

16 September 1970

Mrs. Sheldon M. Atlas  
Dance News  
119 West 57 Street  
New York, N.Y. 10019

My dear Mrs. Atlas,

In reply to your letter of the 12th, I am sorry to inform you that you are completely incorrect in stating that my check of 6 September 1969 was in the amount of \$3.00. As I indicated earlier, in my handwritten note, the check was for \$9.00, which at that time was the rate for a three-year subscription. Fortunately, I had retained the cancelled check in the amount of \$9.00 and enclose herewith a xerox copy of both the face of the check and the reverse side, which shows that it was deposited by Dance News Inc. in the Chase National Bank.

Under the circumstances, I am sure that you will wish to withdraw your notice that my subscription has expired and correct your records accordingly.

Since you were kind enough to reply personally to my note, I will take this opportunity to explain my critical remarks about the change in the format and contents of Dance News. You will forgive me, I hope, if I say that it would be difficult indeed and perhaps impossible for any dance critic to achieve the same high quality of criticism as P.W. Manchester. Her departure was a bitter blow, as it was her reviews that constituted for me and perhaps for other readers the central value of the magazine. For professionals in the dance world, it offers other services, no doubt; but to a devotee of the ballet like myself, a mere ~~patron~~ and spectator, the *raison d'être* for subscribing for many years was the criticism, and advance news of forthcoming ballet programs.

*patron*  
While I will continue to feel the loss of P.W. Manchester, I do not by any means disparage the intelligent and serious reviews of Miss Nancy Gellner. But in almost every case I have already read in the pages of *The Nation* her appraisal of new works or of particular performances, before basically the same reviews arrive in Dance News. This leaves me with little or nothing to read, and in a new format that, as a matter of merely personal taste, I find far less attractive and functional than the Dance News of earlier vintage (one example, the irritating distance between photos and corresponding captions).

My negative comment was, I assure you, more in sorrow than in anger.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher  
302 West 12 Street  
New York, N.Y. 10014

ENCLOSURE: Copy of cancelled check