



UAW Local 1991/AFC-CIO

Cambridge MA 02139  
February 5, 1996

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Ms. Rowena Otremba  
Ms. Mary Osgood  
Zona Photographics Labs, Inc.  
135 Rodgers Street  
Cambridge MA 02142

Dear Ms. Otremba and Ms. Osgood:

You have released to the press a statement that you submitted to Judge Roanne Sragow at the conclusion of the recent trial of Toni Marie Angeli. I have obtained a copy of that statement, and I find some of the statements therein most troubling, and possibly deliberately insulting, both to me personally and to the National Writers Union.

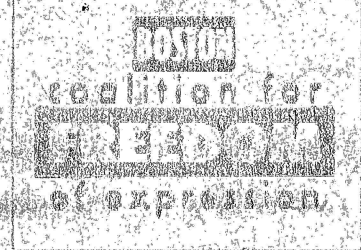
Referring to Ms. Angeli, you say "she and her supporters have appeared on numerous news and talk shows to excoriate us at Zona for allegedly trampling on her civil rights." You immediately follow this by saying "As a result of this campaign of distortion..."

To the best of my current knowledge, only three people have appeared on news or talk shows and made statements critical of Zona: attorney Harvey Silverglate, one of the most respected First Amendment lawyers in the country (*News Night* and NBC's *Dateline*); the eminent photographer Elsa Dorfman (local TV news programs); and myself on behalf of the National Writers Union (*Consider This* on WABU-TV and *Day and Date* on CBS, where I was erroneously identified as representing only the Boston Coalition for Freedom of Expression).

Although Elsa Dorfman and I stated that we believe that Zona made a serious mistake (and I now believe this more strongly than ever), Mr. Silverglate calmly pointed out courses of action that would have been more rational and appropriate. No reasonable person would categorize our statements as "excoriating" or a "campaign of distortion." Your claim to the contrary, while perhaps not libel in the legal sense, is in my opinion libel in the moral sense.

I do not think Zona furthers its cause by submitting untruthful statements in a court of law and releasing them to the press. Mr. Silverglate and Ms. Dorfman may ask for their own apology. I ask for a personal apology, and an apology to the National Writers Union.





February 2, 1996

John Breneman  
Editor  
The Cambridge Chronicle  
240A Elm Street  
Suite 20  
Somerville, MA 02144

Dear Sir:

In the February 1 *Chronicle* ("Lab Owners Stand by Call to Police"), Amy Miller describes anti-censorship activists' response to actions by Zona Photographic Laboratories as a "rampage." This characterization is insulting and untrue.

In their letter to Judge Roenne Bragow, Zona co-owners Rowena Otremba and Mary Osgood darkly allude to a "campaign of distortion" conducted in the media by Toni Marie Angeli's supporters. There is no "campaign." I have turned down seven aggressive offers to discuss this case on the air. Otremba and Osgood apparently mean statements made on television by distinguished First Amendment lawyer Harvey Silverglate, photographer Elsa Dorfman, and Bob Chatelle of the National Writers Union and the Boston Coalition for Freedom of Expression (BCFE). Silverglate said Zona should have addressed its concerns differently, Dorfman said Zona committed a "blunder," and Chatelle said Zona "made a serious mistake." Zona has reacted to these temperate remarks with seemingly vindictive defensiveness and classic Pecksniffian piety.

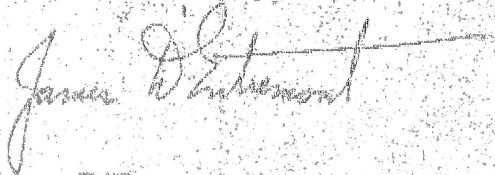
In its six years of existence, the Boston Coalition for Freedom of Expression has never pursued a program of bullying or harassment, and it never will. I know of no direct action against Zona by members of the BCFE or any other group. Zona has not, to my knowledge, been picketed. We have not contacted Zona directly, nor have we encouraged any of "hate mail" they claim to have received, nor have we encouraged people to call and vent their anger. We have no knowledge of any organized attacks on Zona. Although the BCFE is now reluctantly considering a boycott, no such action was originally planned.

The fact remains that even those who reject Ms. Angeli's version of events at Zona last November 2 have just cause to view Zona's behavior with dismay. Having placed a smutty interpretation on several innocuous photos, the amateur porn vigilantes of Zona joined the Cambridge police in a sting operation requiring Zona employees to lie. This maneuver was invasive, destructive, deeply provocative, and in the sorry tradition of recent attacks on such photographers as Alice Sims, Patri Ambrogi, Jock Sturges, Robyn Stautenberg, Marilyn Zimmerman, Eilat Feuer, and many others.

Ms. Otremba and Ms. Osgood keep reiterating their good intentions as if acting on behalf of "the children" justifies practically anything. But no one disputes their intentions, only their judgment. Many who would be willing to forgive them this lapse find their dogged attempts to demonize Ms. Angeli indicative of the immaturity and arrogance they ascribe to a person we think they owe an apology.

