

Ted Kaczynski's Letters on an Old Colleague's Mental Health Issues

1989

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February 28, 1989

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Dear Dr. Kaczynski:

Over the years, McMillan became more and more of a recluse. He would not return a friendly greeting from a colleague, so after a while people ceased to greet him. To avoid people he would never take an elevator. His judgement deteriorated.

Someone went to see him about a proposal he had made, suggesting that he change it, and McMillan did not utter a word, so that the man left in embarrassment. I heard that on separate occasions a student and a faculty member had feared that McMillan would become violent. Under these conditions, I did not "give" your letter to him, I put it into his mailbox; but I was skeptical about his answering you. After he resigned, I was told that he and his wife had separated; moved to an apartment, his neighbors complained that he was creating a disturbance shouting, and he was institutionalized for 90 days and released. Since then I have heard nothing about him, except that his physical appearance has deteriorated.

It seems a great tragedy, for at one time he was an excellent and very promising mathematician. He is said to be living in his own world, out of touch with reality; perhaps he has found some sort of refuge there.

Sincerely yours,
/s/ F. Bagemihl

From Ted to Bagemihl

March 8, 1989

Dear Professor Bagemihl:

I'm very sorry to hear about Professor Mc Millan. A couple of years ago I had a very interesting book about schizophrenia; sounds as if that might be McMillan's problem...If you're not well-informed about schizophrenia and if McMillan's case is of sufficient concern to you to make it worth your while, you might want to read that book. The title is *Schizophrenia's, yours and mine ...* Whether or not schizophrenia is the cause of McMillan's problem, you're right — it's a great tragedy ...

Sincerely yours ...

The Ted K Archive

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Excerpts from an FBI document called A Review and Compilation of the Writings of
Ted Kaczynski (California University Archive Source: Part #1, #2 & #3)
Cabin document #953.

www.thetedkarchive.com