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Dolente, Eileen

From: Nolan, Barry
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2008 2:44 PM
To: 'natasne@aol.com'
Subject: Please tell me it ain't so....

Dear New England NATAS;

I know your lives must be hectic right now – preparing for Emmy season, and this e-mail is the last thing you need – but my conscience will not let me be silent – if what I have heard is true.

I have been told that the NATAS Board of Governors has decided to give this year's Governors Award – to Bill O'Reilly. If this is just a false rumor, my sincere apologies for taking up your time and distracting you from more important matters. However, if this true, I am compelled to tell you that I find it to be an appalling and deeply offensive lapse of judgment.

Awarding the New England Governor's award to someone like Bill O'Reilly, would cause all those who work in the New England television market to be the laughing stock of the media world and decent people everywhere. It would tarnish the awards given in the past to towering figures of integrity, such as Natalie Jacobsen and Mike Wallace. This "journalist" that you would be giving an award to, recently stated on the air in an interview with General Wesley Clarke that American troops were responsible for a massacre of German troops in the town of Malmedy, Belgium during World War II. When in fact it was German troops who were responsible for the massacre of 84 US soldiers. Mr. O'Reilly made this statement not once, but several times.

You would honoring a "journalist" who said of San Francisco after its vote against military recruiting in their public schools: "You know, if I'm the president of the United States, I walk right in to Union Square, I set up my little presidential podium, and I say listen, citizens of San Francisco, if you vote against military recruiting, you're not going to get another nickel in federal funds. Fine. You want to be your own country? Go right ahead. And if Al Queda comes in here and blows you up, we're not going to do anything about it". This is Mr. O'Reilly's view of our democracy – death for disagreement.

You would be giving an award to a man who recently had to settle a sexual harassment suit when it became quite clear to everyone who followed the story – that the woman making the accusations had "tapes" and there would be no spinning out of it for Mr. O'Reilly. It would give a real award to a man who once falsely claimed he had won a Peabody award. And perhaps most seriously, it would legitimize the buffoonish excuse for journalism that Mr. O'Reilly presents on a nightly basis. It would make me deeply and thoroughly ashamed of NATAS, the organization I first joined in 1980.

Let me say again, if I have just heard a false rumor – you have my deep and sincere apologies. I am truly sorry to have wasted your time and further apologize for suggesting you would do such a thing. But if this is in fact true, I think we have a really, really big problem.

Sincerely,

Barry Nolan
617-279-7717

5/12/2008