When you write, relate the local scoop and bring me up to date.

I hate to cop out on you but I need to grab some Z so I'll wind up.

Have fun and stay out of trouble. Personally I like a little of both. Ha!

Love Martin

5-5-1967 (1)

Hi Ann

I got your letter yesterday thanks to the speedy, efficient service of the Postal System. So your completely snowed by this Kappa-Sig huh? Thats great and my philosophy on such matters says Relax and enjoy it. The weather turned hot and Da Nang is a hell hole of heat and boiling red dust clouds relieved by generous amounts of San Miguel beer, the ice-cold pride of the Philippines. We got mortared last week and one of the men working with me got his legs cut all up since he didn't hit our bunker quick enough. Only other casualty was our out-house which suffered a direct hit and was blown all to hell. Its 110° today and I'm taking my 3rd shower of the day in about 10 minutes. This humidity is a killer Ann. It's so bad I sweat when I sleep.

According to the "Men Only" column of Stag Magazine, the majority of babies are the result of June conception. So all the girls getting married dig June weddings? I hope they marry rich husbands. Of course Stag never was a reference for our debate days so it could be wrong. I've got a couple of buddies who said they'd like to write:

Johnny A. HAGEN 2188442
CPL USMC H&MS-11, MAG-11
GROUP SUPPLY FPO S. FRANCISCO
96602

L/CPL DOUG MACHADO 2234152
H&MS-17, MWSG-17 GROUP SUPPLY
FPO S. FRANCISCO

Tell your friends these guys are both sharp, live in California and I've stayed with both of them in the past while on leave. They got me outstanding dates every night etc. etc. Well I've got to get that shower.

Write again soon Love Martin

1 July 67 ①

Dear Ann

Thought I should check in with my contact for the latest exchange of data accumulated in the past couple of weeks. I hope your enjoying — hope hell, I know your overjoying out with the summer now. You will be amazed to know June has passed flying for me and July is on me before the memory of May has made its way out of my mind. At this rate I'll be a civilian again in a mucho short time (210 days) Actually though, only a few things of interest have transpired in the past days. First, an Airline (TWA) Stewardess I knew by brother Tom and whom I partied with in S. Francisco last January dropped in to my amazement and delight. For someone who hasn't seen an American girl in 5 months, this was a revelation and re-affirmed my advocation of the American way of life, apple pie motherhood, main street etc et al. She looked great! I may have stared a bit indiscreetly, but since were on rather good terms she didn't mind. We had an hour alone on her plane and her visit was a tremendous morale booster to say the least. — I saw Bo today and occasionally the last 2 weeks.

OVER

7-1-1967 (2)

He is due over to my shack tomorrow afternoon for beer and bullshit ~~of~~ both of which we consume at an amazing rate. I saw the 67" Amathyst and they're already starting to look younger to me. Could I be growing old? One girl looked like she was fabulous though. Carol somebody who dated Gary Carter at one time.

Speaking of old, I will be 20 the 14th. Just think in another 379 days I can drink vote and buy articles prohibited to minors by law!

The 22nd I take R&R to Singapore for 5 days, should be a blast and if Carol (Johnson) TWA is there like she anticipated earlier the old Federation will be so much the better.

We have been hit twice by mortars which did some damage and hurt some guys, one killed, but were lucky to get enough warning to pretty well dig in. Howard Witbey got killed, you probably heard. He was a good friend, an intelligent guy and a damn good Marine. I guess its bad when you go with your whole life before you, but sometimes things we don't understand happen like that. I wrote to his dad, but the words were hard to find —

7-1-1967 ③

I got a card from Gordy, the new jet-set boy of Fayetteville, and he is making his way across Europe and related his adventures and misadventures to me. He pissed me off — we were going together but he's one of the few people who act immediately upon impulse.

Besides I wait for the day when our positions as well as others of our status are reversed. — PVT CUMMINGS VIETNAM ∞ SOPH. BUTT U of A —

I don't wish this on anyone except those like me who volunteered for this farce. I hope it ends as soon as possible.

Catch me up on the latest I think Bo wants to hear from Mary Jane — we both were admiring one particular shot of her in the yearbook. Maybe he's already written.

So long for now. Take care of yourself and enjoy the summer!

Love Martin

P.S. my picture was taken while I was a bit tight. My penthouse is to the rear.

