

hope you will meet shortly. He's only been to New York once so it will be very interesting for him . . . No information about the Army Reserve yet . . . but I have been taking the regular physical training course that all the regular Reserves are taking for the Navy etc. Every afternoon for two hours, we run and drill and exercise like crazy, and believe it or not, I like it and feel better for it. . . .

I'll come down to New York as soon as possible and I'll bring Mat, my roommate, along.

All my love,  
Tony

1943

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March 10, 1943 Annandale-on-Hudson, New York

[To his parents]

Dear Folks—

One might suppose that this sudden burst of epistolary prose on my part shows an inner dissatisfaction with things where I am, and a consequent desire to associate myself with another locale and a different situation. (You must excuse the analyses which have prefaced these last two letters to you. It is, generally speaking, the fault of my roommate, who is studying Freud just now. We argue over psychology almost every night.) This impression (mentioned before) would be entirely wrong, although I have no other suitable explanation for the phenomenon.

The fact is everything is going very well. Calculus has its fascinating facets, and Physics is rather a pleasure. What strange transformation has come over me! My poetry is coming slowly. Producing it, even in small quantities has always been for me a painful and laborious process. (I mean painful here not in the sense of unpleasant to do, but only difficult in the extreme.) I have picked a particularly hard job for myself in deciding to write a sestina—which is a very strict and old verse form dating back to the 12th century.

I have received all your messages and gifts in order, and thank you for them. I have already made use of the tobacco, the shaving-brush and the letter-paper. Quod Est Demonstrandum.

I have not yet partaken of the cake, though I have admired it from a distance of about two and a half inches. My thanks to Paula for the cake, cookies, and her splendid little note. It is indeed comforting to know that her culinary thoughts will be with me when I'm in the Army. [. . .]

Love,  
Tony