

30 November 1993

Dear Phyllis

Yeah, I'm okay. Sorry it's taken me so long to respond. The funny thing is, the place where I used to live in Malibu was right in the fire area. Everybody tells me I'm lucky I moved out when I did, but on the other hand, I kind of feel that I missed out on all the excitement. I've gotta share a favorite quote that I also related in a letter to Sukhthi: it's a real quote from a lady who was ordered to evacuate her house due to approaching flames. She had only a few minutes, so she made the beds. When they asked her why, she said, "Maybe I didn't want the firemen to think I was a slob." In a way, I think the fire story was overrated because only one or two people died, and you lose that many to any major car accident, which we get every day. So really what it amounted to was a bunch of very wealthy people losing their homes. I mean, it's not something you wish on people, but if somebody has to lose their homes, these are the ones who can best afford it. Believe me, they are insured to the hilt and they'll rebuild bigger and better houses on the fire sites. Oh yeah, one other quote, from our local Vatican front man, Cardinal Mahony. You, being a very pious Catholic, will appreciate this. His public prayer was: "Seeing the pall of smoke hovering over so much of our area causes us to raise our hearts and minds to Almighty God in prayer for our neighbors who have been made victims by this monstrous disaster. May He grant us more favorable weather (meaning more humidity and less hot, dry wind) to help extinguish these blazes more rapidly." Now, I have a question: if the Big Guy is in charge of the weather, such that he can send the weather we want, doesn't it follow that he's the one who sent the harmful, fire-driving winds to begin with? In other words, Mahony's willing to give God all the credit for saving us, but none of the blame for putting us in danger. For some reason, nobody raised this point with the Cardinal. Don't get me started on the Catholic Church, I've just been reading about the shameful role of the Vatican and Pope Pius XII in the genocide of 6 million Jews, as well as the facilitation of a postwar "rat line" to rescue Nazi war criminals and place them in safe locations in Latin America and the United States.

Am enclosing the usual, some clippings which indicate the information and news slant that we're getting with regard to S.A. One thing I fervently hope for is that Buthelezi will fade into the obscurity he so richly deserves. The guy ends up on TV here, and people don't know any better, they assume he must be some kind of authentic leader, and they take him seriously. Drives me nuts.

Okay, that's all for now. In case, I don't write you between now and your birthday...happy birthday!

love,
Jimbo