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Dr. George Gerbner
Professor Emeritus
Annenberg School of Communication
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Dear Dean Gerbner,

I enjoyed reading your chapter in *Illuminating the Blindspots* as well as the coverage of the cultural environment movement by *In These Times*. Your continued presence in the field as a researcher and in policy circles as a progressive intellectual is genuinely inspiring! But, as you have probably guessed, this letter intends to do more than celebrate accomplishments.

And now for the request -- I am writing to ask for a favor. I would very much appreciate receiving a copy of the latest technical report of the Cultural Indicators Project and also a copy of materials used in the Cultural Indicators Project to train coders as well as a copy of the instrument used to code demographic characteristics of persons depicted on the screen. I would be pleased to defray the costs of duplication, handling, and mailing.

I ask for these materials in order to facilitate a research project undertaken by Jackie Byars and me. We are researching the Lifetime cable channel as a symbolic universe and as a media corporation. Jackie brings her skills in cultural studies and textual analysis to the research; I contribute my skills in industrial analysis and political economy. After our preliminary examination of LIF's "feminine side of television," we wondered if LIF's symbolic universe presented a different demography than network television's. This, of course, leads us right to you and the Cultural Indicators Project -- a fact that Jackie particularly enjoyed given her early studies with Newcomb at Texas! (She thought that you would enjoy the irony, too.)

Thank you for any assistance in this matter that you can offer us.

Best wishes -- I really did enjoy the chapter!


Eileen R. Meehan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor


