

Alison Mitchell '72

Alison Mitchell discovered a love for journalism as editor of the Maroon Echo and graduated from Bay Shore High School in 1972. She went on to Radcliffe College and graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1976. Her real education, however, in power, politics, tragedy and serendipity began when she started covering cops, crime, town hall and zoning boards as a young reporter first at the Bergen Record in New Jersey and then at Newsday and then covered state government as the Albany bureau chief.

News reporting gave her a wondrous front row seat on so many moments of our time. She remembers driving to Three Mile Island and wondering whether it was really so wise when all of the cars were streaming in the other direction. Similar thoughts came back while covering the Soviet Union and its fall and becoming resigned to the KGB agents who trailed U.S. reporters around town. The Soviets pulled out of Afghanistan. The Baltic states declared independence. Mikhail Gorbachev was captured in a coup and then rescued. And the Cold War ended. Alison had the privilege of writing about it all for Newsday and about the day to day difficulties of the people facing food shortages, travel restrictions, censorship and a mercurial police state.

After her stint in Moscow, Alison became a reporter at The New York Times where she covered American troops in Somalia, Rudy Giuliani's mayoralty, the presidency of Bill Clinton, his impeachment trial and several presidential campaigns including John McCain's run on the Straight Talk Express in 2000.

In 2003, she became an editor at The Times holding jobs including deputy national editor, education editor, associate managing editor, national editor and now, assistant managing editor in charge of news coverage.

She is married to Francis X. Clines and lives in Manhattan.