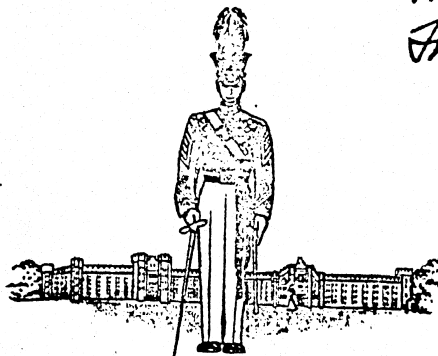


#9

Hell
Thursday, Oct. 10



VMI

Hi Gene:

Thanks for the great letter, "old man". I apologize for not having written you sooner, but - as you may imagine - my time is being quite thoroughly occupied. I'm awfully glad that you like Villanova as much as you do. I know you'll do well there, too. I wish I could feel the same way about this place, but I'm afraid that I'm a bit less enthused. This is pure, unadulterated hell, Gene. One of my Brother Rats has committed suicide - at home - and many have quit, two of whom have not gone home. What with "bracing" (a rigid and painful position of attention), all the abuse from upperclassmen, and too

much studying to be done in
too little time - in short a
perpetual rat-race - the life
of a Rat is somewhat less than
ethereal bliss.]

Thanks for sending along
the telephone book. Say, we
had a ball in New York,
didn't we? I can't ^{wait} to see
you and the rest of the gang
at Christmas. Just think,
less than a year until Sept.
3rd Day!

Practically the whole school
is sick with the Asiatic Flu
and I've been in the ^{post} hospital
for ~~over~~ almost a week. Such
fun! I have an appointment
with a neurologist in Rochester
next week about my left arm
which isn't operating very well.
Perfect picture of health and
all that rat. Oh well, we can't
be happy and have everything
else, too. Ha, ha, ha?

Well, bye for now. More
later. I wish you all the luck
in the world.

Sincerely
Yore buddy, Frankenstein

1957, I'm sure.

THE CHESHIRE NATIONAL BANK
KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

\$10

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#20

Friday, December 13



Virginia Military Institute
Lexington, Virginia

Dear Gene,

I hope the shock induced by sight of my unfamiliar hand-writing will not be permanently disabling. I hope you'll pardon my defective correspondence - the sands of time seem to slip through my fingers with amazing rapidity. I wrote you once and the letter came back for some reason, so I shall enclose it here.

I look forward eagerly to seeing you at Christmas. We had such good times this summer, especially in New York. I hope we shall repeat that experience often in years to come. I'll be home late in the evening of the nineteenth and shall get in touch with you the following day. How I long to get home. You have no idea how much I want to get out of this hole!

I think of you often, Gene, wishing that we could get together as of old. What fun we'll

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have at Christmas and next
summer!

If necessity, this epistle
must be brief, so I'll sign
off for now. I count the days
until we meet, old man.

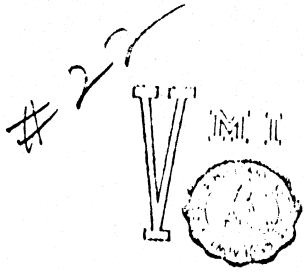
Sincerely,
Jon

JS

Jon - your epistle - come

Leyington, Virginia
February 25, 1958
Left

? I seem to
have gotten
the wrong month.



Dear Gene,

It was delightful to hear your
voice a few weeks ago - incoherent
though it may have been! Much to
my surprise and regret it is now
two months since we last met. What
a good time we had at Christmas. I
wish we could get together as often
as we have of old and must
this summer.

