

#8

P.S. I'll be here till June 17.

Marshall, June 5, 1964

Dear Diana of Poitiers,

You can spend some time looking her up, to figure out whether you're being insulted as usual, or not. If it turns out to be a compliment, you can be sure it's ironic. I loved your last letter, especially the Goldwater jokes. Here's one from the New Republic to add to your collection: President Goldwater has just received word that the Russians have launched an all-out missile attack; he picks up a phone and orders: "Put the wagons in a circle and get the women and children inside!". Speaking of reactionaries, I hear from Al that Florida's chief redneck, Haydon Burns, sleazed into the governorship. Nothing like progress; at least you should get some negro slaves to mow your lawn, once he's in; Too bad Robert King High didn't make it; his name, by the way, sounds like an exotic poker game. I like names that sound like something, like the singer Teal Joy, who sounds, as I told Dunne once, like a duck dessert. Then there's the firm of Batten, Barton, Durstee, and Osborn, which someone said sounds like a steamer trunk rolling down a flight of stairs. Two of my favorite literary critics are Joseph Wood Krutch and Professor Pine-Coffin, a Chaucer expert. Then, before I run off on a total tangent, there's the little girl Dunne discovered: Emma Ritter Demma Ritter Sweet-potato Cream of Tartar Caroline Bostick. She died in the 1860's, and should have with a name like that.

Glad to hear that Al didn't get hurt in the accident, and that Patty is better. I once got run into in the back here in Marshall, by a minister's son who was running for Village Idiot. You make me envious with your record of daily activities at the beach, and at home generally lounging around. But I suppose those are the fruits of a long and virtuous life. I wish like hell I could be with you to watch the GOP convention, which should be very entertaining, like a bad science fiction movie. I never honestly thought they would get around to nominating that damn fool, but it shore looks like it. In November, if you combine the Republicans who wouldn't vote for Goldwater as Manure Pile Superintendent and the Dems, Johnson should sweep the state. Goldy may carry the Confederacy, but I'm secretly hoping for an LBJ victory of Alf Landon proportions. That should end all the Tribune's guff about "hidden conservative strength". The real fun will be watching Goldwater backpedal on major issues in order to keep the party from total anarchy and splitup. Their platform should have more ambiguities than a Henry James novel.

We had Hubert Humphrey as our commencement speaker, and he gave a really fine speech. Eloquent and sincere, yet restrained. I was surprised we could get someone that good; especially with the civil rights battle and the usual June speaker glut. But our commencement was early, and maybe that helped. To even things up, a senile Monsignor gave a dreary speech at the Baccalaureate opposing, ironically, mediocrity. In the course of the talk he damned modern art, literature music, etc. He also needed a new set of uppers, or else he was the reincarnation of the hare-lipped conductor on your Ohio railroad. Speaking of America's Heartland, I notice that a boy from Cuyahoga Falls won the National Spelling Contest. Every time I hear that name I think of you; fortunately for my sanity, I have given up trying to remember which pronunciation of the name you championed; I think it was Cuyahogga. Or was it.....?

As I wrote to Al, I think I had better put off any further pleasure jaunts and hoard money and green stamps till the Great European Expedition. I just opened the first savings account in my foolish gay mad young life, and chucked five hundred dollars in, where I hope it stays till I can spender it abroad. Now I fear I'd better get off

(Beich)  
POSTER ON REVERSE →

# RAMSES II SAYS; VOTE DESPOTIC



LOOK FOR  
THE CROOK + FLAIL  
ON THE BALLOT

WE HAVE THE CROOK!  
WE INTEND TO FLAIL!



MAKE IT  
EXOTIC!  
VOTE STRAIGHT  
DESPOTIC!

\* Why not a tyrant in  
your district?

\* Feudalize national resources!

\* Close state parks, roads, schools!

\* We need a man with vision; one who has  
visions, that is.