

Alfred Baber Fonds

Correspondence - General

Archejian, John

2003

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
LOCATOR	5095.5
BOX	6
FILE	38

Dear Mr. Arkelian,

Your magazine arrived late on Friday. Dr. Bader took it home over the weekend and will be in touch with you tomorrow.

Best regards,
Ann
Gallery Manager

John Arkelian wrote:

Dear Mr. Bader:

Thank you for your letter. I did indeed receive your mailing address and subsequently send you a copy of Artsforum. I am surprised to hear that it hasn't arrived there yet. Please let me know if it does not materialize next week. Some copies which I dispatched to Canadian destinations on the same date have already arrived. Perhaps yours is just 'taking its time' in the mail? But, please do let me know if it doesn't turn up soon.

As to my unemployment, it's utterly bewildering (not to mention extremely frustrating) to me as well. It's purely speculation, of course, but it may be that some or all of the following factors have played a part in making me unpalatable to employers:

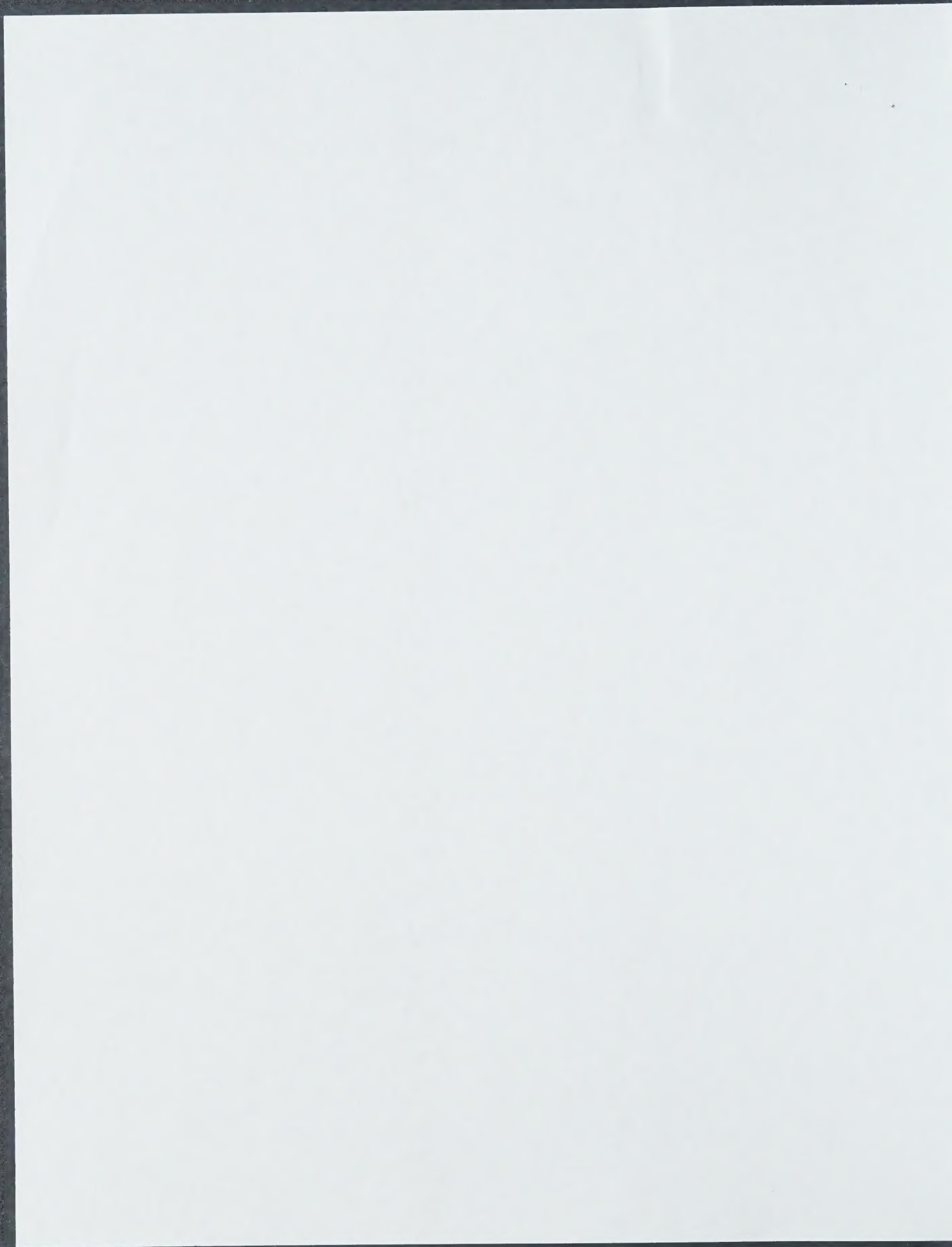
(1) My age - at 48, I'm not as young as I used to be.