20 July 1967 ①

Dear Anne

Damn, did we get raked last week! Charley hit us for 45 minutes with his big Russian rockets, blew up 60 million $ worth of jets, our bomb supply, part of our runway, a hangar killed 11 men and wounded 175. Very, very close call for me. Our bunker, of sandbags and wood, fell in on us when 2 rockets hit about 50 yards away. Screw Vietnam and Charley. He was to blow us away last night and everone was jumpy as a cat. We had extra men down on the line and the B-52's bombed his ass off 8 miles away. I looked like a Mexican bandito with ammo over my shoulders and waist with a few grenades in my pockets. Shows you how ready to fight someone can get.

Singapore in 36 hours!

Peace, quiet, booze, real food and women to stare at again.

Got your last letter, but I think it pre-dated mine to you. Keep in touch

Love Martin

NIGHT SCENE OF MEMORIAL TO THE CIVILIAN VICTIMS OF THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION (1942-1945) SINGAPORE.
During the 2nd World War, when the time Japanese occupied Singapore thousands of our people were killed innocently, this Memorial was built by the Government and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in 1967.
新嘉坡日本時期蒙難人士紀念碑夜景

PLEASE CHECK ADDRESS IF INCORRECT INFORM WRITER

DEAR ANNE -

MY LAST OF 5 DAYS IN THIS FABULOUS CITY! TIME HAS FLOWN BUT I'VE BEEN MAKING THE MOST. YOU WOULD GO WILD IN THE SHOPS HERE - DUTY FREE EX: STAR SAPPHIRE - 58.00! NIGHT LIFE REALLY HIP, ALL KINDS OF BARS CLUBS ETC. I BLEW 300.00, SO I GUESS THAT GIVES YOU AN IDEA OF HOW WILD YOU COULD GO MADE THE ISLANDS IN THE STRAITS OF MALACCA. REAL PICTURE BOOK TYPE- LOVE MARTIN

PUB. BY:- S. W. SINGAPORE

Miss Anne Thomas
2 Ranch Drive
72701
Fayetteville Arkansas USA

1 Aug 1967 ①

Dear Anne

Thanks for the big long one which, you know, I like. Your letters always alleviate my occasional moods for which I thank you.

Well, Singapore was a tremendous morale booster and shocked me back into the world of real food, real booze, women (God bless em all) and flushing toilets for 5 days. Its really a beautiful place and abounds with good times for people who like to mess around like you and me. I got to see quite a bit of the city as well as the surrounding islands between Sing. and Indonesia (VIA an itenerant English beachcomber and his Malay mistress on their boat) I met him at one of the fish markets on the waterfront and we had a few drinks, when he suggested I come along on one of his un-official tours. All sorts of off-the-wall people like him around!

Had a big kick taking a bath with the local Malay girls in a huge tile pool in a massage house. I guess about the only

thing I didn't do was take in an opium-den, but I just didn't have time.
At any rate I had a groovy time there and would definitely recommend it to anyone who likes to loosen up a bit.

I saw Bo yesterday and he reports quite sadly he has NSU which is non-specific-urethritis. No cause for alarm. It's not VD, but just irritating if you know what I mean. No, I don't guess you do — It calls for no beer or coke for 3 months and a few penecillian pills occasionally. It doesn't have to come from a contact but he was in Bangkok recently! Poor Bo, he was really pissed when I suggested a few beers.

My new address

LCPL MARTIN A BUTT 2184031 USMC
MAG-11, VMF(AW)-235 (MATERIAL)
FPO S. FRANCISCO 96602.

A transfer to a better outfit due to a shift in personnel though still in Da Nang.

8-1-1967 (3)

Our Squadron nick-name is "DEATH ANGELS
10,000 tons of bombs dropped in N. Vietnam
got us that I suppose.

Love Life rock bottom huh? Don't
worry dear you'll make out. If you can
wait 184 days I'll be most pleased to be
the ~~[illegible]~~ receipitant of your affections
but you'll be in SP? love by then.

Got a letter from Bill & the New MRS.
Fairchild, good to hear from them.
I know his brother is delighted to get out
of here just like everybody else is.
I Also got a letter from Sonny and he
gets home in 30 days. He suggested a
blow-out to end all when I get home. Sounds
like a tipically lovely idea. Can you see
Bo and I getting drunk on 3 beers apeice
and going to sleep? Don't laugh it's not
funny. His parting words were "keep your
ass down and come back in one piece" I hear
that quite frequently these days, very sound
advice. For now, see you later.

