

*Lud Arons*

1619 COMMONWEALTH  
BOSTON, MA 02135 USA

March 9, 1989

Dear Harold Weisberg:

I was wondering just when you would recall my interview with you three years ago. My wife thinks that I'm a lousy interviewer and I'm inclined to agree but the program doesn't bore. I think it's lively, candid, disorganized, far-ranging and informative with some interestingly raucous give and take.

If you'd like a copy, I'll whip it into publishable shape from the raw master and dub you a copy @ \$12.95 ppd.

If it wasn't for that hack Kopkind and his editor Navasky, we'd probably have never been put into contact again which only goes to prove once again my favorite maxim, "People Do The Right Things For The Wrong Reasons." or PDTRTFTWR for short.

I might even include the interview as part or all of an issue of a new audio newsletter you might want to subscribe to & join an elite group of subscribers.

I hereby volunteer to go south and spend some time helping you to organize your materials and perhaps even coming up with some gems that can be used to good effect currently instead of having to wait for some improbable scholar from the future Brave One World to find it in an obscure library.

Sincerely,



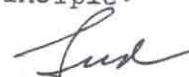
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3/9/89

Harold:

What do you think about this letter? Do you agree or disagree with it in principle?

Februa



Dear Journalist:

A file accumulated on AIDS related material order has been sent under separate cover to you. -- ----- journalist, responsible and truly interested in making the crucial connections to help create an informed public opinion that could stimulate defensive action, would write and publish.

Like a lung cancer patient dragging on a cigarette, the "terminal" press seems to be dying of the things it did not want to know too well. Nobody asked journalists to become journalists. News writers could have chosen fiction or comedy writing. But having made the choice one cannot go blithely forward under the misapprehension that dismal performances are not being observed by anyone more critical than the editors of the Columbia Journalism Review.

Is it because of a combination of vital lies, compliant behavior, bribery and fear that today's editors turn to subterfuge and displacement exercises instead of reporting the hard stories? Why is it that even the semi-hard stories are told so softly, obtusely and even then, in an untimely, tardy manner. And then, why aren't the connections made and the extrapolations drawn?

Five years ago the book "Naming Names" arrived to much favorable critical attention. It analyzed and dissected the mores and motives of a small group of entertainment industry employees, who, because of their proscribed political activities, were subjected to a modern inquisitional process. This was a big book about little people. The scope was limited to how and why those insignificant (insofar as world events are concerned) men and women acted under duress.

The scene of the action was "set" in the so-called "McCarthy Era", a legendary time of gross civil rights violations. The book furthered the popular misconception that those days are as divorced from today's climate of justice and light as 15th Century Spain.

For a journalist, not "naming names" in all its guises such as omission, obfuscation, verbosity, snobbery, mis- and disinformation, is a far, far more serious offense than "naming names" is for an actor. The actor who is manipulated into "naming names" may or may not be reprehensible, but the journalist who avoids his duty to attempt to report is the most perfidious of all players in the tragedy of our time.

In an age of control by behavior modification on a mass-media scale, it is the pseudo-journalist who fills the archetypal Judas goat role. What we are fatally missing today in the United States are real journalists like Garrison, Steffens and Seldes. The salt has lost its savor.

If you insist on fulfilling the vital mission of a journalist with a berth on an institution as trusted as the publication you have associated yourself with, must you not be prepared to cover the hard stories, whatever the consequences or make room for stouter hearts? Is not journalism a serious business?

Have not men been righteously shot for desertion and flogged for drowsing on watch? Then what of the journalist who proudly flaunts that honorable badge but betrays its accompanying implicit trust. Is this not more akin to treachery?

The probability that HTLV-III is the genetically engineered creation of our military-science-industrial society is only one of many neglected news stories and reflects the continuing high level of collusion in the "vital lies" now short circuiting our information process.

*Jud Aron*



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March 9, 1989

# Statement

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 Rushdie,  
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Where were all these top  
 world class writers when  
 Kilgallen, Savitch, Dick  
 Wright, Mae Brussell and  
 so many other AMERICAN  
 writers were killed for  
 writing their truths? The  
 ayatollah is a red herring.

