

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

August 22, 1995

President Herman Guerrero Third Constitutional Convention Saipan, MP 96950

Dear President Guerrero:

On behalf of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ), J am delighted to invite you and confirm your appearance as a panelist on the Bash the Media night panel discussion next week.

Although we've given it a sensational title, the real purpose of the event is not to verbally or physically hurt reporters. Rather, the panel discussion will focus on how the people in the Commonwealth view local news coverage and how, in your opinion, the reporters and editors might improve or expand their coverage.

There will be two panels--one made up of publishers, editors and news directors. The other panel will include people like you. You may elect to present opening comments, approximately three to five minutes in length, or simply choose to ask questions of the media panel. The media will not be allowed to ask questions of the community panel.

Perhaps more than any other group of people, news reporters value freedom of speech and the right to information as the cornerstone of society. Yet, reporters often tend to shield themselves from public examination or criticism. It is only through an open and honest dialogue and continuing education that we can hope to improve our ability to gather news and write about people in an ethical and balanced way. That is the goal of this panel discussion. In addition to the community panel, the audience will also have an opportunity to ask questions of the media panel.

The session will be moderated by SPJ National President, Mr. Reginald Stuart, Assist News Editor of the Knight-Ridder group of newspapers in Washington, D.C. Mr. Stuart will also present information related to the importance of ethical reporting.

We look forward to seeing you next Wednesday, August 30, at 6:45 p.m. at the Multi-Purpose Center in the Court Complex. Please feel to contact me at 322-0390 for additional information.

Sincerely,

Pamela Multig PAMELA MATHIS President

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