Love, Martin

Cherie Aug 10 1967 ①

A wonderful letter, although I wouldn't have been surprised had it arrived on sheet-metal penned in magic marker. Well of a note isn't it? — working I mean. That sounds like the kind of a job I always wanted but could never quite cop. I bet all your sub-conscience id comes gueuing out through your busy fingers in your creations, whatever they may be. — I tried the latest innovation from the HQ of Haight-Ashbury in S.F., and blew some banana. A real disappointment. Didn't turn me on a bit, but sure turned me off on bananas. I really shouldn't be let down because they failed to influence the FDA's abrasive drug testing machine too. So much for my hippie side.

About toilets. Since I came over here I have really seen some unique johns. Of course, here they are wood, and 55 gallon oil drums serve as receptacles and are burned every morning. You don't take a deep breath of air before 8 here when you wake up.

In Okinawa, there is nothing but a small hole in the middle of the floor. No segregation of sexes of course, first come first be served. It's quite an adjustment to make and takes a little figuring as to the proper procedure. In rural Vietnam among the natives, it's the basic simplicity of the thing that grabs you. I've seen it so much now, that I rarely notice anymore. They just squat down in the street or backyard and let er rip! So in answer to your hypothetical question, I would definitly say the possession of modern sanitation conveniences does have a direct bearing and influence upon the advancement of the country as a (I could pun, but I won't) whole. That's why S.E. Asia is so screwed up. Baby, we may have answered a question to a historian's dream! Can you see your next door neighbor in front of Price-Patton doing it? Me neither.

I don't know Jacks infatuation, but he writes like it's going strong. God, what an abrupt change of subjects, but I'll never make a composition writer. Just forget it and call it poetic license.

Well, were all straightened out on phycadelic quirks and the general reason for the failure of Asia, so maybe I better pass to less strenuous conversation.

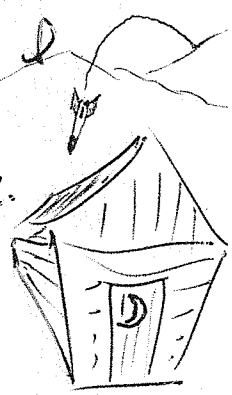
EPITOMY - EPITOMIZE - Just came to me, I've been trying to recall the son-of-a bitch for 30 min. now. What a relief. Really bugs me when I can't think of a word when I need it most.

My 184 is now 174 and will be a big 169 by the time you get this. Hell's Bells Anne I'm getting short! I just showed my Lieutenant how to roll his own cigarette and had to tutor him through 3 before he got one that didn't explode in flame and burn up before he got a drag. I have to confess I picked up the talent on a New York weekend in the Village. Rolling pot for a real blow-out that night I didn't, however, divulge this information to him. I'm getting long-winded so I had better stop before I get cramps.

"Keep the faith" — Powell, Adam C.

Love Martin

P.S. This paper is not adorned with pattern, due to the high cost of the pulp.



AUGUST 20

1967 ①

Dear Ann

I started to write you last night but when the rain started my roof began to leak and I had to fix the damn thing. Monsoon season is here for good as far as I'm concerned because I'll be leaving before its over. My idea of a good homecoming would be to step off the plane into about 12" of snow, overcast sky and a cold wind blowing. I'm so adverse to heat now, I might start a trend and go north every summer. The Viets are approching election time and things are really tense here and will remain so until they're over. The VC will probably mortar the city of Da Nang as well as the base here. I hate the idea of getting hit again because I've been so close 3 times now that I might just hang in there for number 4 and I don't like the odds.

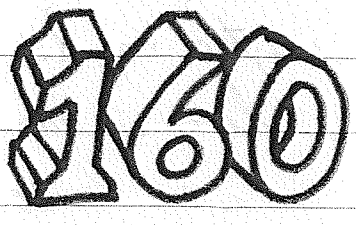
Last week my buddy from L.A. and I threw a drunk that approaches anything I've ever participated in. We ended up riding around in Da Nang on a tri-shaw carrying 2 cases of cold beer. The gook cops made us go back to

base, but didn't turn us in because we shared our last case with them. Got back at 4:00 AM and went to work at 7:00. I was in a haze all day long, not exactly hungover, but numb from all the booze I drank. I finally sobered up that night.

Yesterday, much to my amazement, I discovered I can take the last 5 days of my leave while I'm over here. Besides having 1 more R&R, this will give me 3 times I can get out of here before I leave for good. I think I'll catch a hop to Hawaii and lie on the beach for 5 days. The orient is great, but it doesn't compare with the states.

Well Annie dear, I'm getting shorter and shorter over here, and more anxious to get home. Never figured me for nostalgia did you?

Catch me up on the world when you get time.



Love
Martin

P.S. Are you going through rush?

