

*variation
in mood*) *resulting* *declaration* Heather Tolson

I've been writing you mental letters for several days, but my mood has been changing so rapidly that I have not been able to write on paper something coherent until now. So, finally--hello.

So many things happen each day ~~now~~ and the pressure has been so great that I can feel myself changing.

// Moods...

// Satisfaction on actually getting situated in Shaw with a brave woman and an interested, well informed father, two lively lovely grandsons, a son who reminds me of a younger version of Jonny (my brother), There is also a teenage girl who is full of spirit, enjoying her teenage years as I never did actually. There are also a varied assortment of ~~borders~~ friends, cousins etc., most of whom we have not been introduced to. But we are part of the family and know we are here. It is no longer that uncertainty of not knowing where we were going where.

// Tension on hearing news of bombings and shootings and police brutality. I did not sleep these first two nights, just thinking, thinking. Then a sort of controlled irritability--wanting things done and not seeing any progress.

// Revulsion on having roaches crawl on the unwashed dishes, cause eerie tickling sensations at night ~~on~~ our backs as we tried to sleep.

// Joyous feelings on getting a tremendous truck of books delivered, putting up shelves, really beginning to work

// Exhaustion from the sleeplessness, the heat, the work, the tension. Calmness turns to excitement

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We aren't allowed to socialize with the community at dances and such, for security ~~measures~~ ^{reasons}. As a result we have few ways to release the tension.... There is often petty griping and sometimes lack of respect by one worker for another....

It is unfortunate, but all this passes. Life is taking on some routine pattern and unity seems to be coming to the group.

I am really amazed with the highly creative and intellectual level of the workers on the project (with much more than philosophical commitment). Some are very sensitive, most are responsible individuals.

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School begins "onday. I should teach three classes, depending on the need. 1. Citizenship--the role of the Negro in American society in the North, the South; description of the Negro as a human being in America--socailly, culturally, politically; and then the civil rights movement. 2. Typing or Guitar lessons 3. French or Literature.