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Dear Ben...

To: Ben Stein

From: Walter Duranty

New York Times Pulitzer Prize-winning Journalist (deceased, but never fired).

936,287,434 Seventh Circle

Moloch Township, Gehenna.

Dearest Ben,

My condolences on [your involuntary departure](#) from the *New York Times*. Down Here, we all find it very amusing.

Yea, we all know that you got canned by the Grey Lady- by e-mail, no less. The pretense: your 'crime' was to hawk the services of an on-line credit report company that the Times management thought unethical.

Of course, causing people who trusted you to lose money would have been your quickest ticket to *promotion* at the 'Newspaper with a of Record.'

Pinch Sulzberger reduced the value of the stock of the world's 'Newspaper of Record' by 6 billion dollars (1999 50 bucks /share; 2009 8 bucks/share; current market cap \$1.1 billion) in substantial part by using the newspaper as his ideological cudgel. And he fired *you* for risking other people's money? Remember the above the fold coverage of McCain's faux 'sex scandal' that coincided with the Grey Lady's 'writer's block' about John Edwards' *real* sex scandal? How about the brutal dissection of Sara Palin's family that coincided with the omerta about Barack Obama's dubious Chicago associates? Which 'significant other' was more important for voters to know about—Levi Johnston or Tony Rezko? Which relationship got the most press at the 'Newspaper of Record'?

So the public figured: why pay two bucks for the Times, when you can get the content for free from the Democratic National Committee?

You were fired for ideological reasons — your criticism of Goldman Sachs, your skepticism of President Obama's policies, sure, but most of all, because you didn't fit.

'Didn't fit,' you ask? Let me explain.

Surely you remember *me*. In the 1930's, I was the *New York Times'* witness to the Soviet experiment. But I worked for Stalin, too. I was an unregistered shill for the most prolific totalitarian killing machine in human history. I put the New York Times imprimatur — a Grey Lady smiley face — on the intentional starvation of 10 million people in the Ukraine. Yet I was never fired from the *New York Times*. In fact, I won a Pulitzer Prize.

Why? Why did Malcolm Muggeridge have to sneak his accurate dispatches about the Holodomor out of the Soviet Union in diplomatic pouches, while my crafted fabrications were trumpeted in the 'Newspaper of Record' above-the-fold?

The reason is simple. The *Times* has a policy: 'all the news that fits.' In 1931, scientific materialism, in its Soviet apparition, 'fit.' I got published. In 1957, scientific materialism, in its Cuban apparition, 'fit.' Herbert Matthews got published. In 1975, scientific materialism, in its Cambodian apparition, 'fit,' and [Sydney Schanberg](#) got published. In 2009, scientific materialism, in its Darwinian apparition, fit. Sam Harris got published.

You didn't read the memo. Scientific materialism is haute credo. Has been for a century. You questioned it.

You made *Expelled*.

You got fired. We spoke power to truth, you might say

But there was more to it. Do you know what *really* set us off?

You stole ideas from Saul.

No, not *that* Saul. We lost him on the Damascus road (very bad denouement, when he was so promising!). I mean *our* Saul.

Saul Alinsky.

He dedicated his masterpiece — *Rules For Radicals* — to Our Father:

"Let us forget at least — the first radical known to man who rebelled against the establishment and did it so

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