

January 23, 2011

John R. MacArthur, Publisher
Harper's Magazine
666 Broadway
11th Floor
New York, NY 10012

Dear Rick,

We, the undersigned, being contributors to and friends of *Harper's Magazine*, and caring deeply about its prospects now and in the future, object to the actions you've taken in response to the union formed there, by legal vote, on October 14th of last year. We are greatly concerned to learn of your plan to lay off union members so closely on the heels of the election and without first negotiating a contract. We ask that you reconsider these layoffs and negotiate with this union in good faith, as the law requires. Editorial costs can only be cut so far without damaging the quality of the publication. Because we do not wish to see such a venerable institution decline, we further ask that you explore fund-raising options adopted by other not-for-profit publications and open the magazine's foundation to monies other than your own.

At a time when there is much chatter about the death of print, publishing a magazine as brave and creative as *Harper's Magazine* verges on a sacred trust. We truly appreciate the space *Harper's Magazine* has provided for our work and the generosity and commitment you have demonstrated over the past three decades. But we fear that in a publishing climate as precarious as this one, acrimonious staff relations and sustained losses of editorial experience can imperil any magazine. We do not claim to know the intricacies of the magazine's financial situation, but it is our firm belief that its future depends on employing editors and researchers who enjoy a strong, secure, and harmonious working environment.

Sincerely,

Tamar Adler	Nicholas Delbanco	Frederick Kaufman
Matthieu Aikins	Barbara Ehrenreich	Suki Kim
Daniel Alarcón	Ben Ehrenreich	Mark Kingwell
Ben Austen	Steve Featherstone	Jay Kirk
Rachel Aviv	Paul Ford	Naomi Klein
Elif Batuman	Thomas Frank	Jonathan Lethem
Dan Baum	McKenzie Funk	Gideon Lewis-Kraus
Madison Smartt Bell	Mary Gaitskill	Sam Lipsyte
Charles Bernstein	Rivka Galchen	Phillip Lopate
Tom Bissell	David Gargill	Christian Lorentzen
Alain de Botton	William Gass	Paul Maliszewski
Robert Boyers	Elizabeth Giddens	Ben Marcus
Breyten Breytenbach	Dagoberto Gilb	Daniel Mason
Joshua Cohen	Gary Greenberg	Wyatt Mason
Robert Coover	Roger D. Hodge	Luke Mitchell
Robyn Creswell	Wil S. Hylton	Steven Millhauser
Rebecca Curtis	Clara Jeffery	Benjamin Moser
Mike Davis	Heidi Julavits	Michelle Mounts

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Ken Silverstein
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Steven Stoll
John Jeremiah Sullivan
Patrick Symmes

Jennifer Szalai
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Eliot Weinberger
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CC: Ellen Rosenbush, Lynn Carlson