

Viewer

CSPAN,

Ready for a confusing introduction? The attached was sent to a recent guest, who has many ideas I don't agree with but many more that I do, Mr. David Horowitz. And that letter quotes 3 letters to CNN sent in the last few months.

You can see that many mistakes were made both in substance and procedure in the letters, but the theme is constant and heartfelt: I do not have an agenda for myself in this. My agenda is to provide a better environment for ALL Americans. The polarity and feudalism is our damnation.

I love freedom. I think that the only place where I ever saw freedom was in southern Italy, where for thousands of years governments have come and gone like the fall fashion but no one has been able to control the people. Never be alarmed if the Nazis, Communists, or Socialists take over there. The assumption of political power in Italy is only the first step out the door, unless the people are represented. Governments there can last forever if they are for the people and by the people. Fortunately, Italians are extremely capable of an existence filled with life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness if at the time government, which is only a tool, is unstable or missing.

Here in America, we seem to have it backwards. A great deal of our lives is spent earning taxes and following complicated, intricate, guidelines that are written in lawyerese and are of little use or sense to the common citizen.

Freedom is lost in the process. So is the responsibility that comes with it. Without individual and community responsibility, the Italians could never survive without their tenuous governments.

But they do.

It is impossible to prove that the universe is not real. It is impossible that the matter and energy painted on the canvas of time and spatial structure created itself.

So it is darned near impossible that the artist much greater than even the universe doesn't exist. Someone had to create the canvas, and someone had to etch the tiny details from seashells to reproductive life. No matter how smart we humans or any other intelligent beings within the universe become, we'll never be able to pull that one off.

And we think we're pretty powerful. We could detonate every atom bomb in existence and pale compared to a modest flare from the Sun. So we humans aren't really in control of our destiny, ultimately, but we need to do what we can, in our modest little Good Ship America, to do what we can to give ourselves a better country and a better life. And if not for us, then for all that follow.

Key West FL
33041-6012

Don't think this letter is drifting toward religion and away from politics. Some think they're pretty religious when they walk around 'quoting scriptures' to explain why the sky is blue. These people invented the 10-second sound-byte, just as the New Testament tells that even Satan quotes scripture (trying to get Jesus to jump without a parachute) to spin a particular agenda. There is probably something else in scripture that explains why the sky is green.

Actually, the meaning of life according to [REDACTED] is to apply myself to improvement of the Good Ship America that God went through so much trouble to bless with beauty and resources, as well as the fleet of other great ships that are zooming around the sun and galactic core together on this ball.

The meaning of a good death is to minimize regrets that I wasted time or didn't try hard enough, even though all people surely want more time or a second chance. I hope the only thing I'd have to say on the way out is something like "God, thank you for giving me this life so that I can be with you in the next."

I don't make much distinction between people with terminal diseases and the rest of us, except for the pain that the disease and reaction from the living brings. Like Italian governments, we're all dying as of day one.

Some things are right, some things are wrong. The universe was too craftily created with checks and balances, and physical laws, for there not to be consequences for people that know better than to confuse right and wrong.

There must truly be a heaven outside the bubble universe for the unsung heroes, and a hell for people that have nothing but contempt for God.

But I think one of the saddest parts of contemporary American politics is people who honestly believe their particular spin on scriptures or their God-given instincts are better than someone else's. It used to be the Crusades. Then it was Northern Ireland, Bosnia, or other places where people think that their belief in God allows them to think they are doing God a favor by purging Earth of the non-believers.

Then it was Waco. Now, 'Right Wing' zealots (right of political center, or 'correct?') are trying to play God by legislation.

Well, Reverends, God doesn't work that way. God loves freedom too, or else God's Right wouldn't let Satan's Wrong run around in the same universe.

You can't legislate heaven in this universe, though your attempt to do so, dear Reverends, is probably based on good intentions. But it's just vanity. Accept it.

I love the Catholic Church, and as a person fortunate enough to play the game of life apparently required to get into heaven, I couldn't have the heart to deny that right to unborn children. Yes, God could have just made all of us angels in heaven from the start, but God didn't. So far as the totality of truth of the scriptures, even religion (especially religion) is just as manipulated and flawed by we humans in this flawed universe.

