

May 26, 1993

[REDACTED]  
San Francisco, CA  
94110

Dear C-SPAN,

First of all, I resent being  
referred to as a "C-SPAN Junkie".

Viacom is already full of  
JUNK. I want some participatory  
democracy via C-SPAN!

America needs more information  
on the workings of our nation,  
Not Less!

Sincerely  
[REDACTED]

002594 JUN 793

# CARMAN: Viacom

## From Page E1

ing information for Viacom's pay-per-view movies. In effect, it's an advertising vehicle for Viacom's profit-making pay-per-view service.

Marx said the decision was based on viewing statistics compiled by Viacom — and kept secret — which indicated that "C-SPAN frankly is one of the lower ranked channels in terms of viewership."

Sneak Prevue is a popular service among subscribers, Marx said, and "pay-per-view is a growing part of our business."

Larger questions loom. Should these decisions be made solely on the basis of popularity? Isn't there a responsibility to carry a program service that enriches democracy even if it attracts fewer viewers than entertainment channels?

Caught between viewing statistics and public responsibility, Marx said, "We recognize there's going to be unhappiness no matter what decision we made."

It'll turn up in the mailbags next week. Everyone agrees on one thing about C-SPAN junkies: They know how to write letters.

that Ludlum inflates with all the palaver he can suck out of the corridors of power.

### **Officialese**

While the idea of "a lone female terrorist" going after the president and triggering three other high-level murders once "seemed just too farfetched," the secretary announces (he's telling us), "at 6 o'clock this morning I received a call from our director of the CIA, and then at 11 he called me again, and I began to change my mind. Would you please clarify, Mr. Gillette?" "I'll do my best, Mr. Secretary. Yesterday, our source in Bahrain . . ." Gad, Ludlum must write this phony official-ese in his sleep.

Enter another familiar character, the retired intelligence genius

"Amsterdam! Amsterdam!")

Drowning in grief and alcoholism but nursed back by a loving woman named Dominique, Tye operates a charter boat service in the Caribbean — until, that is, Amaya Bajaratt, now universally known as "that psychopathic bitch," appears on the islands with a 19-year-old boy who will be her next cover.

### **The Evident Trap**

The reader instantly spots a trap awaiting Tye, but it takes him way too long to cotton to it, and even when the evil Amaya is balanced by the good Catherine Neilsen, an Air Force major who works alongside the sputtering Tye ("Look, lady . . . miss . . . Major . . .



WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1993

San Francisco

Chordell

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## JOHN CARMAN

*Television*

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# Big Cutback Of C-SPAN On Viacom

**S**an Francisco cable subscribers will get religion, like it or not, and sacrifice evening C-SPAN programming starting next Wednesday on the city's Viacom Cable system.

C-SPAN, the channel that covers Congress and government, was the prominent loser when Viacom squeezed its channel capacity to make room for three local broadcast stations.

There's more than a trace of irony in the decision, because it was Congress' passage of the Cable Act of 1992 that triggered Viacom's cut of nighttime C-SPAN programming.

Congress was in a mood to punish cable and reward broadcasters when it mandated a June 2 deadline for cable systems to implement the act's must-carry provision.

### **The New Rules**

"Must carry" means that cable operators are required to carry all qualifying local broadcast stations on their systems.

Cable fought the provision, but lost in court, and then lost again when the Supreme Court rejected a plea to delay implementation of the must-carry provision.

So starting next Wednesday, Viacom in San Francisco will juggle its channel lineup to add two UHF religious stations, KFCB (Channel 42 over the air) of Concord and KLXV (Channel 65) of San Francisco, as well as another PBS station, KCSM (Channel 60) of San Mateo.

# riety Shows

Ron Reagan, son of the former president, and former Bay Area radio and TV newswoman Vicki Liviakis.

Lucie Salhany, chairman of Fox Broadcasting, said "The Chevy Chase Show," scheduled to debut on September 7, will have an 11 o'clock start time week-nights.

Salhany said the start time will give Chase a head start on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," which begins at 11:30 p.m. in much of the nation, CBS' new late-night program with David Letterman, and ABC's "Nightline."

She said Chase's program will emphasize comedy more than a traditional talk-show format.

Fox affiliate KTVU (Channel 2), which currently airs "Cheers" re-runs at 11 o'clock weeknights, said no decision has been made yet about carrying the Chase show at 11.

7 **1 SNEAKY LOW PRICE!**

**JUNE 10-13**

**THE PRICE OF A MOVIE!**

**A MADCAP MUSICAL SEND-UP!"**  
 -NY Times



**KING OF SINGAPORE**

THE ZANY NEW MUSICAL COMEDY

**"THEATRE GOERS  
OF THE WORLD, DELIGHT!"**

-Time Magazine

5 Columbus CHARGE: 775-6777

## MOVIE OF THE YEAR!

**"IRRESISTIBLE.**

KEVIN KLINE  
IS A COMIC MARVEL."

