

Jan 26 - Feb 8, 1994

Friends, Romans Countrymen...

by Patrick Lalley

All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence, and then success is sure.
— Mark Twain

It is hard to imagine life before *Tempest*.

I realize that you may not all agree with that statement but for me it is the truth. *Tempest* started as a dream, became a passion and grew into a way of life.

It is certainly self absorbing of me to say that I have given this publication my life over the last four and a-half years but that is also true. There have been many, many long hours in front of the computer producing this publication and I hope that it shows.

It is very difficult for me to leave. But leave I must.

In what could be construed as a self-out, I have taken a position in the mainstream media in a neighboring community. I have been critical of the mainstream for many years and I have come to the conclusion that I have an obligation to work from the inside, as it were. I'm not on some covert mission of reform but I am hopeful that my perspective will be welcomed. I intend to be fair, unbiased, truthful and tenacious.

Consider this my letter of resignation to all of you who have read this publication and supported it. I thank you for your interest, patience and loyalty. I hope that I have given you something.

The pursuit of truth is the one and

only quest that has driven this paper editorially under my reign. In media you cannot fear the truth. It is the lifeblood of our constitutional guarantee. I have tried to print what I perceived as the truth and at times we have attained that goal. Other times I have fallen short, been taken advantage of or been outright duped. This has been a learning experience after all.

I don't believe that I have ever used a quote to introduce a story but the above snippet from Twain struck me as pertinent. When I became involved with what evolved into *Tempest* I was 23 years old, just out of college and working in a field that collided with all that I held dear. Ignorance and confidence ran amuck.

Looking back, the list of stupid mistakes could fill a special edition. We were young and naive but were always driven by a righteousness whose origin is still a mystery. There have been several people who have influenced what *Tempest* is today:

Matt Mauch, the first editor of *Tempest* and current columnist. Matt's vision gave the first several monthly issues its attitude and edge. His presence is always felt.

Jeff and Greg Danz, Zandbrox guys. I honestly don't think *Tempest* would have survived without their constant support both personally and as advertisers. They

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January 26-February 8, 1994 • Volume 5, Issue 6, Number 82

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Tempest Magazine is published bi-weekly and is distributed free in the Sioux Falls Metro area by Tempest Magazine Inc. Limit one copy per person, please. Unsolicited submissions must be accompanied by a stamped return envelope. All material contained herein, written, graphic or otherwise is the property of Tempest Magazine Inc., and may not be reprinted without the permission of the same. All articles, cartoons, and editorial material represent the opinions of the respective authors; unclaimed material is a product of the editorial staff.

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gave me a job when I desperately needed a boost and their insight, opinions and advice have been invaluable. They are true pioneers in this town. Thanks guys.

The Ellerbe family. The level of support that I have received for my dream as well as that of the publisher has been beyond comprehension. Every member has contributed. From loaning vehicles, to storing papers and junk, to selling ads, to coordinating paper delivery, it has been inspirational to be a part of and I shall never forget the level of personal commitment that has surpassed mere publishing.

There have been writers and other contributors too numerous to mention but a few stand out with monumental efforts. Music editor Scott Hudson has given up untold hours over a period of years to make this a better publication. Jason Wagner's late nights helped transform the look of the magazine as did Sam Stever. Just because they knew we needed it. John Stever gave us something to write about and helped changed this town forever. Tom Merrick, John Nichols, Laura Haugen, Charlie Abouzark, and Brad Hedlin are the best roster of writers we have ever had and made my job rewarding and educational. They make it all possible.

My Mom helped me remember the difference between effect and effect among

other untold grammar problems.

The Lincite for letting me into all those shows for free.

Craig Ellerbe, publisher and com-patriot. Craig is charged with carrying the torch as the only remaining member of the original *Tempest* staff. He is the driving force behind this publication and it is he who will continue to hold the banner high. It feels like we've been through a war together. You can call him Mr. Ellerbe. I call him friend.

Janet, for standing by all my decisions even though it meant personal sacrifice and hardship.

The media especially Bob Keyes, *Argus Leader* guy. Generally speaking I was welcomed into the community of media. And with a few exceptions, they didn't rub my nose in the mistakes and were willing to discuss the successes. Rob made a special effort to make us better by creating *Venture*.

You the reader, for writing letters and calling the office to express your opinion, good or bad, and for taking enough of an interest to pick the thing up. It has been truly amazing to me how many people read what we write. The printed word is truly a powerful tool. That is a lesson that I will never forget.

In terms of distance I'm not going far but in another way it will be a different

world. I don't think I will ever be a part of a something as close to pure as *Tempest*. I did it for so long because I believed in the paper and the people, nothing more. I don't expect to find that again but it will shape everything I do from this point.

From each experience in life we take certain lessons. From *Tempest* my choices are two. The first being bitter and pessimistic of the human condition; that I was forced to leave because the community refused to recognize any obvious social genius. Perhaps in an earlier time.

But that is not the moral I take from this fairy tale. It has been a journey and I have emerged a better man, confident in the power and purity of truth and the written word. It is greater than any single person, issue or government.

I've been called many things: liberal, communist, homosexual, punk, trouble-maker, know-it-all, etc. But I've only been interested in the truth and I stand by what I've done. That is what is in the best interest of the Community, the State and the Republic.

By some act of providence, Humphrey Bogart—in a film whose name I do not know and have not been watching—has uttered, "A free press is like a free vice, there's always a danger."

I shall move on, but *Tempest* will live forever. ☐