But we were given the freedom to make those mistakes. Actually, I am convinced God made man first, and realizing all of the problems we would bring upon ourselves, he created woman not as an afterthought, but as an apology to us men for giving us so many flaws. Out of all creation, women are by far among the greatest. The world would have been a much different and undoubtedly better place if women would have run politics (and religion). Among all of the human factors that make the good ship America worse than it should be, idealistic, racial or sexual feudalism is by far the most significant part of the problem. Equality is the answer. Feudalism works only if you're born on top or things go your way. A guess is that you're 3 times more likely to get hit by lightning than win the Lotto. Wish someone would do a study on that.

For all the love Jesus had for women, it's astonishing that my beloved (but thus flawed) Church didn't give women an equal chance centuries ago. History will record that the feudalism between men and women will mark the darkest hour of the Church, just as feudalism is the beginning of the end of America's greatness.

There are a good number of good laws, wherever freedom and quality of life are enhanced. Good laws make life for all citizens worth living even more. I question any laws that restrict freedom, even if safety is the goal, because once you get started, who's qualified to write the laws and where do they stop?

To write legislation based on morals (that is, laws concerning abortion, drinking, etc). is not at all right.

We Catholics hear all the time that abortion is wrong. Good. It's wrong. We are told to listen and go to heaven or don't listen and go to hell, based on theology. (Actually, only God is unflawed enough to objectively decide what fate we deserve, all things considered, and hopefully that God is a merciful God). So, we CHOOSE to be Catholic. We CHOOSE the responsibility for the consequences our actions bring. But freedom remains.

God's best praise does not come from the Angels or others who are already in heaven. God's best honors come from humans who have a choice and choose to honor God. Or else God would have just started us out 'up there,' on the 'Tree of life.'

Dear Reverends, to legislate morality is not to honor God. It takes away from the honors if we're forced to live a certain way. That is the beauty of freedom that the 'tree of knowledge' brought. God's kick must be a lot bigger if people have an opportunity NOT to honor him yet still do.

But it makes me CRINGE to hear a politician talk about abortion, just as much as about crime, murders, guns, etc). The result is always restrictive of freedom, and to coin a phrase, is un-American.

[REDACTED] Key West FL 33041-6012 [REDACTED]

Dear David Horowitz,

I was stunned to hear ANYONE in America speak the thoughts that have been at the forefront of my mind for so long. If these thoughts of mine, quoted in letters to CNN, are of value to you and are not your original ideas, please correct that oversight.

First letter to CNN (abridged)

CNN,

I used to watch CNN so often that it became part of the home. In Tokyo, Atlanta, LA and Washington I made it a point to visit you last year. I had been overseas from 1983-1992, but had several chances to see CNN and Headline News on the AFRTS feed, and CNN International on others.

This letter has been brewing under a dozen identities starting with the end of Brian Christie's 'overnight' call-in program. Once I realized that since all of the calls are screened, it wasn't really America speaking at all, but some producer's mind mirrored by the calls that got through. (I never called). Brian's still there at CNN, hopefully with a raise since he's best of the best.

Just as I work on finishing this letter, you do something to redeem yourself just as I'm putting paper in the printer.

There used to be 'the big three,' run by corporate lawyers, plus one great network, CNN.

Now there's the 'big four' plus another Cable News Network...CSPAN, which is at its best when the actors (i.e. Congress) aren't auditioning for a trip to Hollywood before CSPAN cameras, even in an empty room. Last week, if I remember right, the business our House found time for in this world of problems was whether CSPAN should show the whole chamber in the Special Orders segment, and the Senate's pressing issues were parking spaces.

I joined the Navy because of a love of country. I probably shouldn't have revealed that I've served the country at a NATO base in Italy, on a Japan-based aircraft carrier, flying for 4 years, or now scanning the waters of the Florida Keys, because you've probably identified me by now as a public servant who for 12 years has been a mindless and out of touch mad hatter capable of shooting down our own planes, polluting the ocean, and harrassing women and homosexuals as *inferrior.

While I pity the homosexuals for their own sense of inferiority that only brings reassurance in publicity stunts and public demonstrations of their sexual prowess, (the same kind of insecurity that you'll cover along with Harding/Jackson/Kevorkian if it means market share) they are NOT the cause or solution for the issues that are necessary for getting us out of the century in one piece.

In the decade between 1982 and 1992 I've known life in five star hotels and life without a home. Obviously the great attraction of money only feeds greed for more, since the five star hotels were far less painful.

