

THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY

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To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to recommend, in the strongest possible terms, Simon Surowicz. He is currently a tape editor with CBS News "60 Minutes," in Paris.

Calling Simon a tape editor is like describing Babe Ruth as a baseball player. In my years at "60 Minutes" and 11 years in network television news, I never worked with a better editor. Period. He edited three of my pieces with correspondent Mike Wallace. Simon made three investigative, not particularly visual stories, come alive. Two of the stories we had to "crash" -- the last one meant four, 90-hour weeks. His stamina and his commitment to excellence and perfection never wavered, even at 3 a.m.

Beyond his extraordinary editing talents, Simon has an incisive, analytical, frankly brilliant mind and strong editorial instincts. He has superb reporting and producing abilities. His creativity in matching visuals to words, and in initiating story ideas, is unsurpassed. He is the only editor I've ever known who voraciously reads the written files on stories, consuming every detail. A native of Belgium who speaks several languages and has edited stories for "60 Minutes" throughout Europe, Simon has an especially appealing sense of irony and enjoys and appreciates the subtle nuances. He has a wonderful wit and a pleasant manner. And he is not afraid to speak with candor and honesty.

In the years since I quit "60 Minutes," Simon and I have kept in close touch, and have talked for hours about the future of television news. In my humble opinion, Simon and others of his ilk represent the future -- the best hopes -- of the medium itself.

I believe Simon Surowicz would be a tremendous asset to any organization!

Sincerely,


Charles Lewis
Executive Director

