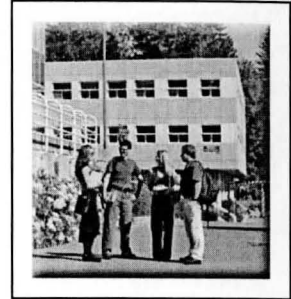


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Plainly Malaspina

Malaspina University College - A View from the Depths



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Charming Letter from Uncle Conrad

MEDIA MOGUL MULLS MALASPINA MERGER MOVE

Dearest Editor/Nephew,

As you may have heard, I've been in a spot of hot water recently over a tiny portion of my hard-earned wages which a few crazy kooks among the Hollinger shareholders, with hardly a bowl to piss in between them, allege constituted a misdirection of funds. (For details [click here](#).) The amount (about £6M) is of course negligible – I really can't see why everyone is so hot and bothered about it – but these things have a habit of snowballing out of control like a cat on a hot tin roof and I thought I had better get in touch just in case before the shit hits the fan.

All of this is a way of saying that I am writing you a rather unusual Letter to the Editor. To avoid beating about the proverbial bush and cut straight to the chase, I would like to apply for your advertised position as Chief Executive Officer of Plainly Malaspina Inc.

I think it will be fairly obvious that I am superbly qualified for the job. I have a track record as long as your arm in the Canadian and British newspaper businesses, and clearly there wouldn't be any accusations of nefarious practices now if there hadn't been enough profit made in the first place for me to channel it, allegedly, into my personal accounts.

I am also a devoted subscriber to Plainly Malaspina (or will be as soon as you add my name to the list – okay?). I believe in your publication as I have never believed in any magazine before. Cash-flow is reportedly a problem, but I am confident that with my immense vision behind the helm we can mount a few takeovers which will soon put us in the driving seat of the local market – *Mainly Malaspina* looks like an obvious first target.

You may be wondering if it is possible for your organization to hire a British peer who is no longer a Canadian. Let me lay such worries to rest: with that bastard Chrétien out of the way, I'm sure there will be no problem securing a ministerial permit, if not the full restoration of my citizenship.

As to availability, I may be tied up a little just in the next few months, but I still have the use of the corporate jets for a week or two, and would be happy to fly out to an interview if you really think it's necessary.

While I may not have been the most dutiful uncle, I would like you to believe that I have always treasured you in my heart. Auntie Barbara sends her cordial regards.

Uncle Conrad
Lord Black of Crossharbour