

And also to tell you how sorry I was that I didn't get the chance to see and talk to more of you while I was over.

But I guess that's the way things worked out and there wasn't much I could do about it — you must think that sounds a bit weak, but I hope you'll try to imagine yourself in my place . . . and then maybe you'll understand.

You see, I'd set my heart on seeing something of your country and meeting as many nice people as I could. I thought of it more as a wonderful end to my holiday in Europe, rather than as a professional visit — especially when my scheduled appearance on "Top Of The Pops" got cancelled because of the Winter Olympics. (Man! It sure was lucky that I'd got hooked on ski-ing by then — otherwise I'd have been really uptight about that!)

And, you know, when I arrived in England, it was just an unknown quantity for me — I just never dreamed that so many of you would show up at the airport and hotel. What can I say? . . . I was knocked out that so many of you wanted to come up and say "hello".

Well, next time I'm over — and I hope that'll be later this year there should be concerts and things and a chance to really get to know each other. But — thanks for being there, anyway.