Mark Kardash

Dr. Arvesen

Writing 226: Creative Non-Fiction

17 February 2021

Hello, Professor Arvesen:

I’ve spent a long time thinking about ideas I could pitch for my future article, and I believe I have finally found one that could work. So, without further ado, here’s an idea I believe we should both consider:

**Since 2008, non-profit SS Titan Foundation has been developing “Titan”, an ocean liner that is to combat global poverty.**

In distant 1997, future entrepreneur and politician Joseph Ricker had his breath taken away by the visuals of James Cameron’s epic romantic disaster film, *Titanic*. Himself being a huge *Titanic* enthusiast, he decided to take one of greatest tragedies in human history, and turn it into something positive for the world. That is how the idea for the *Titan*, the largest ocean liner ever created, was born. In 1998, the for-profit SS Titan, Ltd, was registered as an official business, becoming the non-profit SS Titan Foundation 10 years later. The *Titan* is intended to be not just an ordinary ship, but a true, working monument to the elegant liners of the early 20th century, especially the infamous *RMS Titanic.* However, her magnificent size and elegant 1930’s looks is the least of things that make her special. Mr. Ricker has repeatedly stated that, rather than being recycled in the corporate business, the costs earned from operating the liner will be going towards the needs of the sick and poor children around the world, as the vessel will become a sort of “messenger of goodwill”. Mr. Ricker has also said that in the future, his company shall be providing scholarships and grants for students with financial needs.

Coming across the foundation’s website back in 2019, I felt a static of excitement coming through my spine. An avid ocean liner enthusiast myself, I have always been charmed by the beauty of these vessels, but always searched ways of making this fascination meaningful to the world at large. That is why, reading the foundation’s mission statement, I almost teared up. “Oh, my God”, I thought to myself, “This is it. This is how our community can prove themselves. This is how we come out and show the world that our hours of research and staring at black-and-white photos are worth it. This is how we show there is much more to ocean liners than meets the eye. This is how we make our impact.”

The fact that something like an ocean liner could help a problem as serious as poverty and malnutrition is truly fascinating to me, and I sincerely hope I can make others understand that fascination. I was equally enchanted by the fact that Mr. Ricker said his intention was taking something as horrible as the *Titanic* disaster, and turning it into something positive for the world. I share a very similar point of view, and truly believe that the endeavors of the SS Titan Foundation are worth a decent article. In my research, I will attempt to contact Mr. Ricker, artist Ken Marshall, and others involved in the project. Thank you, and I truly hope my pitch will be considered.

Your student,

Mark Kardash