



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AT MISSISSAUGA
Erindale College

February 9, 2004

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Mr. George Kasey has asked me to write a letter of reference for him attesting to his academic ability and presentation skills. I am pleased to do so.

I have known George for about five years. I first met him when he appeared (unannounced and uninvited) in a graduate seminar of mine at the Centre for the Study of Religion. The seminar was dealing with philosophical and theological critiques of technology. George made some interesting and insightful contributions to the discussion and when I got to speak with him privately, I learned to my surprise that he had no university background. He is a very bright but largely self-educated individual (with a storied past) who has read widely but unsystematically in many fields (anthropology, religion, philosophy, media theory) which are also of interest to me. We had wide ranging discussions about technology and ethics for the next two years. (We shared an admiration for the French sociologist, Jacques Ellul.) I encouraged George to enroll as an undergraduate at the University of Toronto and helped him to get financial aid. Three years ago he began his university education. He has been doing well in his introductory courses in spite of his resistance to the academic discipline demanded by his instructors. They, it seems, have recognized that there is brilliance to be found in his sometimes shapeless and apparently unfocused writing.

George asked me if he could present some material (on media theory) in my graduate and undergraduate courses and on two occasions I have allowed him to do so. In both cases, George demonstrated natural gifts as a teacher and was well received by the students. There are many areas where we radically disagree about ethical and religious matters but in our discussions I have always found George a thoughtful and respectful dialogue partner.

If you wish to discuss this letter of reference with me, please contact me at 416.766.5444.

Sincerely,

Lawrence E. Schmidt
Professor

Department of Anthropology and the Study of Religion