



# Have pen & camera Will travel



## Freelance Photojournalist John Myers

July 27, 1996

Dear Editor/Publisher:

From April to July 1996, Taco Tuinstra worked under my direct supervision at Sandhills Living, a twice-weekly features/lifestyles newspaper in Southern Pines, N.C. I was managing editor and Taco was features editor until Park Communications closed the newspaper on July 22, the same day Park announced its entire chain's sale to Media General of Richmond, Va.

During that relatively brief period of time, I came to respect greatly Taco's talents as a feature writer and photographer. In photography particularly, I found that a very minimum of instruction and guidelines from me improved his skills greatly, progressing from "mug shots" to shooting scenic photographs with good composition and excellent use of color.

Taco's writing skills are his most impressive strength and he needed very little instruction or assistance from me and no criticism. I never rewrote a single one of his features, and in all cases, a very minimum of proof-reading was required. His only lapses were in the finer points of the proper written use of English. This also improved dramatically during this short time and I never had to give him any instruction but once.

In my 21 years in weekly and daily newspapers as a writer and editor, I can honestly say I never worked with a young writer with better skills and a more serious work ethic than Taco Tuinstra. My only regret is that our working relationship did not continue longer, which is certainly no reflection whatsoever on Taco. The decision to close Sandhills Living was made entirely on a profit/loss basis, according by Park officials, who launched Sandhills Living in March and gave up on it far too soon, in my humble opinion.

I highly recommend Taco Tuinstra for any writing/photography position for which you may be considering him, with no reservations.

Sincerely yours,

John Myers

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