Most of the air in my formerly hostile letter about the WASTED opportunities CNN lost in lieu of Harding/Bobbit stories was deflated in the good things you've done since. You've started CNN Presents. You've had John Chancellor guest host Larry King. You brought Morton out of hiding.

Exactly 24 years to the day before President Nixon's stroke, he was in Hawaii making the speech I remembered him best for. All of the manned moon landings took place under 'Nixon's watch.' (I'll be glad to attribute the credits to the 2 prior Presidents). Only one failed to be a complete success of the planned objectives. On that April 1970 day, a few Apollo 13 crewmembers regretted that their mission would be judged a failure. Almost to the hour 24 years before his stroke, Nixon said "I hereby declare your mission to be a success."

Well, Mister Nixon, we hereby declare your presidency to be a success; no matter what internal politics and 'polls' are issued by the 4th branch of government that was born from it (the self-serving media that from ivory towers and board rooms claims to represent us).

You still show (courtesy NASA cameras) the space shuttle, events too happy for the status quo networks to cover, even though you ruin the perfect English between Control & Crew, and the capable NASA commentators, with mindless speculation to include (too-often) not even getting the shuttle's name right.

I enjoy driving to every launch I can, because not only is the NASA feed your lawyers paint "CNN LIVE" over available without mindless voiceovers and commercial breaks in many areas in the KSC vicinity, but the local radio station with NASA's own PA translators allows the feeling of really being on board. There's nothing better as you're back to Sonya, Donna, or Mary or a commercial than listening to the astronauts describe the ride 8 minutes after launch, as you're watching the wind scatter the pillar of booster smoke. By then the shuttle is in a low orbit and the boosters aren't even down yet.

My dream station in a 500 channel environment will be a NASA or private channel that covers NASA like CSPAN did in the Hubble Repair mission. There won't be any anchors that say 'let's listen in' and then ramble on, call the APU exhaust on infrared shot 'smoke and flames,' call chase planes 'the swoosh of the air moving by'

Even though NASA headquarters is in the D.C. Beltway I enjoy watching shuttle launches. It's out of the beltway.

I love America. Drive, fly, or bus across it as many times as I have and you'll see why every other country I've been to thinks it's the last rest-stop before heaven.

I just hate what America is compared to what it's supposed to be. Forget all of that 'by..for the people' stuff. The people have no power. As a country, it may be 'land of the free,' but it is occupied by 50 totalitarian state governments that has laws rivaling many communist regimes. You never know how bad we have it unless you see how it works out of the states, where in many countries criminals are treated as criminals, victims are treated like victims, and how much money you have won't save or condemn you. There is a Federal government that is supposed to challenge, not reinforce outrageous state laws. Sometimes it works, most cases never get that far, and we all suffer as a result.

The people in charge of everything (the 4 branches of government) are all from a pool of 2 source professions: Actors and Lawyers.

If you love this country as I do but aren't an actor or lawyer, you'll never be represented. Hell, you'll never even get through. Actors and lawyers join PAC's. They control corporations. They rise to the top of the political world, not by what is done at work but by what is done on the side. And if they don't make it to the top of the top 3 branches of government that get you to that private party on the beach with your peers every year, don't worry. You'll still get in by being an actor and lawyer in the 4th branch.

If the United States of America is to avoid a civil war between the lawyers and actors supposedly representing us and the people they are not representing, then the elitist feudalism not far from the conditions that started the Revolutionary War will have to end. For now, people aren't voting or switching channels. But I'm nearing the end of my tolerance, in a so-far silent majority of people. We patriotically love America but hold failing love for the way you 4 forms of government are mismanaging it in selfish greed.

Believe me, your well-paid lives are not worth a cent more than the least of the repressed nobodies you claim to represent. I'm not sure I can make the shape of a beach by collecting 1,000 grains of sand, so don't throw a poll back at me. I'm telling you, we as a country are already in too deep with you actors and lawyers. Just be aware that your greatest mistake and what will be judged as the nail in our country's coffin is the fatal claim by you four collections of lawyers and actors that you speak for us.

Go ahead and polarize us with labels. Make abortion, White Water and 'high-profile' (because you make them so) court cases the most important issues you think we should care about, and we'll make CNN one of the many 'lessons learned' after we rebuild a destroyed country. I've made love of country only second to love of Catholicism and Christianity and as a good patriot, have no lost love for what the country has become.

