



Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

A lifetime ago (33 years; *the life spans of Jesus and Alexander the great*), Hollywood gave us the mildly-successful film, **Network**. The movie featured the fictional career of Howard Beale (*portrayed by Peter Finch*), a network news anchor whose ratings were falling. About to be released as a result of his limited appeal, Beale reacted to expose what he saw as the hypocrisy of the broadcast news executives. His rant became the rallying-cry: *"I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!"* His lone voice became a cultural choir, as the fed-up few became the motivated many.

David Letterman wasn't decriing his low ratings when he went "live" last week. Now the King of Late Night (*since Leno moved to prime-time*), Letterman was "mad as hell" (*to quote Beale*) about the attempt by a CBS producer to extort \$2 million from Dave to buy silence. The cover-up secret became a monolog confession: *Letterman had recurrent sexual liaisons with female staffers*. No repentance; just taking control of the information, and putting the extortion attempt out of business. As one reporter sees it, *"the jury is still out on whether David Letterman's career will be damaged by his admission..."* (**USA Today**). Who - exactly - was in *that* jury?

Maybe the same stars that have



become Roman Polanski's public fan club are going to take Dave on as their client, as well. By now, the whole world has heard that the Swiss acted as allies of the United States to arrest Polanski as he entered Switzerland en route to a big entertainment industry event where he was due to receive a "lifetime achievement award." No secrets about Polanski's past: over 30 years ago, he admitted to a California court that he had drugged and raped a child of 13 at his home in L.A.; he became an international fugitive after leaving the United States while on bail, awaiting sentencing.

Whoopi Goldberg, Martin Scorsese, Harvey Weinstein, Woody Allen; the list of "Free Polanski" advocates who have signed the petition for his exoneration grows by the day. News of a contracted settlement with the now-middle aged victim has leaked; she has publicly called for leniency for the famous film producer (*after he agreed to pay her \$500,000, which seems to be "lost in the*

mail").

Meg Whitman - her professional resumé includes her role as the CEO who built eBay into a valuable entity - has no petitions circulating for her defense. *The crime?* She's running for the Republican nomination for Governor of California... despite the fact that she has been "outed" as a longtime unregistered-to-vote non-participant in electoral affairs. Her *mea culpa* will probably signal her downfall as a serious contender...

Does anyone see any irony in any of these disconnected factoids? Is there Comedy Club potential for the cap-and-trade moves at the federal level, alongside the report(s) that this winter will probably have record cold temperatures, that Arctic ice is on the rise, and that El Niño didn't seem to get the word about Global Warming? Have the inmates seized the asylum... *and called us crazy?*

Paul wrote 2000 years ago, recognizing that culture rises and falls on the strength of its respect for biblical truth (*Romans 1*). When you declare God to be a fallacy - or dead, or disassociated - and take up the role that rightfully belongs to Him, the demise of culture is inevitable.

Write me off as an old, conservative, religious fundamentalist... or, stick your head out the window, into the public square, and join me in the refrain. If the daily disclosures - and, tirades - aren't enough to get *you* reactive... *what will it take?*

Mad as Heaven, & not going to take this,

Bob Shank

Bob Shank is Founder and Chief Mentoring Officer of The Master's Program (TMP).

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