(2) The long gaps in my employment record. I have most assuredly not been idle during those periods. On the contrary, I've been busy with occasional 'pro bono' legal work and with full-time volunteer pursuits (like publishing Artsforum). But those activities may not impress potential employers looking for a more traditional employment history.

(3) The sheer variety of my past pursuits (international diplomacy, criminal prosecutions, freelance writing, arts administration, and publishing a non-commercial magazine) may be off-putting to some employers. What I regard as eclecticism may well be perceived by others as a lack of focus. Some employers - especially law firms - seem to like "square pegs for square holes."

A recent example might be illustrative. I was asked to an interview with a big Toronto law firm. The job in question was an administrative one (hiring layers for the, as opposed to practicing law myself), and I suppose I felt (inwardly) somewhat unenthusiastic about it. But the post wasn't entirely without interest. Two people interviewed me separately. I seemed to get along very well with both of them. Each of them kept saying that they found my resume fascinating. Indeed, one said that I was not what they had in mind when they posted the job, but that they felt compelled to meet with me because they found my past pursuits so interesting.

I have heard the same observation before, and it has never been a good sign. It usually means that they find me more interesting to chat with than to hire! And that's precisely what happened this time. I got a call the next week. The caller said that while she was certain I could bring something very different and worthwhile to the firm, she decided "not to be adventurous" and to instead stick to a known commodity, namely, candidates with backgrounds in big Bay Street law firms! Not being hired for



*being too adventurous a choice was a new one for me - at least in the phrasing!

I have applied for an excellent position in Vancouver, heading a small international organizations. One of the attributes they want is the ability "to paint pictures with words." At the risk of seeming immodest, that's me! But only time will tell if my application will generate an interview. Interviews have become very rare for me, alas. Even an application to teach journalism at a college here in Oshawa yielded no interview. Thence, my quandry! What to do when no employer seems to want me and no approach seems to work.

In any event, I'll look forward to hearing what you think of my magazine. It's a one-man show in many ways, and it reflects my interests, passions, and tastes - at least as well as it can on a shoestring budget! Like my professional pursuits, it's hallmark is eclectism, dealing as it does with everything from art to ethics and from film to international relations.

Thank you again for your interest.

John Arkelian

236 Sherwood Court
Oshawa, Ontario L1G 6R8
Canada

(905) 576-0359 (phone)

--- Alfred Bader Fine Arts <baderfa@execpc.com> wrote: > Dear Mr. Arkelian,

I have read and re-read your long e-mail of September 18th and am greatly puzzled for two reasons.

First of all, I have not been able to find out anything about your quarterly magazine, "Artsforum". I hope that you have sent me a copy.

Secondly, you have had such a world of experience, governmental and legal, that I simply cannot understand why you do not have a responsible government position. But of course, being in the United States, I cannot help you.

You write so very eloquently. Why do you think that you do not have a responsible position?

I trust that you received my mailing address which I sent you on September 24th. It is: Astor Hotel - Suite 622, 924 E. Juneau Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

With best wishes I am

Yours sincerely,
Alfred Bader

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Subject: Possibility of a meeting
To: Alfred Bader Fine Arts <baderfa@execpc.com>

Dear Mr. Bader:

I will attempt to send the ten copies today by "Expresspost," an expedited form of delivery which should get them to Kingston on or before Thursday.

John

--- Alfred Bader Fine Arts <baderfa@execpc.com> wrote: >
Dear
Mr. Arkelian,

| Isabel and I will not be able to stop in Oshawa on our way
from

| Toronto
| to Kingston because we have meetings planned at Queen's on
| Thursday
| afternoon.

| Please do send the 10 copies to the Donald Gordon Centre and

I

| hope that
| they will arrive by Thursday. I will certainly distribute

them

| to people
| at Queen's who should know about this fine publication.

| Best wishes,
| Alfred Bader

| Post your free ad now! <http://personals.yahoo.ca>

Post your free ad now! <http://personals.yahoo.ca>



Subject: Your visit to Queen's
From: John Arkelian <artsforum_magazine@yahoo.ca>
Date: Tue, 28 Oct 2003 00:34:10 -0500 (EST)
To: baderfa@execpc.com

Dear Mr. Bader:

I'm sorry that the copies of Artsforum were late in arriving. The method by which they were sent guaranteed delivery at Queen's on Wednesday, October 22nd, the day prior to your arrival. I called Queen's to check on the package's status and learned, to my displeasure, that it didn't arrive till two days later than promised (on Friday). So much for the "guaranteed" next day delivery!

I hope they nevertheless got their in time for you to do what you intended with them?

Thank you for your help.