Of course, in these days, my mission to put America back on track would result in ridicule and ruin, (by actors reading the network's party line and by lawyers attacking from the rear). All I could do is send post-cards or letters, buy classified ads on computer networks and newspapers, and just talk to people I meet in my travels. Just as Europe didn't have the courage to stop Hitler when he consolidated power, or the courage to stop the absurdities of Europeans killing neighbors to defend religions that prohibit such things, Americans have lost courage to go against the lawyers and actors who have infested the nation like fire ants.

That's why we, the most numerous and least represented group.. the non-lawyers & non-actors, will have to form a third party, the first sensible party, without any love of money or power, but only taxation with representation.. life, liberty & pursuit of happiness.

Unrealistic? Well, if you say so, you've firmly landed in the problem side of the issue, far from the solution.

Some have said "Well, why not just join 'United We Stand?'" If a movement would be credible enough to take on the perverted void between what the country is supposed to be and what it is, it would have to be an underground movement of culture centered on the heart and soul of America, not adoration of yet another icon actor and lawyer. Besides, I would hope they eventually join us.

There is a theory that America is out of enemies abroad and is now channeling its barbaric nature against itself. That's what I'm trying to stop, not trying to feed as you so often do.

Sincerely,

Key West FL 33041-6012

And, David, here's the second letter, (abridged):
Cable News Network:

I sent you a complicated, lengthy letter not too long ago, and this one thanks you for 'taking it for action,' as we say in my line of work.

On my almost-favorite network, CSPAN, I saw an entirely nauseating college seminar on how to be a Washington Lobby-ist today. The nausea didn't come from the 'here's what you do' portion, it came from the 'here's how it works' part.

Who would have been convinced in 1894 if you would say that Washington DC would be filled with Political Action Committees, who buy government decisions irregardless of the will of the people? Would they believe that the electoral college, necessary in earlier times, would be unnecessary but still in use?

I don't get upset when the government is unable to do anything but spin their wheels in grid-lock, political correctness and indecision. That means bad legislation can't get through either. But I certainly get upset when our government's spending all of that money in the process to go no nowhere but further in debt.

Who would have been convinced that America would storm the whole planet preaching human rights, freedom and democracy, yet have such a short supply of it in its own borders? Who would believe Hawaaii would become the last state to join and probably the first state of many to say good-bye? Do you think they might be looking for the United States they thought they joined?

Sent by the people to represent the people, Congress would rather talk with Larry King than their constituents, and seek re-election by slamming the opposition and porking more money the government doesn't have to the home district.

Convincing words would be the only thing I, an 'uninformed member of the general public who lacks the sophistication to have any credibility speaking on the affairs of the country,' as the Bill Shneider's and the speakers today would say, could offer. And convincing words could make me a martyr and still leave no one convinced. Getting the message out is only a small part of the challenge.

America has become addicted to and has knighted the distant ends of the television screens as our only credible teacher.

And dramatic, climatic dissertations have no place in the 10-second sound byte.

I have no intention of resorting to the types of terrorist plays that are used by the special interest groups who are America's worst enemy... be it protests, hunger strikes, and tons of other things the groups do like a spoiled child to get air-time on the networks.

The real enemy, these "special" interest groups are superfluous to the real problems and solutions inside the American space-time continuum.

I am totally satisfied that CNN is now on the right track to pull America back on course. Your "CNN PRESENTS" series, Sonia's Monday show, and much of your reporting lately has moved CNN from being part of the problem toward part of the solution. I know the television anchors and field journalists (and the real heroes, the cameracrews) are good people who deserve better than what my last letter implied. I want to be very specific that my complaints are against the executives in the board room and the Blitzer-types who think they are the news. I see Wolf on CSPAN once in a while and if you don't think he's still part of the problem, turn to CSPAN once in a while when he's on that show. Bernard Shaw, Mary Tillotson, Christiane Anampour (the woman who would cover an NFL game on the center of the line of scrimmage or stand under a pad to cover a shuttle launch), the great Brian Christie and great Andrea Andreaux (once again, forgive my spelling) are excellent at presenting the news. They let us do the thinking. But Editor-In-Chief Blitzer or whatever that 'senior' title means is not doing government or the American people any favors stooping to the levels of the other networks. I don't know if you get what I mean, but the journalists from the other networks walk around the White House like they're some kind of elected official who should be saluted by the Marines stationed there. (Some of the 'political appointees' actually assigned to the White House have the same elitist mentality, but that's politics).