Aug 22 1967 (1)

Dear Anne

I got your letter yesterday which really shot my sagging morale up. I wrote one to you last night but decided it was too rambling and threw it away. I have a whole corner of my footlocker filled with unmailed letters that I decided weren't fit to be received for one reason or another. Tell your mail clerk at 2 Ranch Drive thanks for the kiss. I appreciate her letting you know but I wish she would have written me. How about our torrid correspondence! Tell your mom we got married last week by proxy and you're quitting school to fly to Da Nang for the honeymoon. Congratulations bridesmaid. I know you'll be at your best. Wish I could be there.

Anne I'm sorry your muttering things about mothers, kids and men. Maybe if it was a one a year affair you could celebrate like Christmas or something. Optimism is the word. Better watch the deductions of the H.S. set or you'll get locked up for contributing to the delinquency of minors.

8-22-1967 (2)

It's self-explanatory really and some of the guys got a hook-up when the girls sent them back filled out. A match-makers dream.

I've gotta get some chow dear, so I better take off before I miss the truck.

Hope you're well on your way to recovery from your temporary ailment.

Send my best to no one in particular.

Love

Martin

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P.S.

You would be proud of my mustache — took me 2 months to grow but it's so blond it only is visible in bright sunlight what a blow to my masculine ego

APPLICATION FOR A DATE WITH A MARINE (PERSONAL PRINT)

NAME_____ NICKNAME_____ PHONE NUMBER_____ AREA CODE_____

ADDRESS_____ CITY_____ STATE_____

AGE_____ WEIGHT_____ HEIGHT_____ BUST_____ WAIST_____ HIPS_____ COLOR OF HAIR_____

EYES_____ DO YOU SMOKE_____ DO YOU DRINK_____ PREFERENCE OF EACH_____

DO YOU OWN A CAR_____ MAKE_____ YEAR_____ DO YOU HAVE A BROTHER_____ HOW OLD_____

DOES HE KNOW: JUDO_____ KARATE_____ WRESTLING_____ BOXING_____ IS HE SKILLED_____

ARE YOU GOING WITH ANYONE_____ WHO_____ STEADY_____ DROPPED_____

PINNED_____ ENGAGED_____ HOW BIG IS HE_____ WHAT IS YOUR PREFERENCE IN

CLOTHES_____ DO YOU LIKE MARINES_____

WHY_____ WHY NOT_____ DO YOU LIKE TO DANCE_____

SLOW_____ FAST_____ WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WOULD YOU PREFER TO DO:

MOONLIGHT RIDES_____ BOWLING_____ CHURCH_____ MAKE OUT_____ BAR-HOP_____ ANY PAR-

TICULAR BAR_____ WHY_____

DO YOU LIKE TO BE HELD_____ KISSED_____ MADE LOVE TO_____ DO YOU LIKE TO DATE IN

CARS_____ AT HOME_____ MOTELS_____ DOUBLE DATE_____ DOESN'T MATTER_____

DO YOU EVEN LIKE TO DATE_____ WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO ON A DATE_____

DATES AGE PREFERENCE_____ DO YOU KISS ON YOUR FIRST DATE_____ WHY_____

WHY NOT DO I HAVE A CHANCE_____ ANY PARTICULAR REASON_____

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO YOU ENJOY/TURNS YOU ON_____ FAVORITE VOCALIST/GROUP_____

_____ DO YOU PLAN MARRIED? HOW MANY CHILDREN WOULD YOU HAVE_____

BOYS_____ GIRLS_____ DESCRIBE THE TYPE PERSON YOU LIKE_____

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF A MARINE WHO WOULD SEND AN APPLICATION SUCH AS THIS TO AN

UNKNOWN GIRL SUCH AS YOU_____

I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

_____

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS FOR THE PROTECTION AND IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE BEST GROUP OF FIGHTING MEN IN THE WORLD TODAY. IT IS ONLY FITTING AND PROPER THAT OUR MEN SHOULD HAVE THE FINEST OF WOMEN. THEREFORE YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED BY THE BOARD AND YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED AS TO US OF THE RESULTS (SINCE I AM THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE BOARD I WOULD SAY YOUR CHANCES ARE EXCELLENT) PLEASE RETURN PROMPTLY. NAVMC FORM 10534.0.2 JUNE 1958

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4 SEPT 1967 (1)

Dear Anne

You asked me what compels me to write with such amazing regularity. I have arrived at the conclusion that a letter unanswered or delayed is of no value whatsoever. It is kinda strange, but I always return letters the same day I get them if possible. If I wait, I scribble and scrawl and don't say a damn thing because I forget the details of your letter. I suppose most people interpret this as punctuality and politeness when actually it's only a sub-conscious effort on my part to write a letter instead of an uncomposed piece of crap. AAA I sweated out the last week along with the rest of I CORPS due to elections and Hanoi's Hannah's promise to eliminate every damn one of us. We got hit once by rockets but only 3 of them; poorly aimed and gratefully received in an empty field. I have been on guard duty the last 2 nights and settled a score last night. We spotted the gooks setting up a rocket position and called in artillery fire on them. Blew 8 of them to Nirvana or Hanoi in the sky or wherever faithful gooks go. Really pleased me. We actually see them so little, it was nice to kick ass instead of getting kicked.