The past two months have been
filled with numerous activities,
some pleasant and many not.
I passed my exams rather
successfully except for Chem -
wherein I met an overwhelming
disaster. Immediately following
exam was a reception (and
second) staged by the third class
(sophomores) in which we were
run around the perimeter ground,
carrying arms, at an ungodly
hour before breakfast and then
strained on the stoop after meals
for half an hour - for three
wretched days. Soon after came

... winter-weather here. I have been
suffering some time, primarily
because the grip I dragged myself
to mention the fact that she is
pinned when I asked her up
here! Since last Thursday I've been
in the post-hospital with a tedious
cold, sore throat, and fever. It
seems good to do nothing but
eat, sleep, and read good books
for a change. I was very sorry
to have to miss the Dublin
Players in June and the Peycock
the other night. I did manage
to hear a fairly good concert
several weeks ago by a soprano
and her violinist - husband. In
March I shall have the good
fortune to hear the Vienna Choir
Boys. I hope they are worthy of
their fine reputation.

We had a good storm here last
week which did but crippled military
activities here, but since, the snow
and ice have all but disappeared;
and routine has reverted its
deadening effects on the poor
cavalry.

Time drags on, but draws ever
nearer to Easter-furlough. I look
forward to seeing you, as always.
Affectionately,
Jon

#21

CADET JONATHAN M. DANIELS
BOX 241
VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE
LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA

December 10, 1958

Dear Gene,
So very sorry to be ^{so} sluggish
about answering your good letter
which I was more than delighted
to receive, you may be sure.

I have been working quite
diligently thus far and enjoying
in my work. My courses are for
the most part fascinating. I
am especially fond of fine arts,
a survey course of the history
and media of the arts. I
have ^{had} an opportunity, somewhat
limited, by lack of free time,
to dabble a bit and have enjoyed

it immensely

Social life: non-existent,
as usual; spiritual: low;
intellectual: beginning to
throb. Plans for the future
are fluid, but ideas are abound-
ing. Of these I shall say more
at Christmas.

For the nonce I shall
content myself with wishing
you my best as ever. I
eagerly await seeing you at
Christmas and chatting
about any and everything.

Faithfully,
John

John sent me your poetry. Terrific! I have
showed it to several of my friends & they
concur in applause. Keep it up - Mr. E.E. Cummings.

#27

CADET JONATHAN M. DANIELS
BOX 241
VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE
LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA

January 20, 1959

Dear Gene,

Many, many thanks for your good letter. It is delightful to hear from thee, chum. To quile the confusion, confessor to you, oh son of Rome, "I am heartily sorry" - and indeed I am - to have missed you my last night in June. As you may have surmised, my visit with the Rhos lasted longer than I had planned - as usual. The tortoise alone can rival me in punctuality.

How quickly our holidays passed! It seems now as if I had suddenly entered the room when it was ready.

to return to the wilds of Virginia.
Oh well, sent in just upon we
feel dread to think of the penance
we ~~must~~ to perform: sleeping on
white-hot spines, etc. } and
are we know it we'll be home
for Center. And, of course, are
we know it we'll be back again.
Missing upon compounded misery!

Your girl sounds enchanting.
I'll take one of same model.
Please package and ship - I'll
be delighted to unwrap. Juggle.
Facetiousness aside, she does
sound like a fine girl.

I am about to embark upon
the perilous venture of exams.
I have, fortunately, a good
average in all my subjects - but

my
studies
are

CADET JONATHAN M. DANIELS
BOX 241
VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE
LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA

it would be lovely, I think, to keep
it. Hen! - to - to - horse, sports and
all. And hope not to be thrown -
twice.

✓✓ I cannot thank you enough
for remembering Dad in your
prayers. You are ^a good and much-
valued friend, as I trust you know.
Dad's complexion, eating and
sleeping habits, and attitude
have improved a great deal
according to the doctor in Kentucky,
although his blood urea nitrogen
percentage remains substantially
the same. At any rate, indications

point to measurement of his life expectancy in terms of years now rather than months as before. This we hope is true, and if it is we shall be grateful and relieved.

And now I had best tackle my French. He writes again soon after exams. The very best of luck to you in them. Goodbye! am dead, professor!

Faithfully,
Don