

ISTHMUS

ISTHMUS PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.
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To Whom It May Concern,

This is to commend Anthony Shadid as an outstanding candidate for an editorial internship. Anthony is currently an editorial intern at Isthmus, a 53,500-circulation weekly paper in Madison. Previously, he contributed articles and worked as a research assistant on a major investigative project.

Anthony's energy and enthusiasm are nothing short of phenomenal. In addition to maintaining a 4.0 grade average at UW-Madison and playing a leadership role on campus, he has produced some truly excellent work for this paper, the Daily Cardinal, the New York Times and such publications as Washington Reports on Middle East Affairs. I do not think that I have ever seen a more promising 21-year-old journalist. A solid and competent reporter, he has demonstrated an ability to understand complex stories and cut to the heart of even the most aggravating bureaucracies.

Let me give you an example. About six weeks ago, I assigned Anthony to do a story on a topic he knew absolutely nothing about--the various competing ideas for development of the city's ubiquitous railroad corridors. Within three weeks, and with minimal guidance, he turned in the single most comprehensive article ever written on the topic, one destined to serve as a starting point of public debate on the issue for some time to come.

I have watched Anthony attend to the various tasks of journalism, and I have been very impressed. He is an excellent interviewer and a keen interpreter of facts. He knows how to obtain and utilize documents. He is extremely scrupulous in checking facts. He is a competent writer. He is responsible, and easy to get along with. In fact, I think he is the single most exceptional intern from among the pool of 22 interns I have worked with at Isthmus during the last four years.

Obviously, Anthony has a ways to go to reach his full potential, but his skills at this point are uncommonly strong. Anyone in a position to hire him into a meaningful internship is, in my opinion, fortunate.

Sincerely,



Bill Lueders
News Editor