9-4-1967 (2)

Remember Jack Todd? Somewhere I remember you as not liking him too much, but I always got along with him OK. He came down to see me from the DMZ last week. He's changed a lot Anne. I couldn't believe how quiet he is now. We got drunk and commenced to play a slot machine in the Club. Took 46.00 out of the nickel one and they unplugged it. Success is so sweet! Hope he made out at Dong Ha last week. The N. Viets blew the hell out of it the last 4 days. Speaking of Rap Brown, I wish I could see the bastard. Even the spics over here hate him and Stokely. Everyone thinks they're a bunch of nickelshit bastards. Your trinkets I will mail today. Sorry I didn't get them off sooner but time was short this last week. Ann Mac went down too huh? I guess being single is passé now. Your closing sentence was a heartbreaker baby. One of my buddies got a letter from his wife saying her bed was cold. He went spook, I wouldn't want to be in her place when he goes home. I hated the pig bit, and had no affection for mine in night club. He looked so humble in the sack. I'd rather take my pork in chop form. Gotta cop. Write soon. Martin

SEPT 27th 1967 (1)

Dear Anne

One of those few days in a persons life; emerging from a euphoria free, white, and 20, got the world by the ass and I'm gonna make a million dollars!

Wotta feeling — Word. Got your letter as expected. Figured you'd get involved so I sat back and waited. Makes the word sweeter. Glad you like the pearls. Since I didn't know what people were wearing, I figured they'd start a fad unless passe'. How's the Crowns history going? I dig history more than most. Wonder how it'll rate Vietnam by the time I'm 50. Cant imagine what you sending me. I'll have the Explosive Ordinance boys dis-arm it before I open it.

What I would like: a picture. See if you can arrange it. Something to inspire me when the monsoons are belting out and the rockets fall. OK? Found out my boss is from Little Rock! Yessiree, another hill boy to talk to. ← THAT'S A PERIOD

Keep me informed dear, I love it Love Martin

P.S. over

Save it for a mature 20 year old ex-Marine who will also have sparks in his eyes.
Hang on baby and we'll tear the old town up.

O K, next time the NBC boys do a documentary I'll be sure and get a few frames in. I seriously didn't know they would be shown in the states or I would have been in there.

Mom wrote yesterday that she wants me to meet her and dad in California when I get out and go up to S. Fran. with brother Tom. I know Tom and I could show them a hell of a time in the city of cable cars and N. Beach. I'd really enjoy it and I know Mom would because she lived there when she was 19 before she got married. Call it nonstalgia. Your wishes for a pearl interest me because I bought some earrings in Singapore for no one in particular but I was going to send them to you. I will keep my eyes peeled for one and they go for about 50% less than stateside. The enclosed "application" was sent out by 5,000 Marines as a joke to all the girls that write as pen-pals.

9-27-1967 (3)

Got the word I'm rich now. Came into some loot via my grand-daddy. Think I'll buy a solid platinum, gem incrusted 14FT Bathtub, for those cold Jan nights. 125 days - 100 in Vietnam.

This is my little kingdom — furnished in Gov't issue and Winchester modern.

Martin

10-XX-1967 ①

DEAR ANNE

Just wrote consecutive letters to (1) brother Tom, (2) Pop, (3) Bob Johnson and last, but certainly not least my number 1 female correspondant. Told Bob he writes a particularly bad letter, which is true. Hinted he better shape up or be omitted from my blessings. Think pop is going to run for a vacancy on the State Supreme court. He's not sure, but I'm very optimistic. The old man's been in circulation in state political circles long enough to know the ropes. Besides he's a damn fine judge.

The use of "sucks" struck me as amusing. Prior to your reference, I've never heard of it outside the USMC. "Chow sucks, 3.2 beer sucks, heat sucks truck that didn't give us a ride sucks, everything sucks." A very versatile word, don't you think? "No?, you suck." HA HA, look at me get carried away. — Sex, is to me, is a situation and my personal philosophy is "play it by ear." If it moves jump on it. Kidding. You did have some respectable points though. And, your comparison of your (which is essentially ours) and your parents attitude parallels that of my parents.

