

ISTHMUS

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The New Republic
Internship Program
1220 19th St. NW
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20036

Feb. 5, 1990

Dear Folks,

I understand that Mark Pitsch has an interest in an internship at your publication. Although it is my feeling that he is substantially overqualified for such a position, his willingness to accept it would be your gain.

I have known Mark for several years, in various capacities. In the spring of 1988, as a student journalist at the UW-Madison, he produced a major investigative article for Isthmus (the 53,500 circulation weekly paper of Madison) about the state bureaucracy charged with insuring the safety of buildings. Last year, the problems he identified bubbled into full disclosure, together with other allegations, and the head of the agency was forced to resign.

In the fall of 1988, Mark served as an intern at Isthmus, where he produced a series of local news stories for the paper's Metro page. His work was always professional; his energy level uncommon. He wrapped up his internship with another major investigative project, which appeared in January 1989. It was a shocking story about the abuse of welfare recipients in a county given to lauding itself for its liberalism and compassion. Last month I entered that article in a statewide competition for best story of 1989 requiring investigative skills; I would not be surprised to see it win.

For a while after his internship, Mark continued to contribute articles to Isthmus. Later, of course, he accepted his current post at The Connection, for which he has done excellent work.

Mark is a solid reporter--thorough and professional--and a talented writer. I respect his judgment as a journalist, and have often consulted him on editorial decisions.

Having served as an editorial intern at The Progressive, and run a successful internship program myself, I can assure you that Mark would be a superior choice--the kind of intern you will talk about for years to come.

Sincerely,



Bill Lueders
News Editor