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BRIAN LAMB  
C-SPAN  
400 N. CAPITOL ST NW SUITE 650  
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

You in the mass media ought to be ashamed. My feelings and remarks are directed to all the major media of news, entertainment and literature, who transmit information to the mass of people in this country through the mediums of television, movies, radio and print. Though I may be able to articulate this slightly more than others, I believe this is the way most of us think and feel. You ought to be ashamed because you've sold us out for profit. You've sold out nearly all the social responsibilities we've come to expect and demand from you. You've sold out our trust and any leverage we had on public policy.

Historically, we of the masses have looked to you in the news media for honesty and integrity. We've looked to you for reliable information, current events, enlightenment and knowledge. More than that, we've looked to you as our watch dog over government and the defender of our liberty. The free speech and free press clauses of the First Amendment didn't give you that power and responsibility. The First Amendment intended, and gave individuals the rights to speak our minds and to write and publish our opinions—no more, or less than your right to do so. A free press simply means my right to write this letter, print copies of it, pass it out in my neighborhood and town, or send it to you and anyone else. We gave you the power and responsibility by paying you for it, and by reading, watching and listening to you, your sponsors and advertisers—in your newspapers, news magazines, on television and the radio.

Essentially, we have no communications or information sources outside our own communities, other than you in the mass media. We see and feel what's going on here, but can only imagine by what you tell us, is going on out there. We gain this information from news, entertainment and literature—books and magazines. Essentially, your businesses of mass media controls all the information.

What you're telling us now is, there's a crime wave going on. No one's safe from anything. That in turn, brings out fabricated polls of public outcry and pandering politicians who ram through hysterical reactionary laws without reasoning or consideration. That in turn, only results in further government spending and erosions of our rights and liberty. No one stops to realize or understand that crime waves and other national threats are created by you to sell your product. There in fact is no crime wave going on in America, now, nor has there been any significant change in the crime rate for the past 20 years. You ought to be ashamed.

What you've been telling us is, nothing's going on but disasters, tragedy, crime, drugs, hate, sex, violence, smokers and all the medical and environmental things that are hurting and killing us. You continuously parade an endless river of human failings before us, thinking and believing that is all we want to read, hear and see. You prey upon raw human instincts by shocking, angering, perverting, corrupting, titillating and tantalizing people to sell your product. 'Drug lords of the media.' You ought to be ashamed.



Next, you spotlight and focus our attention upon the three-ring circus of manufactured basketball sneaker heroes, the sickness of Roseanne celebrities and the propaganda pundits of the talk show circuits. You've strung us out between Rush Limbaugh and Howard Stern, then between Phil Donahue and Mary Madeline. You've created mediocrity in the movies, disease on television, ghostly biography writers and screened infections in the literary world. Then, you clog us up with psychological sickos, soap opera suicide, the funny confusion of Home Improvement and the helpless hostility of TV news magazines. Other than C-Span and PBS, the only thing left is the hysterical nothingness of Seinfeld and Frasier. You ought to be ashamed.

You've been telling us that government and society is a gigantic mess, then insinuate there's nothing anyone can do about it. Then, you turn around and tell us that we're the ethical and human rights police for the world, and we should use our military might, sacrificing American lives and money to correct all the inhumanities going on everywhere for everyone and everything living on earth. You ought to be ashamed.

You provide forums and platforms for every radical, splinter and special interest group that comes along. You've sucked under to the politicians. You've attached to us, the parasites of the banking, justice and public education systems. You ignore predators of big business because they own most of you. You play like you're opening an ear to us, but instead, you merely conduct selective polls, manipulate figures and massacre facts. Then, you make it all better by giving us a few stingy inches in letters to the editor, and selective call-in time on the talk shows, as our only forums. You ought to be ashamed.

What you've done is to scare the hell out of us. You're the lynch mob vigilante media for profit. We're dangling from the tree. You're hustlers of propaganda and a sad commentary for the nation. What you've done, is your best to pillage our relationships, our families and plunder the fabric of the country. What you've done is to create the Anxiety Society of America. You're in the active process of making a derelict out of the Constitution and the United States. What more could happen to us? That's not all folks! Wait until the talons of the information super highway come driving into our living rooms.

So, it seems we in middle America are done for—just hanging out to pay the price of oblivion. Not yet folks! Remember the Ross Perot phenomenon? That was not an aberration. Ross Perot is a false prophet, leading the way only as far as his own doorstep. I didn't realize that until after I voted for him. Unfortunately, all Perot wants is to be King of America. But, what happened to us was real. It stirred the sleeping giant of middle America. You know, the apathetic people. The people who elect all the politicians with selective memory syndrome. The people who those in power deceive, take advantage of, then hold in contempt. The people who work hard, buy everything and pay all the bills. You know, the people who have no voice in public policy.

You've pushed our backs against wall and we're not going to take it anymore. Someday, we might it all back with real democracy. Maybe, by means of an interactive voting network on the super highway. If we do, shame on you. If we don't, shame on us.

[REDACTED]  
Apple Valley, CA 92307  
[REDACTED]

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