John Arkelian

--- John Arkelian <artsforum_magazine@yahoo.ca> wrote: > Date:
Tue, 21 Oct 2003 10:41:47 -0400 (EDT)
From: John Arkelian <artsforum_magazine@yahoo.ca>
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To: Alfred Bader Fine Arts <baderfa@execpc.com>

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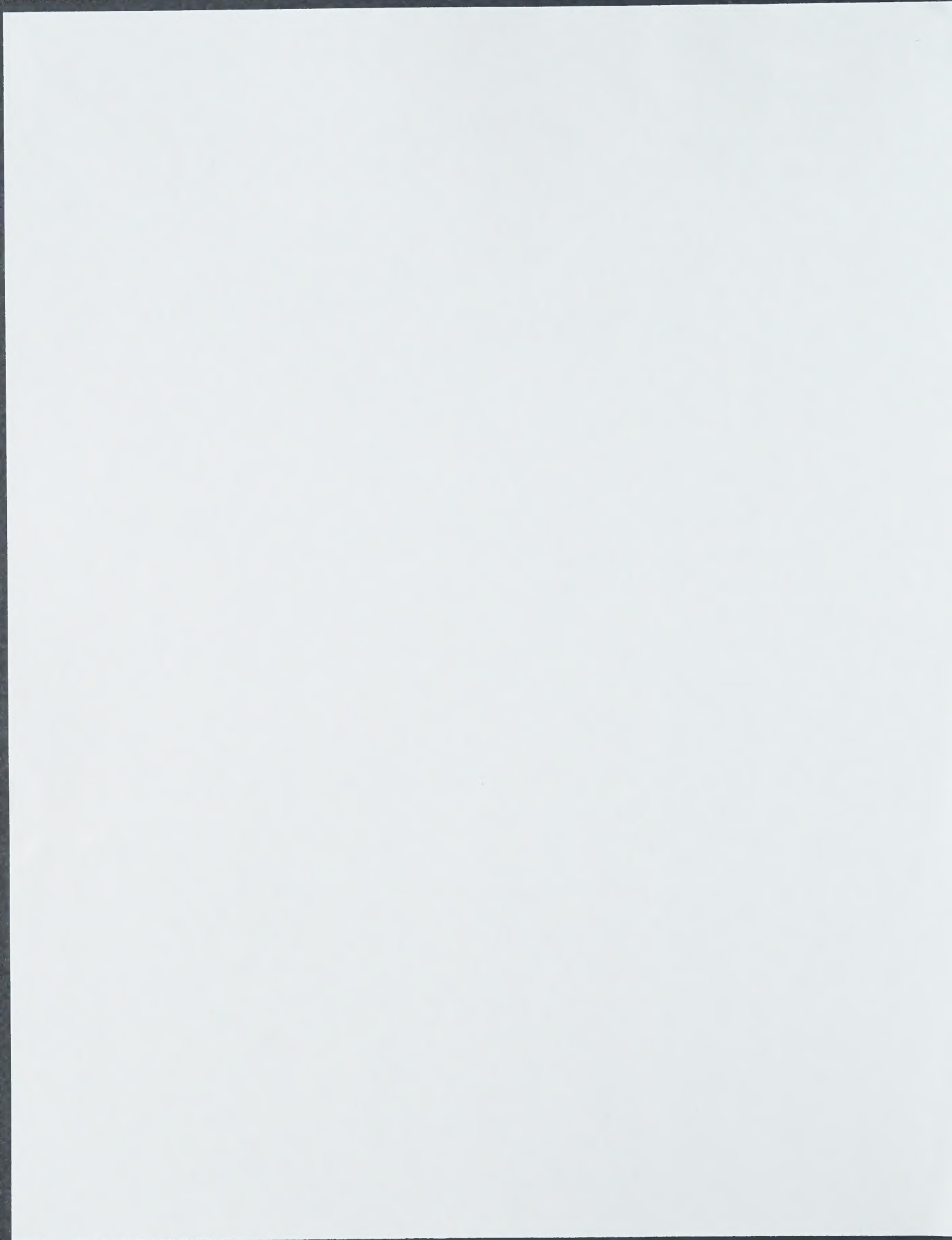
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Best wishes,
Alfred Bader



RESUME of JOHN ARKELIAN

CONTACT

Address: 236 Sherwood Court, Oshawa, Ontario, Canada L1G 6R8

Telephone: (905) 576-0359

E-mail: johnarkelian@yahoo.com

EMPLOYMENT

Lawyer, Writer, and Magazine Publisher (2000 - present)

Founded, edit, and design *Artsforum Magazine*, a quarterly Canadian magazine of arts and ideas with an international readership, which covers everything from books, film, and art to international relations and human rights. 2001 Award Winner as Best Arts Magazine in Ontario.

Legal work: Matters arising from contract, family, creditor/debtor, real estate, publishing, charities, human rights, and international law.

Direct the affairs of the *Durham Council for the Arts*, serving a region of a half-million people.

Lawyer, Writer, and Arts Administrator (1989-99)

Legal work: A complex series of matters involving administrative, employment, and human rights law, and important issues of due process. Also, copyright, book publishing, wills, and charities law.

Directed the corporate restructuring, long-term planning, public relations, fundraising, and publishing of the *Oshawa Symphony Orchestra*.

