

June 12, 1944

To the Editorial Staff of the Casper Tribune-Herald,

At emphatic epochs in history, men have been conscripted to resolve problems through arms when diplomacy failed. Previous generations fought off such tyranny from Kaiser ~~Wilhem~~ Wilhelm II, Napoleon, King George III, Ivan the Terrible, Genghis Kahn, Attila the Hun, and others. Within these great generations were valiant soldiers who left everything, their mothers, their fathers, their siblings, their wives and children, and their lives to halt the despotism that ravaged the world.

For every brave soldier, there were also cowards that were quick with opinions of better designs on how to win without ever a concern about sacrifice. These invertebrate individuals often discovered ways to circumvent reality by victimizing those who were younger. The youth are considered 'lost,' which in turns means a conceivable complication, worthy of cleaving out every fragment of their eagerness ~~in order~~ to maintain the fabrication of a faulty confidence for the coward.

Most often, these same youth are depended upon to resolve the problems originally consummated by the aged, which only causes greater animosity toward the young.

Do you see where I'm going with this?

I would continue, but I am exhausted, and I am confident that you can figure out the rest. I did my best to write it in a fashion that you spellbinding journalists write in for your humble, low educated readers. I am curious, do you feel smarter by using a word like 'consummate' instead 'create?' Did you feel better mocking me at every opportunity? I understand that the new guy, the young buck, is to get a share of mocking. However, all of you men, all over forty years old, most single without families, are not what I would call the cream of the crop.

What was the reason for being so cruel to me?

My age could not be enough of a reason. There would be no purpose for harming the way you all did because of my age. Maybe it was because I was the son of the only reporter who won an award? The same and only gentleman that had a

family and drew the accolades of the community? Or maybe, just maybe, you all felt compelled to cut me down because I write in a style that is stronger, engages the reader better, and will surpass all of you when I return?

Such vitriol.

Bred and taught by the best.

I will see things that I will never wish to see. I will do things no man should ever be asked to do. My feet will walk upon places no ordinary man would travel in a lifetime. Yet all of these experiences will make me a stronger individual.

~~Stronger than any of you who've only sat in a chair behind a typewriter.~~

More substantial than spending forty years in Casper.

All along the way, I will seek pens to bring back to each one of you. Hopefully, the stories that come along with these writing instruments will translate into improving your own prose.

With upmost respect,

Russell