

Document: Alan Walden's Rebuttals to Bruce Porters charges in CJR

“Ugh. Anything I say would be unprintable. [Laughter] It’s slanderous.

“Steve [Young] did a wonderful job on that program. If you listen to the program you can’t help but be moved by it. I don’t think he trashed anything. He told the story of what he saw, of what he experienced, and when he slipped the phone to Marcy — this is radio; this is not something in print. This was radio. Audio is everything, and it made perfectly good sense for him to make that move at that time, and he did no damage with it. I can’t see the damage that was done to Marcy, or her parents, obviously, quite the opposite. There was no damage; it was a good piece of journalism, and I think that *Newsweek* was upset if for no other reason than we had done something they couldn’t do.

“Steve was not smarmy. Steve was doing what he thought was the best job he could, the way he thought it should be done. ... He was a good reporter. He was not an in-your-face [journalist], ‘How did you feel when your mother was hit by a truck?’ You know, that kind of reporter. He was doing a diligent, using that word again, a diligent job the best way he could. I had no reason then, and I have no reason now, to doubt for a nanosecond that what he did was accurate and honest.”

Regarding Porter’s snipe that WNEW did not properly credit *Newsweek*, Walden reads from the LP cover: “‘WNEW reporter, Steve Young, who had read the *Newsweek* article came to the hippie movement early in the fall of 1967, spent dozens of hours scouring New York’s East Village for any trace of a girl named Marcy, who played a major part in the published study.’ In other words, we did credit *Newsweek*.

“We did what I regarded as a hell of a piece of journalism. We apologize for none of it. We think it was decently done. We tried to make it as positive as possible. We tried to make it as meaningful and as positive in the context of the time in which it was done, and as I’ve just told you on the [LP] liner notes, it mentions quite explicitly the fact that Steve had read the *Newsweek* article.”
