

Wednesday evening
July 8, 1964

Dear Patricia:

You were very sweet to me
last evening—as was Jon—when
the three of us had dinner at
17 West and then went to Hyatt
House to dance. I especially appreciated
Jon's letting me have the last dance
with you. Though I thought perhaps
he would want one more with you.
Perhaps he was tired—and the hour,
anyway, was late. However, I want
you to know—perhaps you do anyway—
how grateful I am for your trust and
love (I hope) for me and how much
each association with you deepens
my affection for you and my ap-
preciation of you as a person. You
are the brightest, most vital and
refreshing young person who has
entered my inner circle in a
long, long, time. I am one who

must have the real love of at least
a few young persons to sustain me.
If I had to face the prospect of having
my inner circle of beloved persons -
^{the latter} those with still vital minds,
young and old replaced by the truly old
who have given up their ideals and
their spirit of adventure, I would
shrink and die of loneliness and
depression. My wife and I, as most
persons who knew us together were
well aware, lived a very full and
at times intense life but always it
was filled with young persons of all
ages, for we worked mostly with
them. My love for you is such that
I would gladly adopt you as my
foster daughter - were that possible -
or necessary to establish a rela-
tionship that I could freely tell to
anyone. ~~Be~~ Certainly I could be no
more proud of you, nor could I love
you more if you were my very
own daughter! Or, I should be happier
than I could say, if you were to do

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as two or three others do — call me "Uncle Dunc"; for this solves many questions that otherwise might arise. Anyway, sooner or later, it seems that some such "quasi-formal" relationship needs to be established to protect our relationship — and especially to protect you. Actually, though, I feel close to you as a very dear & beloved young friend — but more as an equal than as anything else. I know it looks much better for you to be in the company of a young man of such as you than with me, unless some socially approved status for our relationship can be established that will then leave us free to be our own individual selves who can — in subtle ways, but without any crippling inhibition, express our feelings, share (within due measure) griefs & joys, discoveries and exultations, etc. This is a primary reason for my wanting an additional dinner date with you as soon as you are

settled and can spare the time. I need
to know what you want me to be
to you, what the limitations of ex-
pression of my feelings toward you
(and conversely) must be to leave you
feeling completely free so that every
wholesome relation or feeling between
us can be expressed as occasion
makes desirable. Certainly I do not want
even to appear to impose any atti-
tude or maintain any relation-
ship toward you that could hurt you
in the least. I'd rather fold up,
disappear, and die. But I do not
think that necessary. I admire you
for your intellect, for your accom-
plishments in spite of economic strin-
gencies, for your pride in wanting to
solve all your problems as long as
possible. I do not want you to un-
dergo any real or unnecessary hard-
ship or deprivation and I am able
to help as I have explained, so I
do want you to feel free to call for
help if and when it would solve

any real problem for you. If my
 helping you would ease your prob-
 lem of helping your mother and
 your little brothers and sisters - please
 let me do so. Let me do something
 for you. I'd like you to feel as free to
 call on me for transportation as you
 do to call on Al, for example. The
 rest of the summer will be "vaca-
 tion" specially for me and I can
 arrange my time and affairs pretty
 much as I wish. - even with dental
 and optometrist's appointments,
 occasional weddings of former students
 + friends (as on Aug. 1) thrown in. But
 do let me do something. And
please, do (in whatever way I am
 entitled to it) let me know that you
 love me - say it in English, German,
 Italian, or hattertot - or just
 with your eyes or your voice - it
 will be no matter. I'll respond

with occasional poetry as I have
already. No one else has ever stimu-
lated me so much to poetic expres-
sion. My wife & I met more on a
plane of earnest endeavor - with
admiration, respect, and affection
all along the way - but she was not
poetically inclined - did not seem to
feel the need of it (though often I
starved for it silently) - so I am doing
her no injustice in saying this - and
this she would freely declare were she
here. There also were a couple of areas
in which I suspect I rarely satisfied
her hopes or longings - this seems to be
true of most persons - though few of any
of our friends realized this and most
thought us so completely complemen-
tary that they might have been aston-
ished had we ever discussed our
few inadequacies with them. Mostly we
were too busy doing things with and
for young people of all ages even
to have time to worry much about

inadequacies. Our musical
tastes, too, differed in some respects
& were alike in others. In areas
where your interests lie, I also have
strong interests - but much to learn
so in these I look up to you and
admire you. I asked sometimes
hear you sing for the sheer joy it
will be and not with any shred
of thought of critical judgement.
I can learn much from you - in
the time you can afford to give me -
and I'll ask for no more. But I
agree with your statement when
you said that for fullness of life
one needs several loves and having
found you (I hope I am not accord-
ing too much importance to any-
thing that has happened these last
ten days) I feel that you are one of
mine, & deeply, profoundly, sweetly,
and genuinely. I hope that I
may continue to merit yours -

return. Do I seem to be belaboring
this point too much? If so —
I can say, that once we can
understand each other in terms
of the external form our relationship
should take — I'll have no more reason
most of the time even to mention
it. I'm just so fond of you that I'm
somewhat scared. Many things
are easily understood and accepted
by all of our associates when we
are out on a Field School location.
When the "madding crowd" surges
back on campus in the fall, it will
not be so easy and this is what
I want to prepare for.

So — I hope you will be going to the reunion
Sunday at Byron's. If you stay over with
Carol & Reggie that will be fine. I'll see you
there — and the day lights up with sunshine
Whenever I see you or hear your lilting voice —
but if I can transport you, I'll be delighted
beyond words. I will meet any program
you set up, start as late as you wish so as just
to get there in time, etc. With a full heart
and hoping that you'll excuse my 4 sheets
of writing — "Ich liebe dich", "Je t'aime" etc.
— and I'm thrilled when you call me "Carl."