

August 25, 1966

Professor Dennis Cowan
Dean of Faculty
Shimer College
Mt. Carroll, Ill.

Dear Mr. Cowan,

I am enclosing a letter I received from my home town Draft Board. Recently the Michigan Board announced that it was going to give out very few deferments in college teaching except in the sciences or in technological fields. They will, however, allow teachers to finish their current school year. Now, I still think that my chances of being drafted are remote, since I will turn 29 in January; still, the Vietnam War is making the absurd more and more likely to come true. My board is not a nasty one, but I still am worried.

Perhaps in your letter you ought to point out that Shimer does not have the usual teaching fields and lines of demarcation. The board may be impressed, or at least confused, by the lack of a rigid distinction between the sciences and the humanities. At any rate, do what you can, and I will be grateful. See you on Sept. 2.

Sincerely yours,


John Bellairs

P.S. Perhaps mention of my duties as Resident Advisor, might add to my irreplaceability.