- PETER TRAVERS,  
ROLLING STONE

**"HILARIOUS!**

'DAVE' WINS A LANDSLIDE  
OF LAUGHTER."

- SUSAN WLOSZCZYNA,  
USA TODAY

**ENTERTAINING.**

IT'S BIG, BRIGHT  
AND RUOVANT"

**"WARMHEARTED.**

AN IMMENSELY  
APPEALING COMEDY"



## **Local Stations**

Seventeen of Viacom's available 54 channels will be devoted to local broadcast stations. Like other cable systems around the country, Viacom had to scour its existing lineup for space to accommodate the three stations.

It chose to cut back on its pay-per-view channel capacity and to trim C-SPAN. The decision is certain to outrage C-SPAN's small but vocal following.

C-SPAN I (the younger C-SPAN II, which features U.S. Senate coverage,

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## ***New Cable Act says cable companies have to carry local stations***

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will continue in its current part-time status on Viacom) moves to Viacom's Channel 47 next week.

The channel will be shared with adult programming from Playboy TV. C-SPAN will be available on the channel during the daytime, but yield to Playboy from 5 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Viacom subscribers will lose C-SPAN's nighttime call-in shows, coverage of speeches and other evening programs. Cutting C-SPAN last year would have eliminated access to the most extensive presidential campaign coverage on television.

With Viacom's decision, people who work during the day will lose C-SPAN altogether, unless they use VCRs to tape daytime coverage of the House of Representatives.

(Cable systems elsewhere are irking subscribers with different cuts as they open channel space to more broadcast stations. Viacom is eliminating Bravo on its Marin system and CNBC in its East Bay operations. Chambers Cable of Novato stirred a public protest when it singled out MTV.)

"This is very complicated and distasteful stuff for our customers and for us," said Jonathan Marx, general manager of Viacom's San Francisco system.

### **Pelosi Complains**

Marx has already heard complaints from Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi's office and from a few C-SPAN junkies. The raspberries probably will increase when the change takes effect next week.

It didn't have to be C-SPAN. It could have been The Weather Channel. Or E! Entertainment. Or the QVC shopping network. Or VH-1, which happens to be owned by Viacom Cable's parent company. Or Black Entertainment Television (BET). It could have been Playboy.

Most of all, it seems to me, it could have been Sneak Prevue, a Viacom channel devoted to previews and order-

AND DOUTANT.  
- JANET MASLIN,  
NEW YORK TIMES

THE LIVING COMEDY  
- LAWRENCE FRASCELLA,  
US MAGAZINE

# DAVE

PG-13



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UNITED ARTISTS  
**STONESTOWN**  
CINEMA 221-8182

UNITED ARTISTS  
**THE MOVIES**  
COLMA 994-1065

DAILY AT:  
12:30, 2:50, 5:15,  
7:45, 10:10 PM

DOLBY/ ON 2 SCREENS/ DAILY:  
12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:15,  
5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30 PM

ROUGHOUT THE BAY AREA - NO PASSES

OR'S FORTNIGHT 1993 CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

'ETY' IS PERHAPS THE  
DIRECTORIAL DEBUT  
TEMA HISTORY.."

NEW YORK MAGAZINE

LLIANT...

Brothers are major filmmakers! Grade 'A'."

ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

ND RELENTLESS...

L.A.-the other L.A.

DETAILS MAGAZINE

Y POWERFUL!

Boys in the Hood' left off."

SNEAK PREVIEWS

Menace II  
Society

S FILM - MENACE II SOCIETY - TYRIN TURNER - JADA PINKETT  
N - CO-PRODUCED BY THE HUGHES BROTHERS AND TYGER WILLIAMS  
H TYGER WILLIAMS - PRODUCED BY DARIN SCOTT - DIRECTED BY THE HUGHES BROTHERS  
FOOTAGE AVAILABLE ON VIDEO CONTACT DIRECT, CHARACTER AND BACKDROP  
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**THE MOVIES**  
Colma • 994-1065

**ST. FRANCIS  
THEATRE**  
Market/5th • 362-4822

Today:  
4:45PM.

Today: 12:15,  
3:15, 6:00 & 8:45PM.

Today: 11:55,  
3:40, 7:30 & 9:25PM.

THESE SELECT BAY AREA THEATRES —

San Jose - Towne (STARTS FRIDAY)

PENINSULA

Redwood City - United Artists Redwood

NORTH COUNTIES

Fairfield - GCC Solano Mall

Vacaville - Vaca Valley

PETALUMA

Petaluma - Washington Square