

April 8, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

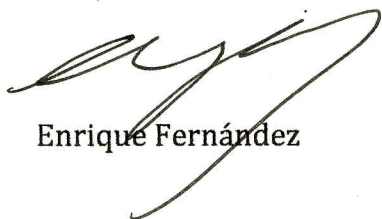
I have known Elizabeth Hanly in a professional capacity for many years. She first approached me when I was a senior editor at the Village Voice in New York to write a piece that touched on Argentine politics, and her experience with this topic was invaluable. I learned that she had traveled and reported on various Latin American topics during the tumultuous years of military dictatorships and revolutions, and I could rely on her to deliver sensitive, beautifully crafted stories that went beyond the surface to reveal the deep cultural roots of political phenomena. She had and has a knack for finding sources other journalists would miss and to instantly develop a rapport with those sources that earn their trust.

When I worked as Features Editor of The Miami Herald, Elizabeth had moved to this city and was already publishing arts and culture pieces in the paper. I seized on her profound knowledge of Afro-Caribbean religion to assign her stories on this theme, which is central to a number of South Florida communities, yet difficult to report because of the secret nature of the practices. Revealing what others would miss, Elizabeth was able to shed a new light on our area's culture.

It's this ability to penetrate the depths of different cultures and personalities that, besides a knack for fine writing, is Elizabeth's unique gift. She can draw out the most hermetic sources, who will trust her with nuances of information she then translates into stories accessible to readers. From discovering a coterie of poets who meet on a rooftop in Havana to moving among the refugees of Central America's wars to unfolding the religious subtext of Rio's carnival to showing how Cuban women invent sources of make-up where none is for sale, Elizabeth's research, reporting and writing is always full of surprising insights. This has been recognized by editors who have published her in The New York Times, The Guardian, Partisan Review, Vogue and other topflight publications.

In recent years, Elizabeth has been teaching journalism and writing courses at Florida International University and Barry University with great success. I look forward to working with her again and will certainly continue to watch her list of achievements grow.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Enrique Fernández', with a stylized, flowing script.

Enrique Fernández