

Lingua franca



THE REVIEW OF ACADEMIC LIFE

To Whom It May Concern:

February 4, 2000

I am very happy to have the opportunity to write a letter of recommendation for Adrienne DiFabio, with whom I worked at the *Resident* from April to July of 1999, when I moved to my current position. As managing editor, I worked quite closely with Adrienne in putting out the paper.

Although the *Resident* is a weekly paper, it is published in four different editions, which means that virtually every day was a press day—most articles had to be edited and laid out around new ad formats, others had to be dropped altogether in favor of new stories, and often even the covers themselves would need to be redone. In short, it was an extremely high-stress environment with lots of detail work to be performed under continual deadlines.

What impressed me first about Adrienne were her work habits. Despite the high potential for burnout, she showed up every day promptly and in a good mood, and stayed in a good mood until the work was done, which for the art department was always several hours after we editors left. Confronted with the often impossible demands of the editorial staff—to come up with a good cover when the lead story changed at the last minute, for instance, or to make small stylistic changes long after the paper should have been put to bed—Adrienne managed to set appropriate boundaries and limits, and then to concede just often enough to keep everyone happy. She was truly a pleasure to work with.

On top of this, I found her to be a great art director. She took copies home and mastered the *Resident's* style before even starting, was up to speed from the first day, and worked quickly and accurately in laying out the paper. She delegated work appropriately, taking advantage of the respective skills of her staff, and did a good job of supervising them. She improved the look of the covers immediately, and showed an instinctive sense of design and taste lacking in the previous art director. As well, she made a number of smaller changes to the paper's style which improved the look, and came up with attractive banners for several of our regular monthly columnists.

In short, I have no hesitations about recommending Adrienne for any position which requires both the ability to work with layout and graphic design and the ability to work with other people. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Yours,

Edward Batchelder
Special Projects Editor