Dear Rick,

I have promised you this note for several months now. The truth is I hated to call this my retirement announcement, but after reading the note from John Bobel last week, I'd rather call this an appreciation notice.

Yes, I left WHYY, my fulltime job for the last 13 years, in December. I've done some consulting for them for a few months after that, but I've moved back to my home state of Massachusetts and the town of Plymouth. It made the return to the office option a little tough.

These last few months have given me time to reflect. As I think back on all that I've accomplished the fact is it never would have happened if you had not appointed me as your assistant news director at KCCS. Then after you left, John Bobel appointed me as the news director. It gave me a chance to hone my skills as a journalist and broadcaster in a way that journalism classes couldn't.

It's true that I like to think of my career as stops along the Amtrak northeast corridor. Boston radio (WEEI-AM), Hartford TV (WFSB), Philadelphia radio and TV. WCAU-AM, TV, WTXF, KYW-AM, Comcast and WHYY for my TV life. You know what's funny? When I was at Mizzou I was shooting 16mm film. I hated editing it. I always felt my film would break and mess up the newscast. I swore that if editing became as simple as audio editing I could go into TV. Thanks everyone for inventing half inch tape and digital editing.

But all and all. It's been fun. I've been fired twice. Downsized three times, but I've also been promoted 6 times.

The question becomes what to do now. I'd love to continue to consult for stations. But I'm sure lots of people say that. I'd be content to see if Margaret Cronan reads this at WCVB and whether she needs a field producer of the annual Thanksgiving day parade from Plymouth.

You know where I am Rick….mussonidel@gmail.com.

Thanks as always,

John