Designed and wrote new concert magazines, acclaimed for their artistic excellence. Also, created a new name, logo, and letterhead for the same highly-regarded symphony.

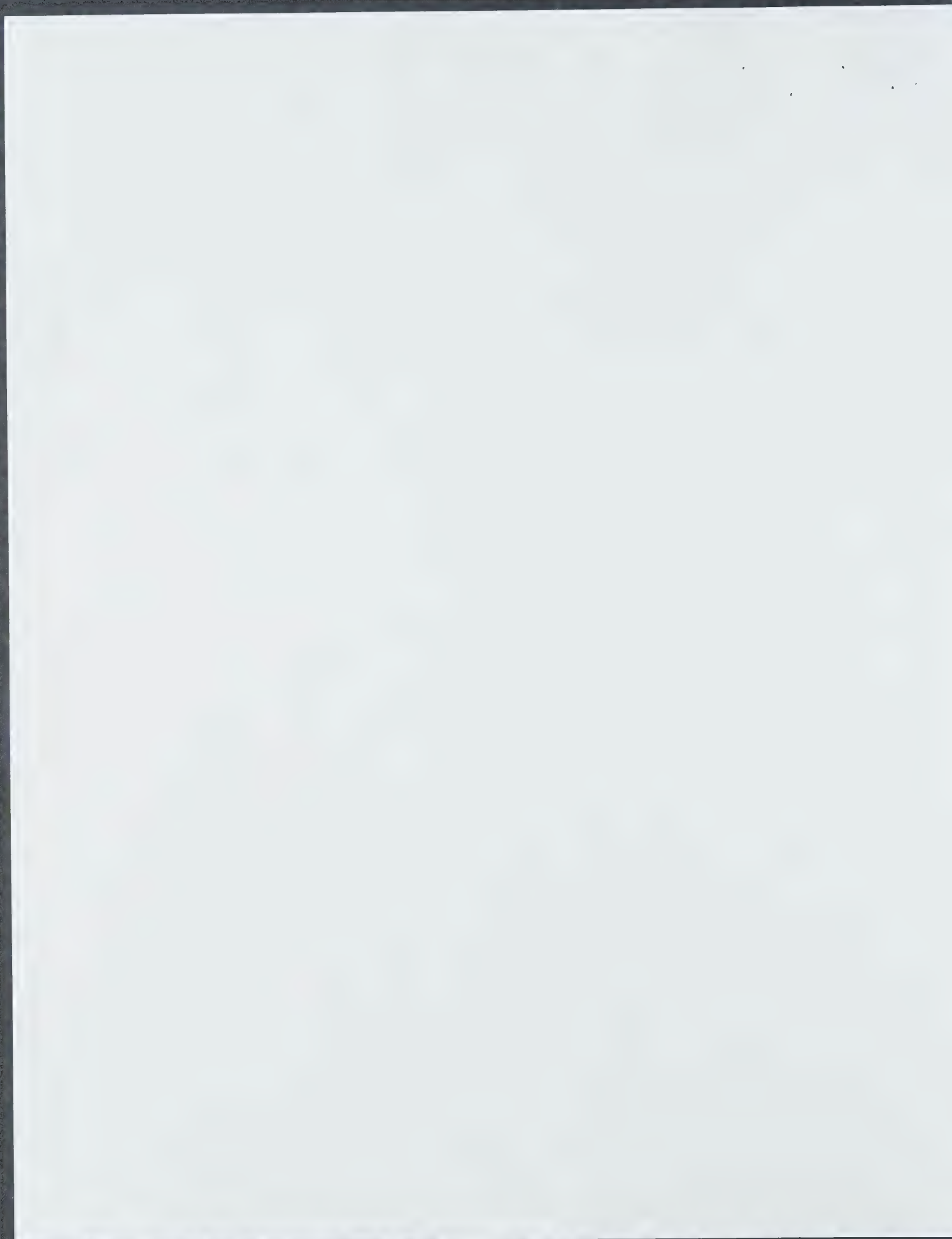
Wrote feature articles for prestigious national publications, like *The Canadian Forum* magazine, *The Ottawa Citizen*, and *The Toronto Star*.

Federal Crown Attorney (1987-88)

Conducted criminal prosecutions for Canada's Department of Justice in Toronto's busiest courtrooms. Prosecuted drug trafficking (and, to a lesser extent, misleading advertising and other commercial crimes), including trials, preliminary inquiries, bail hearings, and reviews - demonstrating ingenuity and composure.

Made innumerable decisions daily about the conduct of criminal cases; worked closely with police, securing their confidence without subordinating my judgement (or the Crown's interests) to theirs; negotiated daily with opposing counsel; and responded effectively to unexpected developments in the courtroom - demonstrating tactical virtuosity and a flair for improvisation and winning the praise of a notoriously abrasive judge by adroitly and tenaciously arguing a weak case against one of the country's leading defence counsel.

