

August 7, 1989

Rick,

My, my, my - it certainly is interesting how things do change. In March we had a long and, I thought, sincere conversation. So you can imagine how surprised I was when I returned to Illinois in June to find out that after you fucked me in March, you turned right around and fucked me over in May. And now, in August, comes the ultimate fuck-over - the letter whose bottom line is "I don't care what you did to help establish this business - now that it's starting to roll, I want it all for myself."

I can understand what you mean when you say you are very tired. I am very tired also - tired of being screwed over by people who say things like, "I'm not trying to get rid of you." "I want you to be involved." "I'm going to work much harder at communicating with you." "I'll never forget all you've done for me." "You don't have to worry, Kay - I'll never screw you over the way Denny did." Etc., etc., etc., etc.....It is really enlightening to see how someone like you, who places such value on the Old West ideals of being a man of your word and being loyal to your friends, puts those ideals into practice. Somehow I had the crazy idea that the goal was to have the ideal and the practice be as much alike as possible - I didn't know they were supposed to be as different as possible.

I guess you are right that we don't share the same dreams anymore because I know I don't spend weeks at a time thinking about how to build myself and my reputation up at the expense of anyone and everyone around me. But I guess I'm just not competitive enough.

Your comment about not wanting to "fight and argue with you about how the operation functions" is really curious. I don't recall having more than one short conversation with you about Training & Publications functions all summer, or even during the past year, for that matter. You also state that you don't want to feel guilty for not doing more with T&P. I don't understand this reference at all, as I don't even recall a conversation on this subject, let alone a disagreement. As for wanting the freedom to come and go as you please, when have you ever done anything but? While no one can argue that your reputation and the reputation of Sports Performance Volleyball has been a major factor in the growth of T&P, that is not at all the same thing as saying that you alone are responsible for the growth of the company - you did have some help along the way, you know. And it's certainly not just your reputation that has created a positive image for Sports Performance - I had a little something to do with that, too.

"More than anything in the world" you want to be a great coach. I can honestly say I have tried to be a great friend because that was one of my foremost goals. You say you have worked hard for the last two years to develop T&P. I worked hard for eight years, six of those without pay, to help you establish both T&P and SPVB - to help you see your dreams become reality. You got the great reputation and I got a slap in the face. I really think I deserve something a bit more positive.