

Watch C-SPAN Because...

by

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I watch C-SPAN because I have access to information I don't get in the newspapers and on the three networks with no editorializing or editing. I consider myself an intelligent individual who can decide for herself what to think. Unlike the networks, C-SPAN gives the information without a blow-dried airhead with a six-figure salary telling me what I just saw and what to think about it.

By showing an event in its entirety with no editing, C-SPAN gives an accurate impression of the event. The networks film an event and edit out



all but the sensational aspects, often creating the wrong impression. For example, Ed Meese's remark about hunger was blown out of proportion by the networks. They reported that Meese said there was no hunger in America. C-SPAN showed all of the Meese speech. One learned that what was really said by Meese was that he didn't understand why there was hunger when \$19 billion, more than ever before, was being spent to alleviate it. Whether or not one agrees with Meese is not the point. C-SPAN showed what was actually said, whereas the networks reported their version.

One day last summer while searching for something to watch, I stumbled on to C-SPAN, quite by accident, during a midnight repeat of the 8AM call-in show.



They are my favorite programming on C-SPAN.

Usually I can detect a reporter's bias after listening to him for five minutes. I haven't discovered any of the call-in moderators' opinions. I have applied two tests: the expression on one's face, and the way a question asked is phrased. The technique used by the moderator of turning around a question asked him by a caller and asking the caller the question is very effective.

The morning call-in show has taught me a lot about how newspapers are structured and how to read one. The week of shows with editorial page writers was excellent.

I use the call-in shows as my personal, unscientific public opinion poll. After the Granada



invasion), I was surprised by callers' reaction to the media's indignation at not being included in the first wave. Many felt the media was too self-righteous, arrogant and had lost credibility.

During this primary season, the series of debates between Burt Pines and Mark Stern is enlightening. Nowhere else can one get the conservative and liberal viewpoints on the issues. Hearing both sides enables me to make an informed opinion.

C-SPAN's coverage of the Iowa caucuses was excellent. I had no idea what a caucus was and, if it wasn't for C-SPAN, I still wouldn't know. I sat glued to the set watching the large one. It was fascinating to watch the process, all without opinion from a talking head.



While only an occasional watcher of Congress, I better understand our political process. Although some representatives play up to the camera for home consumption, I've learned some reasons why certain bills are or aren't passed.

Many of the seminars and press conferences, mostly ignored by the print and electronic media, have contributed to a change in my political opinions on many issues.

C-SPAN does a superior job of informing the audience. It's the best channel on TV.