

8/5/87

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Wagner,

I'm sorry it has taken me this long to get this letter off to you, there really is no good excuse. I have already had many wonderful moments of reminiscence from this year's Bix festival, and your gracious hospitality. Immediately after leaving your house we drove back to our apartment, and began getting things ready for Kurt's departure. Since that time, I have been trying to get things organized, and find a job, and a roommate for the coming year.

I have deeply enjoyed your son's companionship over the last few years, and I already miss his presence. I was blessed to find a friend as compatible as Kurt, and I will miss his friendship, humor, and unique perspective. Kurt is truly one of the finest people I have met on my journeys. He has a strong sense of personal values and ethics, which he is loath to compromise. He has a wonderful sense of humor, and an easy going manner which allow him to relate to almost everyone on some level. His intelligence and proclivity for deep analysis are somehow at the base of all this, and yet seem at times to be just icing on the cake. All of these things have combined to make Kurt a friend who has helped me through two of the toughest years of my life. I have valued his insight, his strength, and his tolerance more than he will ever know.

My point in writing all of this is two fold. To begin with, I feel that it is too infrequent that parents get the benefit of, or the accolades due their enormous effort in raising a family. I have had first hand experience with the fruits of your labors, and I'm here to say, you have done one hell of a fine job!

The second reason for writing this is more selfish in nature. I have learned over the years that I feel much better about ending relationships, and episodes in my life, if I take the time to consider what has transpired, and share that with the people I will be leaving. Among the many wonderful qualities your son possesses, is a reluctance to face the sadness of terminating a relationship. As a result, we did not get a chance to talk through these things in person. I tried to honor his wishes, and not corner him with some long-winded goodbye. This note then is my way of dealing with the feelings of loss, gratitude, and wonder that result from knowing someone like your son for two years, and then having to say goodbye.

I certainly hope to see you people again, but that is beside the point, in-as-much as this is truly the end of this segment of our relationship. I have enjoyed getting to know you and your family and friends, and I consider my life greatly enriched by the experiences we have shared over the last two years.

Thank you both for your kindness, generosity, and friendship.