

"All right," he said. "Okay!
I'll start using brief cover letters."

Since then he's been awarded several grants
& his poems have been getting into magazines
that are sending my stuff back,

so recently I made a decision
to start shortening
the length of my cover letters.

TURKISH DELIGHT

My wife leaps out of bed at 5 in the morning
to drive 6 miles to the community pool
for an 18-lap workout & a sauna
with

Dick & Marilyn, Don & Doris,
J.D. & Kathy, Tom & Sherry, John & Kim, Dan
& Maureen, Bob & Diane, Ken &
Nancy, George & Sylvia,
Richard & Shirley, Paul
& Liz, Art & Virginia,
Ted &
Tot,
Johnny & Kascha, Robert & Merri,
Bruce & Jean, Carter & Lynn,
Toby & Alicia,
Russell & Connie, Jay & Joan, Jerry &
Margot, Virgil & Lona, Tony & Babs, Kurt
& Sheila, Arnie & Carolyn,
Dave & Jody, Howie &
Jeanne, Tad & Joyce,
Emile &
Alice,
Ed & Anita, Doc & Florrie,
Mike & Pat....

I salute them all,
as I turn over & go back to sleep
with Sultan the cat.

— Richard M. West

Bainbridge Island WA