I guess thats the changing times. However, with risk to my personal image, I disagree 100% that sex for its own sake is bad. Or possibly I interpret differently. I think, if 2 persons are attracted to each other, common interests etc, its great to sack. As long as nobody gets hurt. Love is a very intangible thing and defies clear definition unless you're very perceptive. Infatuation fits my category for justification of mutual enjoyment.

Christ Anne, do I make sense? MAYBE we should compromise and say spontaneous reaction is the important thing; the deciding factor.

—— went up with the crew on the flare-drop ship last night. We dropped illumination flares all night and made it up to Dong Ha on the DMZ to pick up some wounded and dead to bring back to DA NANG. Got shot at taking off by some N. Viets and got to blow off 160 rounds back at them. Thats my excitement for the week. Congrats on drawing a winning date. Are they that hard to come by? I see what you mean. Gotta go, write soon ——

Love, Martin

17 OCT 67 (1)

Hi Snowmaid

Not sure what qualities you are in possession of to be termed that, but I hope I get the chance to find out. Just now talked to Bo and we jointly mourned his not receiving any mail today.

Thanks for the chow and long letters! I read them over beer and fritos. Every gift of food is deeply appreciated, but exceeded by your letters. I came into possession of 2 quarts of Seagram's VO, a precious commodity over here. That's Thanksgiving and Christmas for Bo and I.

I have some recommended reading for you. However it should be pleasurable rather than obligated. Try to pick up RUARK'S "POOR NO MORE," SOSAN'S "Valley of the Dolls" and the scripts to any of John Osborne's or Harold Pinter's plays. Of course, you probably won't like them all, but — I'll give 5-1 you will like 2 out of 3.

Funny you mentioned Australia. I haven't been there, but I could go for 7 days R&R. I'd rather wait. Got the funniest feeling I'm going to be a hell of a traveler in the next 3 or 4 years. Europe next summer. Maybe we can catch a bullfight in Spain? Never can tell. Going to call home tonight via short-wave. Wish I had your number. "Miss Thomas?" This is operator 8 in Da Nang.

10-17-1967 (2)

Congratulations are in order here for your Razorback Beauty selection. How can you lose? Count my vote by proxy.

From here, at present, it looks like I'll be going back to school next fall. Need some time to unwind and relax. Not too far off now dear, about 104 of them. I tremble when I think of my first few days of re-orientation!

Hey, if you really want some ideas on theme material, let me know what topic you must expound on. I write paragraphs just for the hell of it — sorta see if I have any stuff or if I'm just an avid expressionist. Maybe I could infest a few ideas into your angle. But maybe not, I keep forgetting you're the individual's epitome.

Did we beat Baylor or get beat. Bo heard we tied, I heard we got hell beat out of us. Well?

Mom says Louise and Maupin are quite flustered with Gordy's enlistment. "Where did we go wrong?" "We gave him everything." Right? Damn straight.

Well Anne, hang in there, I'll expect to see another letter mosh skosh.

Looking forward to a lot of good times with you. Well give em hell.

Poco Tiempo

Love

Martin

11-XX-1967 (1)

Dear Ann

Where's my package? Unless you sent it air-mail, it probably won't get here until next July. We had a typhoon here last night. about 12" of rain and 70 MPH winds. My humble shack was ready to cave-in but weathered the storm. Read a very encouraging article on the Marines giving early discharges to 2 year men. That means I'll get out a few days early! Still, I pessimistically count my days to the latest possible date of discharge. 113 Will leave Vietnam around the 1st of January. Should be out by the 15th. Nothing's been happening here except rain. I firmly believe everyone should go through one monsoon and typhoon during their life.

11-XX-1967 (2)

So how's school going? Mom wanted me to start back spring semester. Had to restrain myself writing back an emphatic no.

I think I'll take Jack and make it to Europe or S. America next summer. I haven't done a hell of a lot with him in the past 3 or four years. Think he'd get a kick out of it.

Due to an acute shortage of beer in the I. corps (N. provences) area, I made a little reconnisance trip down to the harbor and bought 30 cases of Philippino San Miguel from the Vietnamese longshoremen. Paid 3.00 a/case and am selling for the inflated price of 4.50 per. Nothing like supply and demand for a tidy little profit here and there.

