

April 6, 1974

Philosophy department
Bryn Mawr
Bryn Mawr, Penn.

Gentlemen:

I have to do something so please hear me out. I just talked with my son Lynn Aulick to learn that he failed his "prelims", failed in three of the four areas. He, of course, is hurt, frustrated, and disappointed.

I am a teacher and I know that it is difficult and disappointing to a teacher to fail students. However, I find it necessary to do so many times. What I am asking you is, will he have a good chance of passing in the fall? What was his main problem on problems? Could it be that because he did his course works in these areas several years ago he has forgotten relevant material? Could it be because he is tested by these who haven't had him in class he isn't prepared? (I know as a teacher some of my best pupils might fail someone else exam because every teacher has her own interest and approaches) Is he the calibre of student who you think could represent Bryn Mawr? I have students who give me effort that just cannot make the grade. I have learned to be honest with that pupil and tell him to try something else. This is not easy but much kinder in the long run.

I am concerned because I know that if he should fail again in the fall, it would destroy him. We need some self image of success and, as he is 32, another failure would defeat him. It doesn't keep any for his brother to have decided to get a doctorate four years ago and will receive his degree from I.U. in September. Lynn has been working for ten years.

Please give him some direction and guidance, either to assure success on to mane and to another field.

Please do not let him know I have written but understand the heartbreak and concern of a mother so far [removed?].

Sincerely

[Signatura]