

Nov. 1, 1968

Hi, Globe Trotter:

Hope I'm catching you between trips. Begins to look like Chicago is merely your base where you return to recuperate. However, wouldn't it be better to travel in the ~~summer~~^{winter} and thus avoid that freezing Chicago weather? I appreciate getting those notes from Africa - even if they were delayed because of the mix-up in stamps. Incidentally, I also enjoyed the Educational TV series of Blacks, Blues and Blackto.

The enclosure is the revised or up-dated version of Give Us Our Freedom Now sent to you some years ago. The picture has changed and I change with it. Incidentally, since August Paul Romaine has had my revised version of LIVIN' THE BLUES which was brought up to the present (you are in it) and has the changes requested and which I hope will be acceptable to Hill & Wang publishers. I'm keeping my fingers crossed. Incidentally, my thoroughly erotic autobiography appeared in July. It's SEX REBEL: BLACK and was brought out by Greenleaf Classics in San Diego. Because it's what some people call pornography (I call it erotic realism) it may not be available at more conservative book stores. The author is "Bob Greene" and in it you are "Flo." I have tried to be honest although I changed names and some descriptions, etc. You will find out things about me sexually you probably never suspected - but in this period of wider acceptance of sexual attitudes I can be far more frank than was possible 20 years ago. If you get a chance to read SEX REBEL I hope you will be pleased with the portrait of yourself. You were and are a very unique and remarkable woman and for the first time you will learn of the confusion in my mind about you and Helen and what I really wanted but could not have

because of the nature of our society. Today - or if attitudes had been different then - I would have handled it differently. The only fiction is the last part of SEX REBEL where I am supposedly in California. And, incidentally, to keep the record straight, I'm still swinging and have quite a list of regular correspondents, some of whom I hope to see next year.

Helen is still living alone although I see her virtually every day. We have this interlocutory decree which will not become final before next June. Then she hopes to be able to see her mother and get everything straight. However, I am quite happy with the present arrangement. I have no desire to live with her again - although she doesn't know it yet. Mark, incidentally, started at the University of Hawaii this fall and is a member of the Black Students Union which, at this writing, has brought Stokely Carmichael here for a series of lectures.

Best of everything to you and your husband, little Paul, your daughter and grandchild (children?) You know I must be unusually fond of you to have to write to you with some degree of regularity for 20 years.

— Frank

October 27, 1984

Dearest Margaret:

At last we have something again on which we can cooperate. Of course I'll send in 10 poems with the essential information by your deadline of Dec 30. However experience has taught me to expect little in the area of royalties so I won't expect much. But I do hope we will all be surprised.

Did you meet Larry Hogan a couple of years or so ago when he was in Chicago interviewing B to M about the ANA? He is a white writer then working on his doctorate at Indiana U. I sent him a couple of tapes with answers to his long list of questions and have a xeroxed copy of his treatise. It has since been revised and will appear as a book next Spring from the Fairleigh Dickinson University Press. Now he is going to write another book about who he considers the leading black newsmen in the "golden age of black newspapers" between 1920 and 1950. He intends to devote a chapter to me. So this will be another long round of questions. He wants me to get a copy of my dossier from the FBI although I think it will have little value. He got a copy of Claude Barnett's but it was heavily censored on the ground of "national security." How silly!

Couple of months ago I got a letter from the assistant director of the Institute of Jazz Studies at Rutgers University who said he considered my brief reviews of jazz records in my ANA column "exceedingly astute" and to the point. He is now working on a Ph.D. and had been able to read old copies of black weeklies. He considers me an authority and asked me a whole set of questions about other jazz observers. While I'm at it I should mention a letter from a University of Missouri prof who is doing a book on Jack Couyoga

Jack had suggested ² he write me too information about his career in Chicago at ~~the~~ the 1930's. So it goes.

Undoubtedly you remember John Edgar Tidwell of the University of Kentucky who contacted you about a year ago about the ms. of my autobiography, *Living "The Blues"*. Tidwell, incidentally, thinks the ms. is "Merrivick" and got a xeroxed copy from Howard U. which still has not made up its mind about publishing it. Anyway Tidwell's article on me for the forthcoming dictionary of American Writers to be published next year by the University of North Carolina Press is excellent. He obtained material from a couple of critiques of my work I had never seen. Later I got xeroxed copies of both.

As you undoubtedly know, I am quite happy about your continued success, both personally and with the museum. It has undoubtedly taken lots of ~~work~~ ^{work}, concentration and determination to get the dollar support you have won, but you had the native ability to see this goal and stick with it. I have passed your newsletter on to Helen who asks me to send her congratulations. Speaking of Helen, she remains about the same physically with all that excess weight.

You do get around. Evidently you are not making quite so many trips to Africa now but the calls on your time do take you all over the U.S. I shall look forward to your coming books. And there's no way to keep you away from art.

I'd love to see your daughter and grand children. I still have only two grandkids but one of my twins, who occasionally sings with a rock band in Southern Cali, may soon ~~marry~~ marry a French Canadian. My lone son, Mark,

still in the air force; got his bachelors on
business administration last winter in Japan
and plans to wait for his M.A. He went down
his station to Tokyo for formal graduation. By
the way, his school is University of Maryland
He also was elected to Phi Kappa Phi. Since then
he has decided to switch from his assignment
in the business office to the intelligence division
(ugh!) and he and his wife were sent to Texas
for special training. I am not enthused over his
new specialty but he is my son and has his
own life to live.

And I think all my kids have become
adjusted to my own personal Youth Movements.
Currently my No. 1 woman here is a gorgeous
and sexy girl with a face quite like Brooke
Shields who became 17 two weeks ago today. But
girls here develop both early and rapidly. I have
had my eye on her since I first saw her at 13. I knew
she would be a mind blower. I didn't see her again until
March of this year and then things began. We had a
real wild time for 6 1/2 months despite her youth. It
has now calmed down but we still maintain a "working"
relationship. This girl is Hawaiian, Chinese, Portuguese,
Spanish, Swedish and Irish.

Anyway this brings you up to date on my main
recent activities. Again, I will be sure to have my
poems, etc., to you by your deadline.

Meanwhile, my best to Charles and Marion.

Oceans of love
Frank

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