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Dear Mom and Dad,

How is everything? Still recuperating from Frederick? Everything is doing OK here. English and chemistry are giving me a little trouble, but I hope to pull^{down} up a little more. Mid-term grades will be coming in any day if not already. I'm not sure where or who they will be mailed to, so if they send them there I would appreciate it if you would mail them back to me. These grades don't have any effect whatsoever on my final grades, but are just progress reports.

I finally did get my car fixed after a lot of sweat and about \$80, but everything seems to be OK now except for the old windshield wiper. I wrote Ford but they ignored my letter or never got it.

I've just run out of money up here, so if you could Mom, I would appreciate it if you would take out the remaining \$60 in my savings account and mail it to me. OK? I don't have any cash now so I would appreciate it as soon as possible. Thanks a lot!!!!

Dad, you might be interested in a big fish story. Last month this guy named Bill Thomas and I went diving off Destin, Fla. We went on a boat to Amberjack reef. There were about 22 divers on the trip and only one other guy, from Mobile, who had a large spear gun like myself. He and his buddy went down about 2 min. before Bill and I did. When we got down we saw him and his buddy. He came over and pointed down the reef and spread

his arms out signaling a large fish. We swam over there and he pointed out a large spotted jewfish under a coral head. (Jewfish is in the grouper family). He signaled me not to shoot it 'cause it was too big, but I decided it was worth a try anyway. I got a good shot in straight down his head, then he came shooting out of the hole. I went to pull the CO₂ in my vest to help me get him off of bottom but nothing happened. He then went down the reef and down a gorge in it. The line got cut on some coral and he was gone. I looked around the reef for about 10 minutes when I finally saw the end of my spear shaft sticking out from under a ledge. I tied my line back together and grabbed a hold of the shaft pulling him out away from the reef. I began to go on a ride for about 3 or 4 minutes when the steel cable that secures the spear tip to my shaft broke. My bottom time was about up so I had to ascend. The fish had bent my shaft something shaped like this (?). Well after the surface interval everyone decided they wanted to stay at this same reef. Bill had rented a small speargun and I saw some nice 5-10 pound groupers on the east end of the reef so that's where we headed. We were the last ones in the water this time and everyone else had stirred up the bottom and scared all the fish so we didn't find anything to shoot. Towards the end of the dive we headed for the west end where I saw the big grouper, that I shot the first dive, lying in a gorge. I thought I'd sneak up to him and stab him with my knife as hard

as I could. Well the fish was tougher than I thought and the knife didn't even penetrate. But to my surprise the fish didn't swim off. He must have been in shock. I was smarter this time and stabbed him under the gill cover. He tried getting away now, but my knife made a good handle to hang on to. I wrestled with him like Tarzan for about 5 minutes stabbing him. Bill tried to help by shooting it with his 2-rubber spear but the spear just bounced off of him. Blood was everywhere in the water now. Bill tried to shoot it again, but still the spear just bounced off. Finally the fish died and just in time too! I was 1 min. past my bottom time. He weighed in at 73 pounds. ~~I~~ I got this diver from Australia to take a couple of pictures to mail to me but I guess he's forgotten cause I never got them. I knew I didn't have a freezer to put him in up here so I took him to the fish market and got 60¢/lb for him (\$43). That about paid for my trip except for the bent spear shaft.

Will get to study now. Please don't forget to send me my money. Thanks alot!

Love,

Mark.