

LOKUMI KANJI
Miami, Florida
June 10, 1943 ✓

Dear Norris —

Sweating in the summer heat of the southlands, I'm writing this to you instead of being in attendance at the chapel services — but since I'm one of the discussion leaders, I suppose that I can pretty well go my own sweet way. It's beautiful, colorful, tropical down here in southern Florida, but I haven't had a chance to see the much talked about beaches yet. At any rate, I was sent down here by the Congregational Churches to speak and be present at two of their week-long Pilgrim Fellowship conferences — after a couple of weeks here, I'm dashing right up again to Gosden, Indiana, with a day off in Cincin (I hope), and after the conclusion of the ^{Indiana} conference, I'm going into Chicago for a couple of days, and then to Yellow Springs, Ohio to visit Raoul Antoin before going back to Oberlin to hit the books.

This will probably hit you in the midst of your finals, but I hope that you're airing up all right — private Higgins — it seems that the question of whether Nisei are permitted into the various specialized courses is pretty much up to the command of the corps area, for most Oberlin have been flatly rejected. On the other hand, a couple of fellows in Cleveland with Japanese fathers and Caucasian mothers were drafted, so there appears to be no clear-cut policy as I see it.

I'll bet St. Louis is getting the unbearable heat again — one Oberlin, I'm afraid won't be much better. By the way, I must congratulate you on your election into Phi Beta Kappa — you lucky dog — and god, from The U. of A. too. But good luck to you — you really don't need it though —

I left Oberlin after commencement exercises were finished heading for New York - Makino & my roommate left westward for Lake Geneva - Bill returns to Oberlin, but Sammy going all the way home to camp before school starts on July 6. to New York. Betty showed me a few of the sights; I met Andy Matsuto, Takezo Suckuya, who had dropped down to N.Y. for a few days, Bergendagin, Frank Watanabe, Kazuko and Junko Tajita, Sily and Mariko Mukai, Mrs. Hasayama (Tsuriko Ikeda), Saburo Kido (A.C.L. bigshot), Toshiko Senda, ~~and~~ Fuki Fukui, and Mr. & Mrs. Goju Fujihira among others - saw Columbia U., Greenwich Village, Radio City and the famous Rockettes, Times Square, Gospich's Riverside Church, Grant's Tomb, and the Statue of Liberty (from a distance). Don't I sound like a novice traveler gaping at the world? And Andy, Frank W., the Tajita sisters & I took in a night club featuring Guy Lombardo's orchestra. I hadn't planned on anything, so I wore an open collar sport shirt, and the head waiter insisted he wouldn't let me in without a tie - what a scramble. We stopped half a dozen taxis, but New York was hot, & the taxi drivers didn't have them - we finally had one down and he jacked a buck out of me. It was fun though - running around downtown New York around 11 looking for a nightie. Dancing we great - music superb -

On my way down, I stopped off in Philadelphia too & met the Horner Morrisses, Claude Pickett, Student Relocation, Walt Kato, Chikio Ichimura who is making damn good money teaching, and several kids from California.

Life back at college wasn't bad at all - invited to Senior Prom by a swell girl - have a board job for the summer term - but faced with the fact that during the summer there will be only 100 girls and at least 800 fellows (a large Navy V-12 unit is coming). But I hope to manage, what with a good lead & several of the girls - and Cleveland isn't too far away. Incidentally I met Abe Nagwain, Vic & Mrs. Kanbe, Tom Kanno of Green Lake, and Kane out there. Abe's got a swell boy's work job in the Cleveland Y. Kane's graduated and is looking up prospects for a job - passed Federal Civil service and hopes to get on a WLB or Federal Housing post in Cleveland. If those don't pan out, he's got ^{graduate} scholarships from U. of Missouri and U. of Denver fall back upon - not bad at all.

My grades the first term at Oberlin weren't bad, except for a C in German - fine hours too. The others were A's, which makes me eligible for honors work - but I'm going to have to work harder the summer term. Since the Navy is taking over all of the big dorms, we have to live in private houses - my address will be Regt, 211 No Professor St., Oberlin, Ohio. If you want to get a hold of one before then, just write to ~~Oberlin~~ ^{school stores} Soichi Fukui, 278 W. College, Oberlin, & I'll forward the letter to me - but you'll probably be pretty busy once you get into the Army.

Have to lead a class every mon. so I shall cut this letter short. I won't even have time to reread it, ^{as} but please overlook the errors. People down here seem to treat the few Japs around very fairly, & Negro discrimination doesn't seem to carry over. Be good

Just,
Kenji