Heard from Bob Johnson, who incidentally is becoming quite a scholar, that L. Cummings

11-XX-1967 (3)

joined the greenies (USMC) Too bad, thought he had more sense.

also, Bo Morton says, that Eric Robinson said; that Sonny and Gayle got married! Please verify. He didn't send me an invitation. Hacks me off.

Gotta go to the dentist this afternoon. I hate dentists, and these Navy boys aren't much more than butchers. One of the service benefits I suppose. It's free. Bobby Ferrell stopped by to see my parents after his father died. Says he's coming over here soon. Well dear, I'm long-winded today, very unusual. Keep in touch.

Love
Martin

13 Nov 67 ①

Dear Anne

How's everything going up on the hill? Guess between school and extra-curricular playing you're pretty busy. Hope your dates are improving and better than my conversation acquaintances. Of late, all I hear is talk of cars they're going to buy when they get back. 6 potential Jim Clarks & Graham Hill's in my hut! Going right out of my rabbit-ass mind hearing about 480 H.P. jig-dusting, super-stock rods. Well, if that's their nut I'm not one to disagree. They all went crazy when I told them a Cad or sedate Olds was all I gave a shit about. Conservative I guess, never gave a damn about E.T.'s or 120 MPH, never got a ticket, guess I'm a loser! Maybe just camp.

Sunk 275.00 into Hong-Kong threads last month. Am absolutely going to be the best-dressed man around town. The boys from KATV, Little Rock interviewed me today on TV. Should be shown on Ft. Smith channel around 2-3 weeks from now. Off-the wall stuff. Didn't get to elaborate or expound any

of my theories or solutions.

Getting short is the name of the game I'm playing now. 78 in the Corps, 63 in Nam.

Should you catch a little slack time baby, drop me a line. The subject is open, let me know what's on your mind.

See you Soon (Hopefully)

Love

Martin

4 DEC 67 (

Dear Anne

Got your letter after my retreat from Bangkok. It was a battle, but I survived. Took it over Manila because it sounded so exotic, and was!

During my escapades there, I came down with a bug and slipped down to the Am Embassy for a check-up. Had a small flu in my gut and caught 1 million-5 in the ass for my efforts (penicillian) Came back to Nam day before yesterday and followed up to sick-call for some more medicine. They promptly claimed me as a VD case and put me in bed. After profuse argument to the contrary, backed by their own tests I made my get-away. Navy Doctors—Mod!

Anyway, my current status is a decreasing stomach-ache. All of which didn't adversely affect my enjoyment of Thailand. Made a personal sojourn to the bridge of River Kwa Jane and other points of interest as well as 3 nights of drinking with interesting, if inebriated companions.

I did get your letter of patchwork design and double dates, so don't worry about me being scooped in. You must really be involved in school to make out so good gradewise. If you think law school is an elusive and distant goal, think how much more so it is for me. I really don't care though Anne, because it's going to be so damn interesting getting there.

I've developed a new face in my personality since I've been over here which I didn't know existed until it developed - unknown to me. It seems that I've taken an almost intense personal interest in things. Above all, the drive to discover, unscramble and categorize things for my own pleasure.

Probably more now than ever before, I'm acutely aware and involved with the big picture which is quite awesome in its quantity as well as scope. Politics, Economics personalities etc. are becoming more and more fascinating as I think about them more. This is probably because I've been unconsciously forced to consider these things due to my involvement in the current crisis.

And being able to discuss openly and intelligently my views with another person is sorta a thrill. I'm like you Anne. I only have a few persons who I can easily exchange conversation with on an equal give and take basis. One of the biggest kicks I can think of is being able to come home and re-discover my parents as individual persons as well as Mom & Dad. Of course this hasn't been possible of late, but I'm looking forward to it. Along the same lines, I read like a maniac — anything and everything and when I get on a kick to groove on one particular subject or person I feel like I'm making a pleasurable study.

At any rate, this aspect has really open some doors for me and contributed immensely to my personal drive and ambition.

You're probably either saying I'm crazy; groaning on the same general theme.

By your letter, it appears that you've taken on a new awareness also.

Sure will be an experience seeing where it carries me to.

Although indispensable to the war machine, they're sending me home very soon. Latest word is that I'll be taking off between the 20th DEC and the 5th of January! It's been a long 11 months, but not without its rewards — and sorrow.

Looking forward to all sorts of things when I get back. Driving a car, hot water, neon lights, kissing girls, good food etc. etc.

Guess I'm a country kid that doesn't know what he had left behind. You can keep me down on the farm after I've seen Vietnam. One around is aplenty.

Will get us both an ice-cold 16 OZ SCHLITZ and talk at each other in a few days. OK?

