

March 12, 1988

Dear Pete,

The latest news from our local oncologist, having examined some X-rays taken this week, is that the three courses of chemotherapy didn't do Barbara any good.

We thought as much — she has been gradually, virtually daily, getting weaker and feeling less able to do anything. She's now on oxygen 24 hours a day and hasn't been out of bed to speak of for more than three weeks.

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one with heavy side effects — hair loss, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, etc. — with no more than "a possibility" of living some indefinable time longer. Barbara, having watched her mother enticed into a year of misery by ~~me~~ being offered a succession of such "possibilities," says, no thank you.

So we are now squarely in the terminal phase, the end game. No telling how long it will last. We're in touch with an organization called Hope Hospice (miscalled, since hope is precisely what its clients have abandoned) (no, on second thought, it's grimly appropriate, since hope is all we have left), which helps with caring for the terminally ill at home. (Barbara hopes to stay out of the hospital as long as she's conscious.) I've set up a Macintosh at home, and will work at home half the time.

You are always welcome.

Gary