

310 11th Street
Ocean City, New Jersey 08226
January 21, 1969

Dear Mr. Ferrater,

I am taking the liberty of writing to you in order to explain one of my most recent actions, which may have some bearing on my request for admission to Bryn Mawr next fall. At the completion of the first term, I decided to withdraw from The Pennsylvania State University.

I had many reasons, of assorted kinds, for taking such a step. Most importantly, I found my course work, while certainly not excessively demanding, to be limiting in terms of scholarship and otherwise lacking in direction. As I reviewed the courses offered for succeeding terms, I was able to find only one, perhaps two, which held any promise, for me at least.

Since I had no intentions of returning to Penn State next fall in order to complete their requirements for the M.A., it seemed an arbitrary matter concerning which term would be completed and which not. Therefore, I allowed more personal complaints, the provincial milieu and uncomfortable, expensive living arrangements, to enter my considerations.

My brief academic record there is good. However, I must say that it indicates very little effort, since very little was necessary, and, of most concern to me, very little interest in whatever I was doing. I am still in the process of trying to

understand whether or not, or to what extent, the disinterest genuinely stems from myself. In my resignation letters to some members of the Penn State philosophy department, I indicated that I had come to believe that I ought not to continue my study of philosophy and should, instead, pursue some other kind of work. This is perfectly true. On their terms, I could not, and cannot, continue.

I think that I have some idea of where the difficulties lie, and consequently I wonder if you would be willing to advise me on the following questions. Will you be on leave at some time during the next academic year? Further, you mentioned to me previously that there was the possibility of my having the opportunity of an independent study program. I would of course very much appreciate your direction of such a program. Would this be possible?

Finally, may I have your permission to refer some questions which the admissions committee may, or may not have, to you? I have imposed this lengthy letter upon you, because I feel that what has been said, as well as my questions, could not be expressed through more formal channels..

Sincerely,

Caroline Steed

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