

University of Rhode Island

DigitalCommons@URI

---

Briefing Book: National Endowment for the Arts  
(1994)

Education: National Endowment for the Arts  
and Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996)

---

4-12-1994

## Briefing Book: National Endowment for the Arts (1994): Letter to the Editor 01

David Hanson

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell\\_neh\\_I\\_14](https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_14)

---

### Recommended Citation

Hanson, David, "Briefing Book: National Endowment for the Arts (1994): Letter to the Editor 01" (1994).  
*Briefing Book: National Endowment for the Arts (1994)*. Paper 36.  
[https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell\\_neh\\_I\\_14/36](https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_14/36)[https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell\\_neh\\_I\\_14/36](https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_14/36)

This Letter to the Editor is brought to you for free and open access by the Education: National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996) at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Briefing Book: National Endowment for the Arts (1994) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu).

**LETTERS FROM READERS****A positive experience**

I am surprised at some of the clamor over Ron Athey's performance art March 5 at Patrick's Cabaret. I attended the performance and never felt in danger of coming in contact with blood from any of the performers. I was sitting quite near one of the lines that had bloodied paper towels hanging from it. The towels were neither dripping blood nor were they disintegrating. Stringing the lines over the audience seemed to draw the audience into the performance. I did not feel that they posed a hazard to anyone in the audience.

I am not in touch with the "hip" uptown, urbane culture that may identify itself more closely with this performance. But I found the evening to be an eye-opening experience. It helped heighten my awareness of the diverse cultures that make up our community. The discussion that followed the performance was enlightening. It brought closure to the evening's performance and helped put many of the disturbing images into perspective. The evening was not an orgy of senselessly brutal acts, but rather an expression of cultural identities that differ from traditional Western ideology.

I support the Walker Art Center for sponsoring this performance.

**David Hanson, St. Paul.**