

Dear Push Button, Janet E. and Edward Galore,

It was so great to talk to Janet last night and get a message from Edward through Don's cell phone last week. I have missed you a lot too. I received an email from Linley at a north Seattle public library with Paul Luksch whose help I was receiving in sending some emails overseas that I had on disk. Also I was on his library card (fixed that though – see below). Forty-five minutes isn't much time for me on a computer however, even with help. I saw that Linley had sent an attachment on her letter (some of my mail from London also have attachments) but I couldn't open them. This seems to be some safety feature of the library's computer system against virus. With Paul's help I copied it to disk and although I have been able to open the text attachments from London here on Don Carver's computer I haven't been able to open Linley's. I kind of understand. I'm living off two master floppy disks and Paul has the other and told me on the telephone that he had opened it and it is a photo and he has printed out a copy of it (which I'll get next time we get together) but Paul figures that Don's computer doesn't have the correct graphic program to read it or doesn't have the capacity of memory. (Paul came out and installed Windows 98 on Don's and had a great deal of trouble. All the animated games and music videos Jacqueline and Vanessa have on this computer have about maxed it out).

So it's Saturday, September first and I'm at Don Carver's. Don is doing well. He worked 10 and 12-hour days last week, but is still laid off for a week at a time between jobs at the shipyards. This afternoon he is out shopping for back-to-school cloths with Vanessa. Vanessa just turned thirteen this summer and enters her last year of middle school next week. She is the prettiest little girl in the world and you have to hold your breath and hope she makes it through the next troublesome years. When they get back I promised 'Nessa I'd help her clean her mouse cage. Jacqueline is, well, Jacqueline. She is 16 now and off on her own. I've only seen her twice since I've been back from London but we talk on the phone. I try not to worry about her too much, as does her father. She knows she has all the back up in the world if she asks for it.

Please forgive the long hiatus in correspondence. Since my return to the States I've been couch-surfing from friend to friends and each has a different computer, different operating system and different word processing program. As I'm anything but computer literate this has been difficult. I'm easily stumped in using my new Eudora email account. Quite frankly, it's harder then carving granite. Fortunately I have friends who are computer-literate, patient, and supportive of my work and they have been helping me. This help has been invaluable (and if you get this missive please let me know so I know if it is working). For a couple of weeks I was receiving mail but unable to send. And I still don't have it down.

My energies are directed toward finding a neutron source for transmutation ($Tc > Ru$) and a commissioning recipient for the sculpture. At my slow rate of keyboard entry and moving all the time this has not been real easy. To get a Seattle Public Library card you have to have an address, which I don't. So I lied and cheated and got one today. This gives me 45 minutes per day of Internet access from any library in Seattle. And this missive will be my first effort to use it. I'm writing this document from a sculptor-friend's flat (Don Carver) whose computer is not on line and I will move it to disk and take it to the library to send. I'm counting on this working.

Basically I had a great trip to London. I didn't get to see all my friends but saw many. My energies were focused on creating the next sculpture – the reliquary of transmutation. I believe I did very well. My lectures were well received and I do have some wonderful friends in both the art and science communities. My friendship with Dave Wark certainly solidified, which is probably the best part of my trip. He and I had only meet in person once in my last tour in England but we partnered on the sci-art grant application (which in retrospect was a great proposal although I now know it was doomed to failure). Dave is now in all the journals because his SNO team (Sudbury Neutrino Observatory in Quebec, Canada) found the neutrinos that have been missing for the thirty years since they were predicted. It turns out that all three flavors of neutrinos have mass... not much, but more then Dave and his team have as they contemplate their coming Nobel Prize. I bussed out to Oxford to see him the first week I was in England and he trained in to see me twice in London. We really hit it off and I have great stories about Ni 58 being the "Bees Knees" for collecting ultra-cold neutrons. After all these years I've found my physicist. Now it is my job to follow up with specific proposals. My belief in the artistic importance and logical inevitability of this

project has held me captive for over a decade. I've paid a lot of dues. This is the third time I have been this close. Third time's the charm.

I promises to stay in touch a little bit better with my new library card and will keep you posted as to developments. I'd also like to see you. I'm not planning my life beyond the next letter or the next few hours and I truly dread my next trip to the library to send this because my "in box" is going to be stuffed with responses to the emails I sent out two weeks ago and my stress level is already in the red zone.

With every best wish,

James Acord