Had a pronounced impact on the morale of my colleagues through my witty minutes of prosecutors' meetings, my recurring humorous column in the Justice Department's national staff newspaper, and my reforms to the procedures for ordering transcripts and conducting surety approvals.



Lawyer and Writer (1983-86)

Revised and rewrote portions of a legal textbook, *Anger's Digest of Canadian Law*, in a self-directed project for the senior partner of Stitt, Baker & McKenzie, the Toronto branch of an international law firm. Rewrote the chapters on international trade law and consumer protection law.

Intervened in difficult marital and employment law cases, assuming control of protracted negotiations from outside counsel and quickly achieving successful results. Also, proposed a change to the procedure governing annual filings by lawyers, a change which was adopted by provincial legislation.

Foreign Service Officer and International Lawyer (1980-82)

Represented Canada abroad as a diplomat in Prague and London, managing consular affairs and an international aid program, respectively.

Drafted new legislation, prepared Ministerial briefings (some of which were seen by Cabinet), and represented the Legal Advisor at interdepartmental meetings of senior officials. Co-authored Canada's legal brief in the Sidney Jaffe kidnapping case, on issues of national sovereignty and extraterritoriality. Selected to work directly with the Legal Advisor in restructuring the conduct and administration of Canada's foreign affairs, resolving a dispute between the Prime Minister's Office and my superiors by proposing compromise wording which was used verbatim in new legislation.

Wrote legal opinions on state immunity, Crown prerogative, Charter of Rights, recognition of foreign states, federal-provincial relations, and constitutional affairs. Solved problems arising from the seizure of a Soviet cargo ship in execution of a default civil judgement, the eligibility of a Taiwanese bank to operate in Canada, and contract disputes over the construction of embassies abroad.

Created U.N. input during a NATO-wide war simulation in which high-level diplomatic and military officials of all 15 member states participated. My performance at External Affairs was praised as "exceptional" and "remarkable."

Other Positions (1978-79)

Student-at-law for the Ontario Ombudsman and a Family Court, serving at the latter venue as duty counsel and legal researcher for the judges.

EDUCATION

1988 -- Intensive Program in Courtroom Advocacy -- Federation of Law Societies of Canada, Osgoode Hall, Toronto.

1984 -- Postgraduate Program in International Communications Law -- Institute of International Law and International Relations, Thessaloniki, Greece.

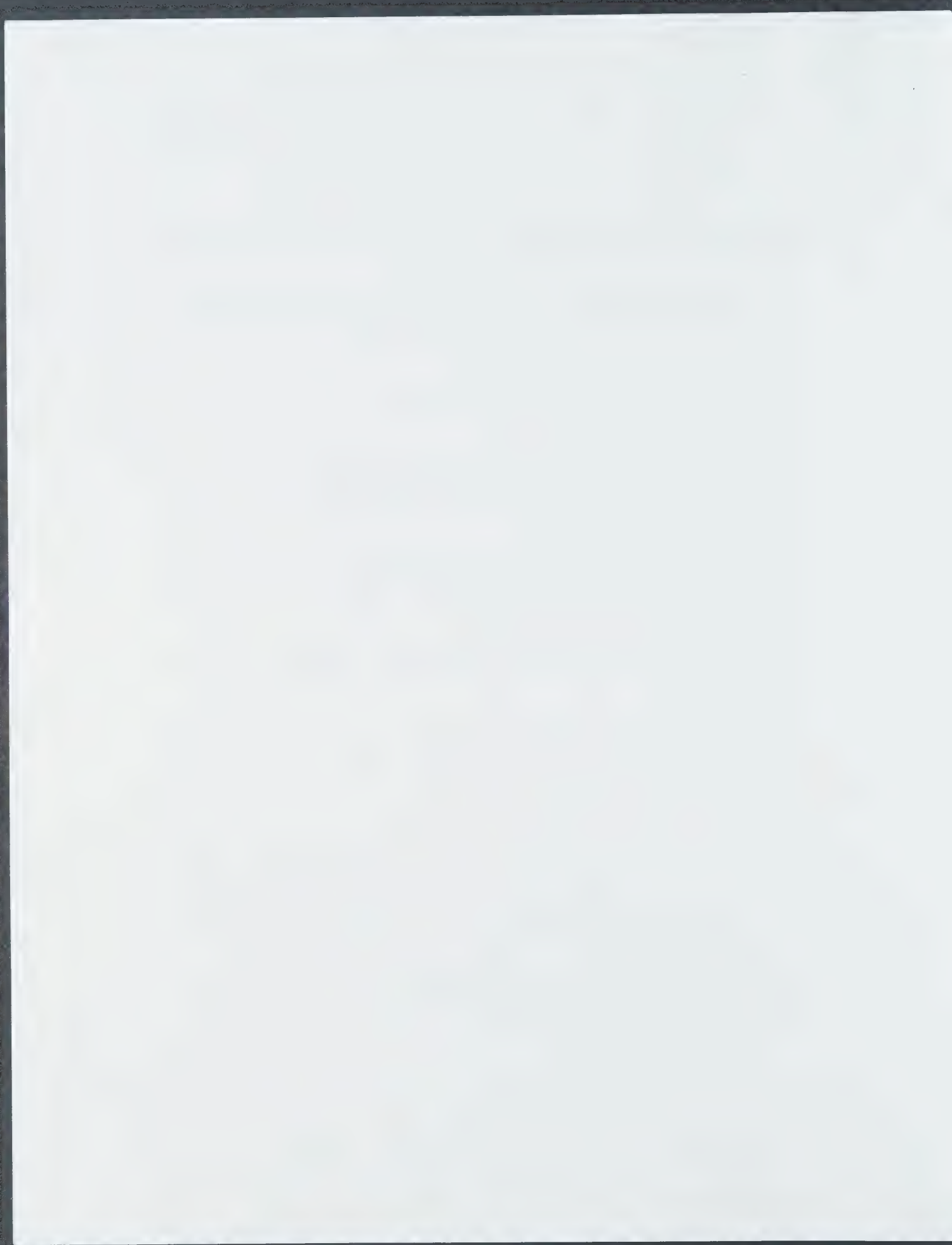
1983 -- Postgraduate Program in Human Rights Law -- Canadian Human Rights Foundation, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