If I were elected President, I'd shut the old White House down or make it a museum (like the Truman Little White House in Key West), move the White House and Pentagon out to Nevada or somewhere else where the people would be just as accessible as the lobbyists and the Wolf Blitzer types. I'd sue the government on the grounds that the the Secret Service is unconstitutional, and I'd do what Pope John Paul II does every Wednesday, walk around in the public and hear what they have to say. I'd transfer 'executive protection,' if they think they really need it (I don't, do you?) to the FBI, where it belongs.

One of today's CSPAN speakers went so far as to say it's much better today than it was 30 years ago. I don't know, I was only two years old in 1964. I've always liked Al Hunt and was sure disappointed on Larry King last night to hear to find Judy Woodruff was married to Al, because she has all the personality, convictions, character, and looks I've always found attractive. Judy's great. Don't ever let her go, even if it costs you 10 million a year to keep her.

I do not intend to declare war on government. We're supposed to be proud to encourage and support them. They are supposed to keep our nation on course to the great destination envisioned by the brilliant minds that launched her.

I'm no Ross Perot fan, but he did have one thing right. We are the American people. We are supposed to be in control. This 'nation of laws' is supposed to enhance, not to restrict our freedom. An action of responsibility is supposed to produce a desired reaction. An action of irresponsibility is supposed to produce an unwanted reaction, not a 'suspended sentence' or 'early release.' I say, for the right crimes, 'One strike you're out.'

I guesstimate 40% of Americans already have, and are obsessed with keeping, the American Dream. The real number is probably 10% that pay 1% of the taxes and own 90% of America. But I'll be generous, I'll say 40%.

This 40% build walls to protect their suburban paradise from the 60% that 'haven't worked their way' to equal fortune. Their kids go to almost 100% caucasian schools, usually as private as the country club. Their contribution to society is in tax-deductable charities and whatever else gets them a tax cut. Their property taxes are outrageous but are tax-deductable. If they're not lawyers, they have good friends who are. After all, 'we are a nation of laws.'

The problem is, most of the laws are written by and for this 40%. Justice works well for this group; after all, what white-collar criminal with a high-priced lawyer loses against the District Attorney? Why else would the Illinois Congressman or the President of the United States think if they buy an expensive lawyer they'll get better justice in court?

Something is PERVERTED at that notion. Like an old Miami Vice postulated, how can all of the Citibank's of the world collect on loans to South America if the drug runners are shut down? If this is reality, it MUST NOT CONTINUE!

I guesstimate 40% of Americans don't have a voice or a chance to access the American Dream. I don't DIRECTLY blame them, they usually inherited their misfortunes. But America is the land of opportunity, or so I've heard. This 40% rightly or wrongly see themselves as a persecuted group locked out by the 40% upper-class. And indeed, they are. And this polarization between the have's & have-not's seems to be getting worse, with blame to go around to both groups.

The upper 40% too-easily dismisses the lower 40% as lazy bums, alcoholics, and drug addicts who wouldn't know what to do with a hard day's work.

That is true for some of that 40%. But when they're damned, they're doomed. You can't get a job without a car and a home. You can't get a car and a home without a job. Imagine how many people in Atlanta could get a job if you'd put them up for a few days in your nice hotel at CNN Center, let them take a shower and wash their clothes, and then send them out to find a job. Who knows?

Many of those millions of people out on the streets ARE drug addicts, many are alcoholics, many are less than sane. Many are just like I was... A&B high school students who graduated then watched the world fall out from underneath. I had no family support and I had no family to support. This was 1982, the year I used 'City Park Denver Colorado' as my street address, displaced by a rush from New England people with Master Degrees taking every job available. The devil lives there in the street, and it gets very tempting to do any number of things to climb out. I'm far more proud of the ability to say no in the gutter to all sorts of 'job opportunities' found only in life's gutter' than I am of the 13 or so medals and ribbons I've earned in a highly decorated military career.

I was saved by an angel from God, or someone near and dear to one, and finally got out of the gutter with 3 part-time jobs (between which I had walk 15 miles a day until I could afford RTD). By year's end I ended up in the Navy.

Many in the lower 40% aren't mentally unstable, drug-addicted alcoholics who are too lazy to work. Some are. But I think most just lived life one paycheck from homelessness trying to make ends meet, and after the economy burped they ended up a day late and a dollar short. And without an angel from God or someone who has as much compassion for humans as a stray cat, it's all downhill from there. Once you're in the gutter, you either adapt, die, or find a way to climb out. Against impossible odds, I did the latter without causing harm to anybody.