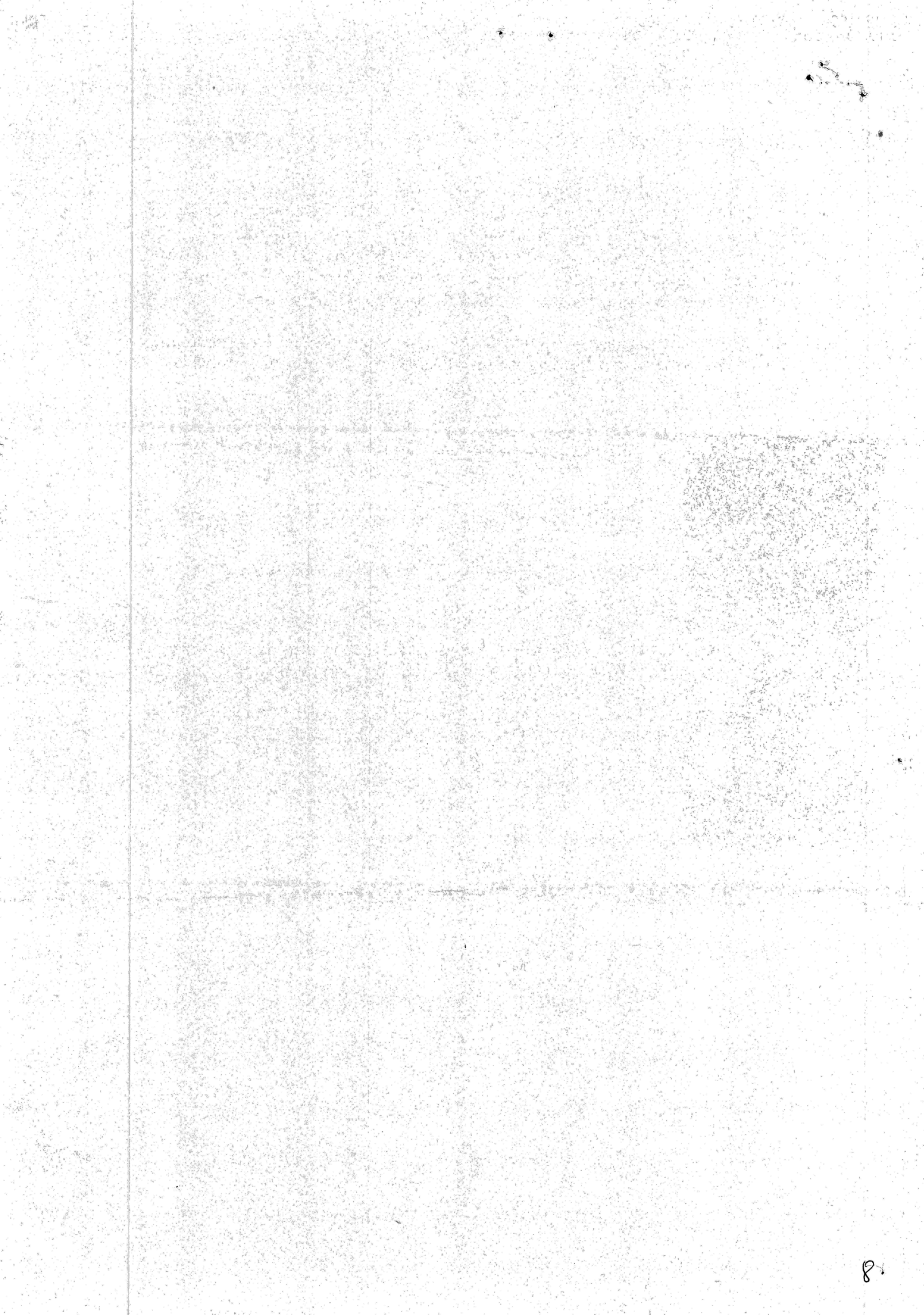
In a climate of fear, panic, and prurient hysteria, people think with their emotions. It is time Ms. Otremba and Ms. Osgood used their brains. Ms. Angeli, meanwhile, is to be applauded for following her conscience.

Sincerely,



James D'Entremont  
Director  
Boston Coalition for Freedom of Expression

cc: Rowena Otremba and Mary Osgood; Harvey Silverglate, Esq.; Elsa Dorfman; John Swomley, Esq.; Marjorie Heins, Esq.; ACLU Arts Censorship Project; Marilyn Arsen, Mobius; John Jacobs, Photographic Resource Center; Anne Green, People for the American Way; Leanne Katz, National Coalition Against Censorship; David Mendoza, National Campaign for Freedom of Expression; Judith Krug, American Library Association; others.



Consent Communciation #8

S-97

Communication was received from  
Robert B. Chatelle, Political Issues  
Chair, National Writers Union and  
James D'Entremont, Director, Boston  
Coalition for Freedom of Expression,  
transmitting their response to actions  
by Zona Photographic Laboratories.

In City Council February 26, 1996

Placed on file