1983 -- Degree of Barrister and Solicitor -- Law Society of Upper Canada, Osgoode Hall, Toronto.

1980 -- Bachelor of Laws -- Queen's University, Kingston, Canada.

1977 -- Postgraduate Program in Foreign Policy -- Oxford University, Great Britain.

1977 -- Honors Bachelor of Arts -- University College, University of Toronto.



PUBLICATIONS

I have written Cabinet briefings, new legislation, legal opinions, scholarly articles, speeches, popular journalism, humor columns, political and policy analysis, diplomatic notes, press releases, film and literary criticism, and trial pleadings - with equal success. My published papers on international mobility rights are regarded as the definitive scholarly treatments of their topic in Canada.

I have been published in some of the country's leading newspapers and magazines, and I single-handedly conceived, designed and produce an award-winning new magazine.

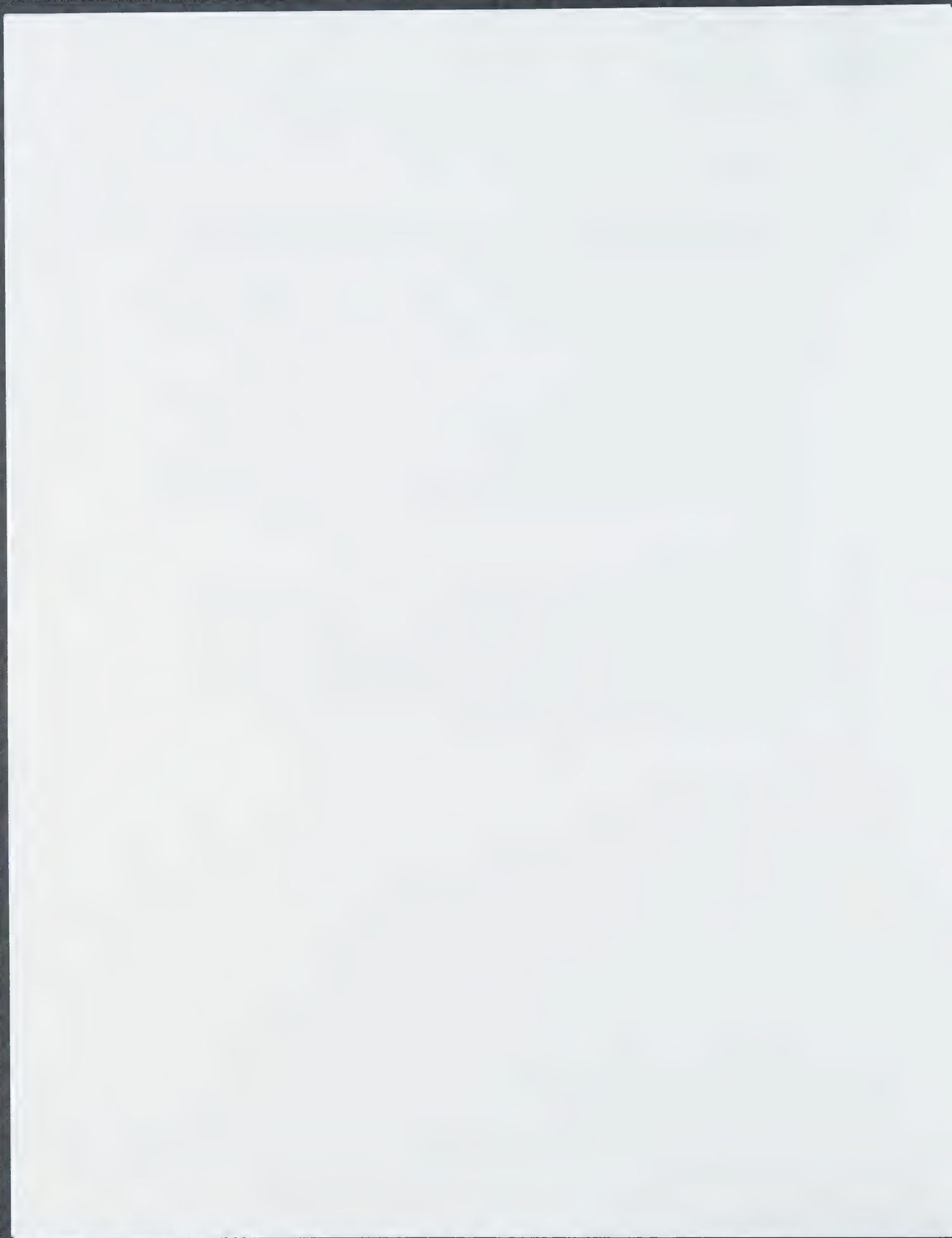
PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Delivered speeches, chaired meetings, led non-profit organizations, debated opponents in public political forums, and gave interviews to print and electronic media.

