

November 16

Dear Phyllis and Suks,

Now that I've written Suks name it occurs to me that she is not in Lesotho. I never expected to write to either of you in Lesotho again. I know I've been a poor correspondent.

I got a group of letters from Rhonda that had been written by you and mailed them on some time ago. I have been storing up items to mail to you ever since. I decided to mail them in another envelope and maybe you can open it from a distance. I have always been afraid to mail anything to you in an envelope that could be tampered with.

How safe are you in Lesotho now? I suppose you can't answer that question but it is on my mind.

If you think that Mr. Reagan has singled out Africa for promoting lousy race relations you should be assured that he is doing the same here. He has just filed a amicus brief before the Supreme Court on behalf of a city that wants to reduce court ordered busing for school integration because it has caused certain disruption. Of course the disruption is to white families but that is not mentioned. It is so hard to watch two decades of progress being reversed.

Michael is attending a new school this year for the 7th grade. It is a public school here and last week we had a social event for parents and students. The school is both racially and economically mixed unlike the 90% Black middle class school Amy and Tim attend. I'd like to see all public schools be just like it.

Bob is fine. He is still evaluating student aid programs for college or trade schools and is often frustrated by the officials from the Department of Education that he must deal with. They already know what results they want found and are anxious that his research prove them right.

My neighborhood is all in an uproar because the "sex" strip from downtown seems to have chosen our business district as a place to relocate. Basically they are bars that feature nude female dancers. Bob and I went to a couple of them and I mean absolutely without any clothing or ornaments. The young women dancers say they love their work and make a lot of money and don't feel exploited. Of course there aren't any naked men dancing.

The Ku Klux Klan has been given permission to march in front of the White House for the first time since 1926 and various groups who oppose that are trying to decide what to do. We thought we had them beat by applying for every permit to demonstrate on the date we understood they wanted to use. Now they have a permit for a different date. They marched in a nearby county a couple weeks ago and only 25 people came. A counter demonstration in another location was attended by over a thousand people. Usually they are their own worst enemies because they sound so stupid when they speak.

Several Board Members for the organization I work for are going to New York to a dinner to salute the Congressional Black Caucus for their constant efforts to provide some help for low income people and for their support for civil rights. Johnny Makatini is to be a guest speaker. These dinners are usually fund raisers and so are expensive to attend. I plan to attend a similar one in Washington in January for a woman

who has devoted her life to fighting for low income housing. In times like these people who have the same ideals need to get together so we can feel some group strength. This is the first year in a long time that no low income housing is to be built. Someone thinks we need missiles more.

I was so sorry to hear about your brother. ^{& your friend} Will sad things ever stop for you. I'm sending info that I hope will cheer you. I know it isn't much when you consider all that needs doing, but ^{there are} somewhere who really care.

I haven't read much about Lesotho lately. It seems like all the news is bad.

Can Suks really be doing A levels? She must be all grown up. Love, Bob + Susan

Additional message area

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Dear Phyllis,

I couldn't tell from your note to Michael if you had Suks at home again or not. If you do, this is to her to^o.

I keep reading little things about Lesotho that tell me that the problems there are growing. I'm always glad to hear that you are all right. I got your letter after the S.A. raid and articles and pictures from the Lesotho newspapers. It looks like there will be no safety in Swaziland either, if there ever was.

Bob Nothstein was here a short time ago. I thought he was going to be here longer and did not get my letter to you written nor some of the other things I wanted to send collected. He took a few newsletters and a small check which I hope reach you soon. I need to meet some other potential couriers.

From here there are small signs of hope that more Americans will become horrified by what is happening in Southern Africa. The District of Columbia (D. C.) has a bill before City Council to take all there invested pension funds out of any company that does business in South Africa. A few cities have done that. There are several groups that can show how to invest funds well and still stay away from Ford, IBM, etc. It is all so slow.

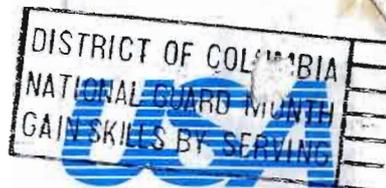
I just got a call from Amy at school that her ear hurts. She had no earaches in Africa but they are back again in the Spring and Fall with her allergies. She is playing soccer these days but that does not look like her talent. Mostly she has her nose in a book day and night. Michael has never studied so hard. He is running in a track meet on Friday. He goes to a public junior high that I love. It is 49% Black, 34% White and 12 % Hispanic, 5% other, whatever that is. There are about 1000 students and I don't see how you could come out of such a place with a race prejudice. Public education is under such fire here with Reagan the President. He wants to allow prayer in the schools and to allow people who send their kids to private school a credit on their taxes for the money they spend. It's hard to keep up with all his horrible policies, both at home and overseas.

My parents, grandmother, sister and nephews are coming to spend the Spring holiday with us and to celebrate Michael's birthday. It's a long trip for my grandmother, about an eight hour drive. D.C. is beautiful now with blooming fruit trees and spring flowers. I wish you could come for a visit, too.

Bob does not think that he will get to Africa again soon, although he always is looking for a chance. Planning Assistance does not have many employees anymore.

Timothy has lost a front tooth and he looks so funny. The other one is loose and soon he'll look funnier. He won't let me take his picture.

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30c

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See the U.S.A... vacation

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Additional message area

Next week is Namibia Week here and there is a different fundraiser everyday to provide food and medicine for the refugees.

Please write and I promise I'll do the same.

Love,
Susan & Bob