

**Office of Communication Research**



School of Mass Communication, Box 391  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37132  
615/898-2335; FAX 615/898-5682

Robert Wyatt, Director

Dear Colleague:

In preparation for the 200th anniversary of the First Amendment, we are surveying a broad spectrum of the public to determine attitudes toward free expression in America. We want to know how people feel about their own rights and the rights of the media. We also hope to understand what social, political, economic and religious forces inhibit citizens from expressing themselves in a free society.

We are particularly interested in the opinions of professional journalists and are curious how journalists compare with the general public.

You are part of a small, scientifically selected sample of members of the Society of Professional Journalists, so your response is extremely important to the success of this project. This survey has received the endorsement of SPJ's First Amendment Watchdog Committee, which encourages you to participate. In return for your cooperation, we will be pleased to send you a special preliminary summary of the results when they become available.

Please take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire, then return it in the enclosed envelope, which is stamped and addressed for your convenience.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Wyatt".

Robert Wyatt

P.S.: Please return the questionnaire within five days if at all possible.

MTSU is an equal opportunity, non-racially identifiable educational institution that does not discriminate against the handicapped

**TIMN 373118**