Distinguished myself in the mandatory moot court program at Queen's University Law School by adroitly leaving my prepared presentation to address issues unexpectedly raised by the judge. Won the honor of representing Queen's in the *Gale Cup National Moot Competition* held before judges of the Ontario Supreme Court.

PERSONAL PROFILE

I am an eloquent, engaging intellectual, whose attributes include a quick wit, sharp eye, and bold, probing mind. An idealist, I possess a thirst for knowledge, a passion for justice, and resolute strength of character. I delight in all things international and have an insatiable curiosity about the wider world. My ambition is tempered by loyalty, and I am noted for my integrity and ingenuity. Resilient, with an active sense of humor, I have the courage of my convictions. I am a talented writer, a natural leader, an effective advocate, and a creative thinker *par excellence*. A proud Canadian of pioneer stock, I have also lived abroad (in the United States and Europe) and I welcome the opportunity to travel. I am eager to make a major impact in a position where intelligence, imagination, and initiative are the keys to success.



Dear Mr. Arkelian,

I have read and re-read your long e-mail of September 18th and am greatly puzzled for two reasons.

First of all, I have not been able to find out anything about your quarterly magazine, "Artsforum". I hope that you have sent me a copy.

Secondly, you have had such a world of experience, governmental and legal, that I simply cannot understand why you do not have a responsible government position. But of course, being in the United States, I cannot help you.

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With best wishes I am

Yours sincerely,
Alfred Bader

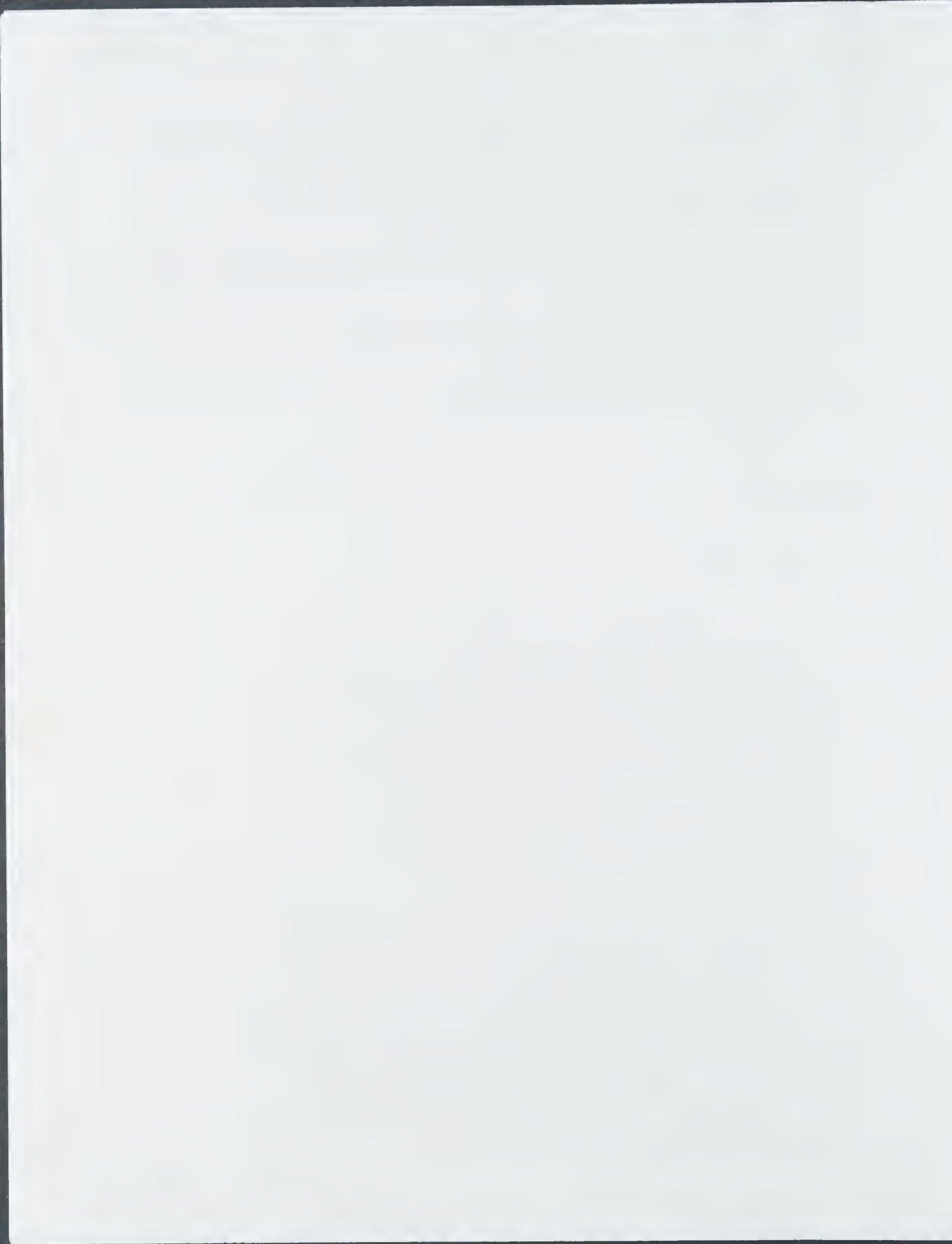
John Arkelian wrote:

