

1
Monday Evening
March 1, 1965

Dearest Patricia:

Since talking with you
o'er the phone, I've got out and
reread the poem, "Unswerving",
that has pleased you so much. It
is better, far better, than the brief one
that I addressed "To you" and dashed
off in a few moments to ease my
conscientiousness after the Symposium was
over yesterday. "Unswerving", of course,
much more ambitious in its attempt
to mirror faithfully the characteristics
that so set you above and apart from
all the other girls and women I have
known in College. Apart from purely
physical features, these characteristics
are the ones from which your beauty
springs. They represent the inner light
that radiates from your whole being,
but especially from your face and
the luminous eyes it frames, that
seem to see and comprehend so much,
but above all else, declare your
steadfastness and your strength of character.

2.
I feel both honored and humbled
that you esteem "Unswerving"
as you do. Your saying that you
were going to pin it on your closet
door where you could read it when
you dress, fills me with a surge
of happiness from which I shall
increasingly draw strength and
inspiration.

This is doubtless the place to say
that you & I need have no concern
when I declare that I love you
truly. I understand full well the
role of age and circumstance that
separate us yet still leave open
the channel through which a father
daughter relationship may continue
to grow and enrich our lives. My
love for you is deep and genuine, but
you may rest assured that it is
in its proper place, in correct
perspective, and in correct
proportion. You may take it for
granted that any declarations of

love and affection³ I make, whether
in obvious earnestness or in a teasing
mood, will always be in the context
of a proper relationship. Nevertheless,
I hope that you will be able, increas-
ingly to appreciate what it means
to me, who has never had a daughter
of his own, to be able to claim you,
daughter, in a spirit of pride and
deep affection and to believe, as
I do and must, that, in a modest
and appropriate way, you hold
a measure of real love and affect-
ion for me. As I have told you,
"You can trust me utterly!" but
how any man could be so for-
tunate as to be able to establish
such a relationship with so
beautiful a young person, one so
living and vibrant, seems not-
ing short of a miracle. All
my life I have worked with and
for young people but never before
with ~~one~~ who confronts me so

(return to back of 1st sheet)

directly, who is ⁴so able to give
me her appraisal¹ and reactions
to what I do and say - and help
me immensely in so doing - and
who is such a source of inspiration.

As people grow older, they generally
tend to lose real personal contact
with young persons, to lose any
real continuity of thought and
feeling and understanding with
them - though I am told by many
of my friends and colleagues
that I have suffered much less
loss this way than most. Be
that as it may - and repeating
myself from former declarations,
I treasure knowing you, ^{and} our
relationship, and am sure that
because of these, I have some chance
of retaining something of genuine
youthfulness, if not perhaps of
even regaining some of what I lost
in 13 years of administrative activity.

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I'm sure I lost little or none
as long as I remained a classroom
and laboratory teacher.

And now "incidentally" and
parenthetically, I shall return to
my comments on your excellent
taste and artistic sense in your
dress and demeanor that you
exercise while retaining your
youthfulness and refreshing qualities.
All of this gives me great pride and
deepens my feeling for you. I have
known parents who, obviously, felt
these things about a daughter but I
have had no opportunity to experience
them myself before now. And I will
promise you that, to the extent that
circumstances permit and make
to appear (to you and to me - and to
no one else) wise, I shall do my
best to see that you shall not lack
the means wherewith to continue
to display your fine taste and

judgment, — ⁶ this, at least, as long as you may need and profit by such assistance. And none should ever know save we, ourselves. If that contributes to your puzzling aura of mystery, then from it we may both derive satisfaction and take heart. My only wish is that I shall survive long enough to see you firmly established on your own merits and thoroughly secure — as secure as ^{is meet for} one who believes in taking risks and counting a certain amount of personal "brinkmanship" for causes in which he or she believes or to which he is committed.

The letter I enclose from a teacher friend in the Las Lunetas District includes you in the invitation extended. I'll tell you about the orchestra. I'm certain that you will find the concert worthwhile & or highly rewarding — and I'd like nothing so much as to be able to take you to it. See you Thursday. With much love — Carl.