*Jud Love*

## I Committee and his Publishers (USA)

all Muslims to seek out and execute Salman  
 Rushdie in its publication worldwide.  
 We stand for freedom of opinion and expression as  
 well as, declare that we also are involved in the

this book or not. We appreciate the distress the  
 world is faced with the ensuing conflict.  
 We urge people to express their ideas and beliefs and to  
 stand in solidarity, free from censorship, intimidation and

the threats made against Salman Rushdie and  
 to take firm action to ensure that these threats are

Thousands of literary figures around the world have put their names to this statement. These are some of them:

Chinua Achebe, NIG  
 Fouad Ajami, USA  
 A. Alvarez, MEX  
 Eric Ambler, UK  
 Yehuda Amichai, ISR  
 Babakh Amir-Khosravi, IRN  
 Kingsley Amis, UK  
 Martin Amis, UK  
 Michaelangelo Antonioni, ITA  
 John Ashbery, USA  
 Margaret Atwood, CAN  
 Julian Barnes, UK  
 Samuel Beckett, IRE  
 Suresh Behruz, IRN  
 Saul Bellow, USA  
 Carl Bernstein, USA  
 Clark Blaise, USA  
 Judy Blume, USA  
 Sidney Blumenthal, USA  
 Edward Kamau Braithwaite, BWI  
 Breyten Breytenbach, SAF  
 Andre Brink, SAF  
 Joseph Brodsky, USA  
 Robert Caro, USA  
 Noam Chomsky, USA  
 J. M. Coetzee, SAF  
 Catherine Cookson, UK  
 Avery Corman, USA  
 Don DeLillo, USA  
 Joan Didion, USA  
 Mohammed Djafarzadeh, IRN  
 Gojko Djogo, YUG  
 E. L. Doctorow, USA  
 Margaret Drabble, UK  
 John Gregory Dunne, USA  
 Ralph Ellison, USA  
 Nawal El Saadawi, EGY  
 Buchi Emecheta, NIG  
 Shusako Endo, JPN  
 Hans Magnus Enzensberger, GER  
 Fadia Faqir, JOR  
 Sylvia Fischerova, CZE  
 Frances Fitzgerald, USA

Antonia Fraser, USA  
 Northrup Frye, CAN  
 Carlos Fuentes, MEX  
 Athol Fugard, SAF  
 John Kenneth Galbraith, USA  
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 Tahat Halman, TUR  
 Wilson Harris, BWI  
 Seamus Heaney, IRE  
 Joseph Heller, USA  
 John Hersey, USA  
 Hendrik Hertzberg, USA  
 George V. Higgins, USA  
 Christopher Hitchens, UK  
 Michael Holroyd, UK  
 Maureen Howard, USA  
 Irving Howe, USA  
 Eugene Ionesco, FRA  
 John Irving, USA  
 Kazuo Ishiguro, JPN  
 Iraj Jannati-Ataie, IRN  
 Ryszard Kapuscinski, POL  
 Dhabya Khamees, UAR  
 Frances King, UK  
 Galway Kinnell, USA  
 Danilo Kis, YUG  
 Janos Kis, HUN  
 George Konrad, HUN  
 Jannis Kounellis, ITA  
 Ryszard Krynicki, POL  
 Milan Kundera, CZE  
 Hanif Kureishi, PAK  
 Jean Lacouture, FRA

Lewis Lapham, USA  
 Doris Lessing, UK  
 Penelope Lively, UK  
 Anthony Lukas, USA  
 Allison Lurie, USA  
 Manoocher Mahjoobi, IRN  
 Norman Mailer, USA  
 Anis Mansour, EGY  
 Robert Massie, USA  
 Don Mattera, SAF  
 Peter Matthiessen, USA  
 Claude Mauriac, FRA  
 Vladimir Maximov, USSR  
 Larry McMurry, USA  
 Ved Mehta, USA  
 James Michener, USA  
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