Dear Mr. Bader:

Thank you for your recent note in response to my query.

As I mentioned, I wanted to contact you about two things. The first is to explore the possibility of your writing something about art for the magazine I publish. "Artsforum" was launched three years ago as a labour of love. It is produced without any of the requisite infrastructure (equipment, staff, of money), but I'm extremely proud of what I have achieved. It won an award as the Best Arts Magazine in Ontario, and, more importantly, it has won a loyal readership - not only in its primary readership area (the Eastern Greater Toronto Area), but also across Canada, in the United States, and even in Europe. The logical first step would be for me to send you a copy for your perusal. Can you provide me with a mailing address for that purpose?

My second reason for writing is completely unrelated to the first. Although I am reluctant to raise it in the same context, I shall do so, in the hope that you will not mind. It is simply this: to ask your advice (and, if you are inclined to give it) your assistance in my quest for paid employment. Although I have strong credentials and a proud record of achievement - in such diverse fields as international relations, international law, constitutional law, professional non-fiction writing and editing, arts administration, and selected other areas of law (entertainment law, contract law, litigation, and human rights law) - I seem to have become unemployable. The sheer eclecticism of my professional pursuits is no doubt a factor that inhibits my appeal to potential employers. I have represented Canada as a diplomat abroad, conducted criminal prosecutions in the nation's busiest courthouses, directed the affairs of both a respected symphony orchestra and an arts council which serves a region of a half-million people, and conceived and produced a magazine



acclaimed for its intelligence, sophistication, and elegance.
But none of that has helped me find suitable work.

Although I make good use of my time with 'pro bono' pursuits - in law and in the arts - it is imperative that I find suitable paid employment. Yet I fear that I have run out of ideas on how to accomplish that urgent objective.

In the hope that you might be willing to offer some advice to a stranger (albeit a fellow Queen's grad), I have taken the liberty of enclosing my resume. It is saved as a PDF-file, which is viewable with Adobe Reader (available free at the Adobe website).

I hope to hear from you on both of the matters raised above.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Arkelian

236 Sherwood Court
Oshawa, Ontario L1G 6R8
Canada

(905) 576-0359 (phone)

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John,

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Dear Mr. Bader:

I noticed your article in the latest issue of the Alumni
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address. I am a Queen's grad (Law 80) and the editor of an
award-winning Canadian quarterly magazine called Artsforum
Magazine.

There are two matters I'd like to ask you about (one involving
the possibility of your writing something about art for my
publication), if this proves to be a valid e-address.

Sincerely,

John Arkelian
Artsforum Magazine

236 Sherwood Court
Oshawa, Ontario L1G 6R8
Canada

(905) 576-0359 (phone)



*E: Janet
Brooke
✓ 9-23*

Subject: On two subjects...
From: John Arkelian <artsforum_magazine@yahoo.ca>
Date: Thu, 18 Sep 2003 18:18:12 -0400 (EDT)
To: Alfred Bader Fine Arts <baderfa@execpc.com>

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*Ann:
Please e-mail
✓ address
9-24-03*

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197-10-6

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Second main body of faint text, continuing the document's content.

Third main body of faint text, likely the concluding part of the document.

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