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BY PRIORITY MAIL

Note: 5/2/97: I brought this letter with me to the Temple Emanuel Forum, hoping to give it to you personally. However, there was such an overflow crowd, I couldn't even get into the building. Therefore, I am mailing it to your office at The Times.

April 30, 1997

A.M. Rosenthal, Moderator
Forum: "*The Place of Ethics in Our Lives*"
Temple Emanuel, Main Sanctuary
Fifth Avenue at 65th Street
New York, New York

RE: Ethics at The Times

Dear Mr. Rosenthal:

Some months ago, your name was mentioned by Mike Wallace, when he appeared as a guest on Alex Jones' WNYC Radio Show "*On the Media*". The discussion was about the use of "ombudsmen" and "news councils" as a constructive means of restoring public confidence in the media, which is often viewed as being arrogant and irresponsible -- and, lo and behold, sometimes is. According to Mr. Wallace, you are "dead-set against it". If this is true, we would appreciate knowing what alternative mechanisms you see as preferable for handling complaints against journalists and media entities when their conduct violates professional and ethical standards.

Inasmuch as you are moderating the Temple Emanuel forum on "*The Place of Ethics in Our Lives*" and were, for many years, the Executive Editor of The New York Times, we believe you have obligation, under the principle of "thou shalt not stand idly by", to see how The Times currently handles legitimate and fully documented complaints of censorship and black-balling. We, therefore, enclose a copy of our October 21, 1996 complaint against The Times and specific reporters, which doubled as a submission to Project Censored. The complaint was delivered to an office of The Times purporting to function in an "ombudsman" capacity -- though not with that title. The coversheets to the seven documentary compendia that supported our complaint are also enclosed¹.

¹ Compendium IV contains a November 27, 1994 letter to Hilton Kramer, which quotes from and annexes your March 15, 1994 column "*The Way She Died*", marking the 30th anniversary of the murder of Kitty Genovese within the hearing and sight of 38 witnesses. I was 7-1/2 years old when she was murdered in 1964 -- and cry even now when I read about it.

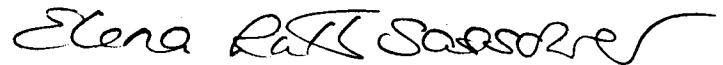
April 30, 1997

The Times' vicious and flagrantly unprofessional response/non-response is chronicled in our December 2, 1996 submission to Project Censored -- a copy of which we sent to Times' Managing Editor, Gene Roberts. We got no response from Mr. Roberts -- just as we got no response to our November 27, 1996 letter to him, annexed as Exhibit "B" to our December 2, 1996 submission.

We would greatly appreciate your opinion, your advice -- and your intervention -- for the sake of the public, whose welfare plainly depends on honest and professional journalism.

Thank you.

Yours for a quality judiciary,
And responsible journalism,



ELENA RUTH SASSOWER, Coordinator
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.

Enclosures: As indicated, plus CJA's informational brochure, with inserts