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Editorial KABC Radio, Reckless Reporting

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EDITORIAL

KABC RADIO

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AN ABC OWNED RADIO STATION

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Editorials on topics of public interest are presented regularly on TALKRADIO 79 by Ben Hoberman, Vice President and General Manager. KABC offers free broadcast time to qualified persons with opposing views. Your comments concerning these editorials will be greatly appreciated.
Paul V. Dallas, Editorial Director

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RECKLESS REPORTING

We've talked a lot about freedom of the press and we conceded that freedom presents certain problems. Just last week, a local paper exhibited an almost perfect example of downright stupidity.

In printing a front page story about the tragic shooting in New Orleans, large headlines proclaimed that an alleged participant in the bloodbath was a "Superbrain".

If the individual referred to existed at all, he may have been cunning, skilled in violence and sick with anger. But the wanton killing of people at random bespeaks an intellect so weak or twisted that for an official in the heat of battle to call it a "Superbrain" may be careless -- but for a paper to place that excerpt in the glare of a headline is reckless.

Reckless because it rings with the phony glamor which can incite other twisted, angry intellects. KABC believes a free press should be responsible and self-regulating. When it does not meet these standards, it should be called down.

(Broadcast 7 times over KABC, Thursday, Jan. 18, 1973)