The 'least' of the people in the lower 40%, when they first opened their eyes as newborns, was supposed to have the same chance of success as the richest newborn at Hilton Head, but early on the fear, hate, and suspicion is passed onto another generation.

Rightly or wrongly, the lower-class think the rich upper-class never worked a day in their life to earn their piece of the "American Dream." Rightly or wrongly, they assume the rich gained their wealth by the stock market or by being born white and inside the white picket fence. Far from being of any particular race or religion, this 40% underclass in America, swallows entire races like a giant black hole, to include a large population of caucasians.

This 40% of America often confuses democracy with socialism. (And I really, really love and respect you Jessie, but you're one of the greatest perpetuators of 'democracy=socialism.') To this group, the government was created as the monetary lightning rod from the rich to the poor. With welfare checks and food stamps, this group, so long as it sees itself as the helpless victims, is doomed to be the powerless breeding ground of the worst education, the highest crime, and most hopeless future. You'll see many spend what little real money they have playing LOTTO or shopping in the convenience stores that charge far more than what's available down at the mall-(from coast to coast I've seen this WRONG continue to exist).

More often, they are joined by the 20% of us are the dwindling middle class, who are the most heavily taxed and least represented group in America.

Truly, I do not seek more representation for my 'feudal class...' I seek representation for ALL PASSENGERS of the GREAT SHIP AMERICA.

But like the political 'independent,' in a polarized society, there is very little room for the middle. We rub shoulders with the poor, and by taxes and contributions to charities, we are the real lightning rod to the poor. We don't know the lawyers, nor could we afford them, and don't itemize our taxes.

We don't think you should have to be a lawyer or know one to make a difference in this 'nation of laws.' We are close enough to the rich group and the poor group to realize that both work harder than the other group credits.

We are the dwindling commoner that wants to earn our way up but often, due to our own stupidity in believing what we see in commercials and television in general, we spend or drug our way right into the 'underclass,' or live our existence a few paychecks from it.

Yes, the damnation or salvation of America is up to we, the dwindling middle class. When we disappear, America disappears. The Founding Fathers didn't create America for the rich or the poor... the genius was to create a government where feudalism and socialism would not exist. A vote a person, not a vote a dollar.

Oh yeah? Then why was I so furious at the "LOBBYIST COLLEGE" on CSPAN today? Because they showed the large gap between how it's supposed to be and how it is.

No wonder Hawaii wants to leave. When I was just going into adolescence, there was a famous saying, "America-love it or leave it."

I say "America - Love it by changing it."

My hero of heroes Bill Morton had a good piece of just how indifferent and complacent (maybe hopeless or distracted) American citizens have become. We are a short-sighted people. Businesses managed with such greed that unions are a necessary evil, business that can't see beyond the quarterly dividends on their nose, a world that converts rare 'fossil fuels' into choking pollution, and puts a higher value on long-dead oil and the dictators that live on it than life and freedom of humanity.

The 'Emir' of Kuwait promised democracy within a year in appreciation of our salvation of his country. Starting when?

What a short-sighted people we are, bribed by plants that have been dead millions of years.

America is clearly running into an iceberg. Some people think it's some kind of biblical prophesy that the world will end in 2000 (and, of course, if they are dead-set on it they'll find a way to make it happen), but I say this: It's not time to abandon ship and grab 'what's in it for me,' for our lifeboat, as the rich and the poor have been doing for several years. I will get every citizen to help to tug the good ship America back on course with something like this:

"You send people to Washington by voting or by not voting. You've got to realize your own sophistication, instead of letting 'Senior White House Correspondents' and 'Political Analysts' tell you what to think. You've got to realize that Wolf Blitzer, Andrea Mitchell, and the others walking around with credentials to live with the people we sent to Washington are empowered when you, the voters, lack power... they gain power by the ability to tell the other three forms of government what you think. They tell both you and the government what the shape of the beach is by collecting 1,000 samples of sand. Their responsibility is not to represent you, it is to the Board room and shareholders. If you think for a second that they're in it as a voice 'for the American people,' you're part of the problem, not the solution..." (of course, CNN has become the recently miraculous exception to this as a general rule).

"America solved its problems just fine before it had a CIA and a Secret Service. It defended its shores, not its 'interests' (often synonymous with 'special interests.')

