



Larry Laughlin
Chief of Bureau

March 20, 2006

Dear Chris:

This is to inform you that your employment at The Associated Press has been terminated effective immediately.

The AP has a proud tradition of speed, accuracy and impartiality that has made it the most trusted news gathering organization in the world. Your decision to allow an elected official's editorial comments to run unfettered on the wire March 8 compromised the integrity and impartiality of the AP's news report.

That was a repeat of the failure in judgment displayed in 2003 when you were admonished for allowing a Montpelier staffer to write a chapter in a member-published book about Howard Dean, at the time a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Both incidents could have been avoided by consulting with your supervisors, specifically me.

When viewed either independently or in totality, these grave violations of the AP's policies, procedures and specific directives supply just and sufficient cause for the termination of your employment.

The Benefits Department will contact you under separate cover regarding continuation of health insurance through COBRA. Questions about other benefits should be direct to Susan Gilkey, director of Benefits at (212)621-1727.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry', written over a white rectangular box.

cc: Human Resources