

Subj:	"Scoops, Gentlemen. We need scoops.": 7/8/02 STORY PROPOSAL
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TO: SETH LIPSKY, PRESIDENT & EDITOR
THE NEW YORK SUN

FROM: ELENA RUTH SASSOWER, COORDINATOR
CENTER FOR JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC. (CJA)
(Telephone: 914-421-1200)
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RE: CJA's JULY 8, 2002 STORY PROPOSAL, "'Scooping' the Competition:
Exposing the *Real* Attorney General Spitzer -- *not* the P.R. version"

I thank you for so promptly responding -- and by a long-distance call from Maine -- to the voice mail message I left for you this morning. You set the right example for your managing editor, Ira Stoll, whose failure to respond to my voice mail messages for him on September 13th, 17th, and 18th, left me no choice but to turn to you directly.

These three phone calls to Mr. Stoll were themselves prompted by his failure to respond to my August 26th letter to him. Such letter detailed the unprofessional and dilatory conduct of The Sun's Albany reporter, Bill Hammond, in connection with a July 8th story proposal from our non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization, which Mr. Stoll had directed to him. Mr. Stoll's non-response to this August 26th letter continued even after I sent him a September 6th follow-up letter.

Inasmuch as you stated that you had not read the July 8th story proposal, it is e-mailed herewith, along with my subsequent August 26th and September 6th letters to Mr. Stoll.

I respectfully submit that such July 8th story proposal offers "the kind of media-suppressed public-interest/policy journalism for which The Sun was reborn -- and upon which its vitality rests." (quoting from my August 26th letter, at p. 2). Indeed, if you are not so convinced after reading the July 8th story proposal by e-mail, I respectfully request that you obtain from Mr. Stoll the substantiating 14 pages of enclosures that accompanied the "hard copy" of the proposal, as well as the more extensive substantiating documentation I provided to Mr. Hamond when I met with him in Albany on August 1st.

With the greatest difficulty, I have held back from providing the July 8th story proposal to other journalists covering this year's elections. I did so only because I was determined that, if at all possible, I would "save" it for The Sun. After ten weeks, however, and with only six weeks remaining to the election season, I today decided I could wait no longer. Shortly before noon, I called the Associated Press and by 3:30 p.m. I had sent it with the story proposal, revised to omit that portion as relates the role played by the press in creating the present-day myth of Eliot Spitzer. I sent a similarly revised version to The New York Times at 4:40 p.m.

Let me know if you want me to hold off in contacting other press. I would like nothing more than that The Sun should benefit from the extraordinary "scoop" represented by the July 8th story proposal since only in such "scoops" can it distinguish itself from the "pack" of other newspapers and safeguard its future. ["Scoops, gentlemen. We need scoops", quote attributed to you in the April 11, 2002 New York Times story, "Paper and Editor to Tilt at Liberal Windmills".]

I await your response.