

5/22/94

To whom it may concern:

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a junior at the [REDACTED]. I was flipping through the channels when the words of Ross Perot caught my ear. It made me angry when Mr. Perot said that all welfare recipients are 'scum' and are having more babies to keep the welfare cycle going. I don't know that much about politics, but I was raised in one of the poorest counties in the nation. I don't know for sure, but I believe at least 50% of the people in the area receive some kind of federal aid. After my mother broke her back at a boot factory and while we were battling for social security in court, we were on welfare (called AFDC in AR) for 2 years. I am now using the Federal Pell Grant and a band scholarship to get a college education.

Now my mother receives about \$516 a month to support herself and my younger sister. Since I am over 18 I am forced to make a living for myself. The government and the University were both very



gracious in giving me these grants, but if I get sick or am hospitalized, I have no way of paying for it, and according to my mother's income, she sure as hell doesn't either. She is diabetic. That should explain enough.

I do know people who spend their welfare on alcohol and drugs, and these people should be in prison right now. I also know people who are mentally incapable of keeping a job, and people who are physically disabled. I don't appreciate it when these people are called scum (Ross Perot never actually said this word but he might as well have). There are some unfortunate people who take what they can get and use it to get ahead instead of staying in the same slum. I am not writing this letter as a sob story in my belief. I am writing this letter to make you rich people up there aware that not everyone down into a poor family is scum and that they necessarily are the ones that are abusing the welfare system. I did agree with many things Mr. Perot had to say. The subject of welfare reform is just a touching issue to me. Thank You...