

\* For private consumption, of course.

17<sup>th</sup> September, '85

Dear Gary, After Friday night's programme I felt I just had to get in touch to congratulate you on your expert handling of a delicately sensitive topic. I gathered that you had suffered considerable harrassment in the run-up to the show - from ill-informed and misguided zealots I expect. In my reckoning the programme would have proved instructive and enlightening to many and was consequently worth the trouble. I hope you feel consoled and reassured in the outcome.

I must add that I haven't been equally enthusiastic about some of the 'Late, Lates' in the past - though I confess I am not a constant viewer. I'm afraid a very big share of the blame

for the abysmal decline in morality in the Irish scene must be attributed to the media in general and in particular to what is being fed into the homes on T.V. on all channels. It saddens me then, when someone of your background, gifts and calibre, who could do so much to highlight the good, the true and the beautiful, presents a programme which attacks or undermines or pokes fun at Christian values. It may not happen often. I regret that it happens at all.

I hope you appreciate the sincerity with which I write, Gary. Your task is a challenging one. I pray that you continue to provide good wholesome entertainment that will in the best sense renew and recreate your audience.

Every good wish.



[Transcription]

For private consumption, of course

17<sup>th</sup> September, '85

Dear Gay,

After Friday nights' programme I felt I just had to get in touch to congratulate you on your expert handling of a delicately sensitive topic. I gathered that you had suffered considerable harassment in the run-up to the show – from ill-informed and misguided zealots I expect. In my reckoning the programme would have proved instructive and enlightening to many and was consequently worth the trouble. I hope you feel consoled and reassured in the outcome.

I must add that I haven't been equally enthusiastic about some of the 'Late, Lates' in the past – though I confess I am not a constant viewer. I'm afraid a very big share of the blame for the abysmal decline in morality in the Irish scene must be attributed to the media in general and in particular to what is being fed into the homes on T.V. on channels. It saddens me then, when someone of your background, gifts and calibre, who could do so much to highlight the good, the true and the beautiful, presents a programme which attacks or undermines or pokes fun at Christian values. It may not happen often. I regret that it happens at all.

I hope you appreciate the sincerity with which I write, Gay. Your task is a challenging one. I know that you continue to provide good wholesome entertainment that will in the best sense renew and recreate your audience.

Every good wish,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

16th September 1985

The Producer,  
Late Late Show,  
R.T.E.,  
Dublin.

Dear Sir,

I wish to register the strongest possible protest at your decision to feature lesbian ex-nuns Manahan and Curb as guests on last Friday's Late Late Show.

Indeed, the ladies in question are but the latest in a long chain of guests who have appeared on that particular show over the years whose degenerate and perverted views are utterly repugnant to the vast majority of people who respect normal moral values in our society. Invariably, these persons have come here to launch some book or other of very dubious literary or artistic merit and are only too happy to avail of the publicity of a T.V. appearance to boost the sales of their merchandise.

Your decision to have the Misses Manahan and Curb on the opening night of the current series of the Late Late would seem to indicate an added measure of cynicism on the part of R.T.E. It is an open secret that fears were being expressed that the change in screening from Saturday to Friday nights would result in a fall in TAM ratings and a drop in revenue, hence the decision to feature as guests for opening night the two persons whose appearance was deliberately calculated to provoke the greatest possible degree of publicity and controversy. The carefully leaked press releases of the preceding days took care of that aspect of the matter.

It is indefensible that our national television network should be so freely placed at the disposal of such guests as the Misses Manahan and Curb for their personal aggrandizement and with such cynical disregard for the susceptibilities of ordinary viewers.

Yours Faithfully,  
[REDACTED]