Gotta get some sleep. The Battle of Bangkok was exhausting, and even super heroes need sleep!

Love, Martin

10 DEC. 1967

MUCHO POCO!

Anne

The clock's pushing 3 — A.M. and in 4 more hrs. I can throw my weary bod in the rack for 10 wonderful hrs.

The destroyers out in Da Nang harbor are really kicking hell out someone a couple miles from here. Even here it makes a most impressive tremor. Can imagine what's like for Charlie. Santa Claus came to see me last night and left me a fifth of bourbon. Still don't know where it came from, but I toasted him tonite. People are throwing up trees, lighting candles and increasing the amount of drinking and fighting. I suppose the holiday festival is approaching MAG-11. Still got the old spirit that thrilled me when I was a kid. With any luck at all, I should be at least to Okinawa for Xmas. This is a hell of a place to be for it.

Bo is most appreciative of Mary Jane's correspondance. I think he likes her.

Well Annie I'm just around the corner from the world. Think I'll lean back and scheme. Write — Love Martin

12-XX-1967 ①

Dear Anne —

I guess this really floors you getting more than one letter a week, but it is also a great surprise to me. Never knew I had it in me.

Guess I'm sort of moody right now, so as my number one confidant' you must listen to me. Seems like the waning hrs. of the night grab me and shape my mood for the following day.

Also the splendid DJ of Armed Forces radio is turning me on to the new sounds in the world. He's the only person in Vietnam who doesn't dig Summer Wine except me. I hear the S.O.B. everywhere. Not that I hold anything against Nancy for it, but these bums are playing it into the ground. Had a little action tonite, earlier. The Charlies (I dislike the name too) made another stab at our air strip and we went out and shot at shadows. Guess we get some because they didn't make it past the wire.

I'm definitely getting too short for old Vic to mess around with me. When do the keepers let you out for Xmas break? It's around the 20th isn't it?

12-XX-1967 (2)

You know I just realized that I haven't seen you in almost a year. Guess we've become pretty tight through the mail which is fantastic, I think. Considering the fact that my only actual acquaintance was that fatal night at the drive-in so long ago. Will the real Anne Thomas please stand up?

Seriously though Anne, I feel as if I've never known someone as intimately as you. Guess I was kinda looking for a bond and you were the one who got in my way for which I'm most happy. You really can't imagine how much of an influence you've been on me. I hope you have derived as much satisfaction from our friendship as I have. More and more though, I find myself drifting away from the platonic visage of us which may or may not be good, but maybe that's old Lady Nature who is one of your favorite references.

Too early to make any predictions, so I guess we're 2 people with a secret. Guess I'm more or less a serious minded person due to the environment. Cure? A flighty, light hell raising re-orientation to the life I left 2 years ago as a kid.

12-XX-1967 (3)

Haven't really accomplished a hell of a lot in this letter but according to the unwritten rules of our contract you were obligated to hear me out. Still there?

Sometime when you have a mind-ful, remember I available and also owe you a session.

Lids are getting heavy so I'll close out.

See you in a Oksh.

Love, Martin

13 Dec 67 (1)

Dear Anne

I had a rare chance to sit and drink beer and talk at Bo for about 3 hours tonight. As always, when we sit and shoot, we invariably get around to our pet peeve and our solutions to same. Either by a trait of heredity or self-development, we are mutual lovers of the great outdoors and its conservation. Don't laugh! My heart has saved a corner for nature.

Between us, we know damn near every square mile of Washington, Benton, Madison & Newton counties. Every road, trail, path cave and 1:00 per acre hillside. You've really missed something if you haven't seen our little corner of the world. — Have to take you and Jeep out if you're willing to sacrifice comfort for beauty. ~~All~~ a lot of our tromping around was done before we ever drank a beer, but quite frequently we've taken off in favor of a boozin weekend.

— Monsoons in full force now and it's cold rainy and, pardon the espression, downright shitty.

— OVER —

12-13-1967 (2)

9/Dec 49

Saw a clipping of ^Scott's attempt at the big time burglary racket. Also read a letter from Eric Robinson including his commentary on the event. Mmm. The guy was mentally off — Id deficiency!

The VFW (Veteran's of Foreign Wars) sent me an invitation to join their organization. They were definitely happening up in Montana when I was working there, but I haven't heard much about them down in our parts.

Oh, among others, Bo and I are disturbed about the crime rate around town. Thought we might gang up on Arthur Davidson and his boys and run for Sheriff & deputy.

Well Anne, I'm about to run out of conversational topics so I better cut out before I get boring. Looking forward to your next letter.

Take Care

Love, Martin