

6/28/82

To the members and staff of the Cambridge City Council:

I have waited as long as possible before writing this letter, because I did not want to admit to myself that my stay in Cambridge was coming to an end. But I leave for New York at the end of this week, and before I go I want to tell you all of my respect, appreciation, and sincere thanks for your kind treatment of me.

To help other reporters from The Crimson learn about the city as easily as possible, I've stayed away from your chambers these last few months. But it hasn't been easy; after 3½ years, it seemed very strange to not be heading for Central Square on Monday evenings.

Those 3½ years taught me some very important lessons, more important than any I learned in the classroom (in fact, it occurred to me more than once that I really ought to mail my tuition checks to City Hall). Democracy, I found out, is more than a political theory. It is, at least in Cambridge, a healthy and fair way of settling differences and working together toward common ends. The best tribute I can think of to you is this fact: I leave Cambridge feeling much less cynical about politics than I did when I came here.

Thanks too for your kind treatment of a young reporter. I made plenty of mistakes, but that is a part of learning. Good luck to all of you.

Sincerely,

Bill McKibben
Bill McKibben

P.S.--Thanks for all the sandwiches and fruit salad. When you come to New York, look me up and I'll try to return the favor.

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Comm. from Paul E. Healy, City Clerk, transmitting comm. from Bill McKibben, in appreciation to the Council for kindnesses extended to him during his tenure with the Harvard Crimson.

In City Council,

August 2, 1982

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