

April 27, 1969

Mr. Louis Bergman, Editor
The New York Times Magazine
The New York Times
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Bergman,

When The New York Times commissions an article by one not a member of its staff, devotes considerable space and attention to that article, and is then told it has published a work of conspicuous and deliberate inaccuracy that has libelous intent, it would seem that even the responsible editor might find something more appropriate for response than a form letter.

The particular form letter you sent begins with your "appreciation" of "the interest which prompted" my letter and then says "We are sure you will understand that we receive many letters than we can print and that limitations of space make it necessary for us to edit many communications".

Am I to interpret this as meaning that when Epstein libeled me he was regarding your interest? Am I to take it that all those gross and not accidental errors which had the purpose and effect of defaming me and my work are what you want published rather than the truth?

"Limitations of space" presented no problem to you in publishing error and libel. They should present even less problem in publishing fact, when less is needed to rectify the great harm you have done me and history.

You add insult to injury in sending an inappropriate and unresponsive form letter. I do hope, even though delay in retraction and rectification needlessly magnify the harm you have done me, that eventually you will read what I wrote you, so that you can still do what might be done to minimize it.

Sincerely,

Harold Steiner