"Who started the tradition that programs that cost more were worth more? Congress or administrations never spent money that didn't exist, especially if Japan gets billions every year financing our debt. Government never solved problems by throwing money that didn't exist at them.

"Government didn't run up a huge national debt or defecit buying programs that the government gets credit if they work but tomorrow's government will have to pay for...

"Congress didn't take money under the table, nor try to bribe you with pork to get re-elected.

"Anybody with a nickel of decency and two common cents of common sense could go to Washington and do a better job representing the will of the people.

"Americans shouldn't do short-sighted things like take drugs and wonder why the Japanese, who pay for tutors after school to learn more math or a second language make bet ter cars and TV's...

"American kids will only have the attitudes and values their parents teach them... racism and greed is equally taught within the white picket fence or in the ghetto. Government is no step-parent. (Hear that, Jessie & Bob Novak?)

"The good ship America was set sail of the people, by the people, and for the people. Only the people can make the course correction."

The people are who I'm after. I'm not after CNN or the people wasting our future away in Washington. (the latter group is already too far gone).

Ancient Greece had a remarkable democracy, which fell under occupation due to complacency of the poeple.

All they need is to believe in the power they can and should have. There's still time to change course.

Thanks again for your improvements (and for getting rid of 'living in the 90's).

Sincerely yours,
[REDACTED] Key West FL 33041-6012

And, David, here's the third and final letter I sent to CNN, following a trip in my modest Camry down 10 to San Bernadino (actually Dryden Flight Research Center/NASA, then via Phoenix/Flagstaff/Four Corners/Telluride/Salida/Leadville/Copper Mountain/Denver/Topeka/Tulsa/Little Rock/Memphis/Atlanta/Myrtle Beach (if you're thinking there is something missing it is because as always, I make a special stop every time I go through Atlanta).

Cable News Network:

Just to follow up on my last letter, I wanted to make a sincere apology in regard to names. I couldn't get my own name right if it weren't printed on my driver's liscence. I'm just figuring out that the new head of CNN programming department is not Bart Simpson. It's O.J. I know there is a Bill Moyers or something of the sort, but an honest, non-Freudian slip of my hero Bruce Morton made his name Bill.

And I wish to apologize to the great Andrea Arceneaux for mis-spelling her name as Andrea Andreaux. I am particularly bad with the French language (no, it's not Jim or Bill Moray either). In Andrea's case, in the heat of creative writing, that glaring error went right past me. That is particularly inexcusable since I've watched Andrea, and many others at CNN who have worked very hard and deserve better, for years.

Only since returning to Key West have I had to turn to another channel to learn about people who work well for government and fight crime. Unfortunately, the network is FX and their names are Bruce Wayne and Jim Phelps.

I'll decided to permanently switch off Larry King. My last experience viewing him is the night he must have been working for Mutual and not you, when he chopped a caller's head (and call) off on that caller's dime due to a confusion between a very important mover and shaker in contemporary America (a lawyer) and someone called Anthony Bailey. We all slip, Larry. No reason to treat us like that, even if we are uninformed, unsophisticated citizens, who would all probably be much better off if we got our news through the print media.

One last thing. Like the Hataians who all jumped on the boat doing what they thought they had to do to survive, you might drown on the O.J. boat. You've already gone overboard. When the "L.A." chase began, I entered Georgia (again) returning from Myrtle Beach (after my California trip). As I left Georgia, it was all over. In the meantime, a radio host said something like, "O.J., if you're listening, the best thing you can do right now is pull the trigger. Save all of the millions you'll waste on lawyers and give it to your kids, who need it a lot more." I was pretty angry at the time.

It's clear now that the only ones that will 'win' this case are a bunch of lawyers in the courts and networks. As always, the losers will be the American people and taxpayers, including O.J.'s kids.

But for a while, you guys were really doing great. Thanks for that. Best wishes whether I tune back in or not.

[REDACTED] Key West FL 33041-6012

End quotes.

Covered a lot of ground in the letters, but that's because I've covered a lot of ground (and air and sea) in the Navy, never missing an opportunity to pass by the bars on the pier and go out and 'be a local.'

Washington D.C. does have ONE redeeming quality. If you've never been to the Air and Space Museum, I recommend it. It's smack in the middle of the 4 branches of government (CNN/Capitol/White House/Supreme Court.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]
Same as above.