

# For a free press—please pay!

With the ever increasing fall of bookstores and impending newspaper layoffs, I'd like to echo Alex Beam's call for readers to reach for their wallets.

In case you missed his January 9 column, ["Closing Costs,"](#) in the *Boston Globe*, it opens: "Here is a dispatch from the Land of No Surprises: Bookstores—buffed by the recession, by Amazon, by electronic reading devices—are closing their doors". He points out that, easy as it is to go to Amazon for books and read newspapers online for free, by behaving normally, "you kill the things you love."

In Boston, after several waves of reporter buyouts, people keep telling me that they've dropped their subscriptions to the *Globe* because it's gone downhill, and, anyway, they can get it on line, for free. Duh.

My apologies for stating the obvious, but many of my friends don't seem to get that, in a vicious financial cycle, with fewer paying customers, the paper can get fewer advertisers, revenues go down, and, as a result, the *Globe* and many other papers have had to "encourage" their most senior, talented reporters to leave. The *Globe* announced a new round of editorial layoffs just last week.

I'll be writing more about this—but for the time being, please support the free press—by paying for it.

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