



City of Cambridge

35.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 15, 1998

COUNCILLOR DAVIS
 COUNCILLOR BORN
 MAYOR DUEHAY
 VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
 COUNCILLOR REEVES
 COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
 COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
 COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
 COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

- WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Harald Bakken on April 9, 1998 at the age of sixty-two; and
- WHEREAS: Harald was an actor, playwright and professor of history at the University of Massachusetts in Lowell as well as a gag writer; and
- WHEREAS: Harald was born in Minneapolis; graduated from the University of Minnesota and received his doctorate in history from Harvard University; and
- WHEREAS: Harald was an advisory board member of Wheelock Family Theater; a member of the New University Conference; and an editor for "The Radical Teacher;" and
- WHEREAS: Harald's passing will leave a void in the lives of all his surviving family, his wife Marjorie and his daughter Martha; and
- WHEREAS: Harald will be sorely missed by all he touched and loved; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of Harald Bakken at this time of such personal loss; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Bakken family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council June 15, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
 City Clerk

to
replace
#35
6/15/98

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around 4/10 replace



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COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitable resolution on the death of Harold Bakken

In City Council June 15, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

IE • APRIL 16, 1998

Obituaries

Harald Bakken, 62; gag writer and professor at UMass-Lowell

You probably never heard of Harald Bakken, but he might have made you laugh.

Mr. Bakken, 62, of Brookline, who died of cancer last Thursday in Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, was a gag writer whose ideas inspired the cartoonists whose drawings appeared in the New Yorker, TV Guide, Playboy, and other periodicals.

For instance: A woman is guiding a shopping cart down a supermarket aisle. A sign on the shelf says, "Prices subject to change without rhyme or reason."

That cartoon appeared in the New Yorker. Mischa Richter drew it and Mr. Bakken wrote the gag.

In another New Yorker cartoon, a batter and catcher are staring incredulously at the umpire, who says apologetically, "I'm sorry, but I wasn't really paying attention."

Chon Day drew it and Mr. Bakken wrote the gag.

Mr. Bakken also was an actor, playwright, and professor of history at the University of Massachusetts

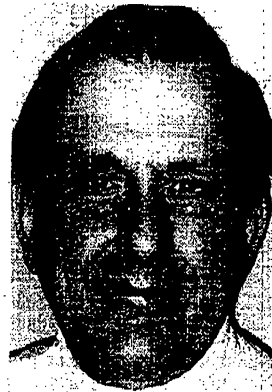
at Lowell since 1972.

Born in Minneapolis, he graduated from the University of Minnesota and earned a doctorate in history at Harvard University.

An antiwar activist, during the Vietnam War he was a member of the New University Conference, an organization of radical faculty. More recently, he was an editor of "the Radical Teacher," a socialist and feminist journal on the theory and practice of teaching.

He was a member of the advisory board of Wheelock Family Theater in Boston and wrote the book, music, and lyrics for the company's musical adaptation of Natalie Babbitt's novel, "Tuck Everlasting," which was presented in 1992. He acted in 14 productions, including "Alice in Wonderland," "Fiddler on the Roof," and "Our Town."

There are about 200 professional gag writers in the United States.



HARALD BAKKEN

Their collaborations with cartoonists follow certain rigid rules. The writer submits batches of cartoon ideas by mail; the cartoonist holds any that are appealing and returns the rest. When a cartoon is sold, the gag writer gets a commission. Although credit is not part of the deal, cartoonists occasionally acknowledge writers by tucking their names into drawings.

Since writer and artist communicate by mail, they can work together for years without ever meeting.

"There is a sense of isolation," Mr. Bakken said in a Globe story on Oct. 12, 1983. "You don't even know the person you're writing for."

When Mr. Bakken started writing gags, one cartoonist sent him notes with encouragement and helpful advice. A year later, his mentor wrote, "Congratulations! I just graduated from high school."

"The man who taught me the business turned out to be a teenager," Mr. Bakken said in 1983. "He had been selling cartoons to major magazines for several years."

He said his gag-writing career was born of boredom with his doctoral dissertation. "I saw the joke section in Playboy and thought to myself, 'I could write those.' I sent some jokes off to Playboy and forgot about them. Then, three months later, I got a check."

He remembered reading articles about gags in Writer's Digest, a magazine for freelance writers. He reread the articles and sent out his first batch of gags on April Fool's Day 1974. Since then, he has dreamed up more than 25,000 ideas and several thousand have been turned into published cartoons.

Mr. Bakken and Mischa Richter were coauthors of "The Cartoonist's Muse: a Guide to Generating and Developing Creative Ideas."

He leaves his wife, Marjorie, the president of Wheelock College; and a daughter, Martha, a special-needs teacher in Boston public schools.

A memorial service is being planned.

Paul J. Eaton, 88

Was N.E. Telephone executive

Paul J. Eaton, a retired executive for New England Telephone and Telegraph Co., died Monday in his home in Jamaica Plain. He was 88.

Mr. Eaton was born in Dorchester. He graduated from Boston College High School and Boston College and earned a master's degree in business administration at Harvard University.

He was employed as a lamp-lighter, lifeguard and clerk before going to work for the phone company in 1933. Over the next 41 years he held a variety of positions with the firm before retiring as vice president of labor relations in 1975.

After his retirement, he continued to serve as president and chairman of the board of the Telephone Workers Cooperative Bank and was a labor relations consultant and faculty adviser at Babson College.

He enjoyed poetry and music and spent summers in Harwich Port for more than 50 years.

He leaves his wife, Edith (Bryant); two daughters, Anne L. MacKinnon/Tierman of Rockville, Md., and Elizabeth M. Rotondi of Stoneham; four sons, Richard J. of Jamaica Plain, Robert J. of Reading, Thomas J. of Acton and Gerard J. of Milton; 17 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be said at 9 a.m. tomorrow in St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Jamaica Plain. Burial will be in St. Joseph's Cemetery in West Roxbury.

Robert Lippincott, 80

Important figure in sailing

ASSOCIATED PRESS

EASTON, Md. — Robert Lippincott, a sailor and businessman whose company helped revolutionize sailboat design, died of pneumonia Monday. He was 80.

In 1946, he and his brother, Howard, founded Lippincott Boat Works. The Riverton, N.J.-based company became one of the largest builders of racing sailboats in the world. Mr. Lippincott remained president until his retirement in 1974.

In the late 1950s, the Lippincotts were at the forefront of the transition from wood to fiberglass boats. Lippincott-designed boats have won numerous national and international championships. America's Cup contenders Dennis Conner and Tom Blackaller won their first world championships in Lippincott Stars.

Mr. Lippincott's personal successes in sailing included the 1950 World Championship in the Star Class. He also was a five-time winner of the Mid-Winter Championship in Havana, Cuba. His 55-foot yawl, Zearend, held the Annapolis-to-Oxford race course record for many years.

Before moving to the Eastern Shore in 1971, he established Lippincott Sailing Yachts as a yacht sales and marina facility in Grasonville. He remained president until his retirement in December 1997.

Mr. Lippincott leaves his wife of

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ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitable resolution on the death of Harold Bakken

In City Council June 15, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

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City Clerk

HD

35 L

Resolution on the death of Harold
Bakken

Bakken

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ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitable resolution on the death of Harold Bakken

Consent Order #35

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Councillor Davis and entire membership
re: prepare a suitable resolution on the
death of Harold Bakken.

In City Council June 15, 1998

ORDER ADOPTED