

2/17/2000

Dear C-Span,

I am writing to you because I have a couple of concerns. One is the way you label phone callers. You have 3 lines, conservative, liberal & others (or Republicans, Democrats & Independents). I do not understand why you need to label people this way. This colors any call you receive and put on the air, and immediately pegs a person. I don't like that. Why can't you have 3 open lines for anyone who wants to call - get rid of labels. I would like to listen to what a person says without first knowing that he or she is "liberal" or "conservative". I'm not that unintelligent that I can't guess what persuasion people are without having a label affixed to them.

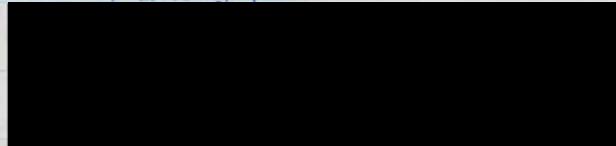
My second concern is that last weekend, in prime time, you covered a speech by David Duke. It was a bigoted, hate-filled and inaccurate justification for his beliefs and those of other "European-Americans".

I wonder why you put this speech on at the time you did? In a time where

hate crimes are rising, I don't understand why you couldn't have put his speech on later. Don't you think that his talk fosters hatred, and aren't you sensitive to the fact that perhaps young people watched Mr. Duke and may be influenced by it? If you wanted to cover it, why didn't you do so, then play it back at 1 or 2 a. m.?

I have a young great-nephew who is multi-racial - (black) oriental [white]. I do not want him to grow up being afraid of folks like Mr. Duke and people who follow him. Free speech is essential to a democratic society, but I think, that in a case like Mr. Duke's, you need to exercise some judgment.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting a signature.

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