

VIEWER
Portland, OR
09-22-92

C-SPAN
400 North Capitol Street
Suite 650
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear C-SPAN:

Thank you for your excellence and impartiality of coverage in the events you present daily. I don't have the time to be a true "C-SPAN addict", but when I need raw political data unencumbered by bull sessions between random journalists, it is truly refreshing to have a solid, no-nonsense source.

I particularly enjoyed coverage of the Republican convention last month, since I am a Republican - though I cannot support the Bush/Quayle ticket, much less Clinton/Gore, Buchanan, Perot, nor any other of the current lineup of would-be statesmen. The only flaw in your coverage was the annoying and mind-numbingly distracting habit of camera operators' continual perspective-shifting - from front to side to back to arena pans to focusing on faces in the crowd, etc., WHILE A SPEAKER IS GIVING A SPEECH. In my view the camera ought to stay locked dead-center-front-perspective throughout every speech, with the exception of brief cutaways during extended applause. Anything more is destructive of the listening process. I don't know if C-SPAN has technical control over cameras, but please look into getting that practice corrected or pass word along to whomever provides your camera feeds. This is a minor flaw but I decided to mention it in the context of "quality feedback".

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My main purpose for writing is to make a request for the inclusion, where appropriate, of certain guest speakers/commentators/panelists on C-SPAN's programs - at least on an occasional basis, and particularly in these final weeks prior to the elections.

Guests on C-SPAN represent seemingly every perspective on the political/current events scene, ranging from the politician to the journalist to educators, think-tank speakers, business leaders, etc., and properly so.

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But the one perspective most frequently overlooked and most rarely (if ever) represented, is the one that encompasses all others: the perspective of formal philosophy.

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I'm writing to request the occasional representation on C-SPAN of the Objectivist school of thought, i.e. speakers from the Ayn Rand Institute, writers from The Intellectual Activist (a periodical), and any of a number of Objectivist educators, scientists, economists, historians, etc. I am enclosing a copy of a flyer from an Objectivist conference held a couple months ago in Virginia, which has the most complete list of prominent Objectivist speakers I am aware of.

For information regarding any of these speakers I will simply refer you to the Ayn Rand Institute Speakers Bureau at (310) 306-9232.

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In making this request I do not mean to suggest that C-SPAN ought to become a mouthpiece for any particular point of view - by all means bring in competing viewpoints for debate. I'll lay my money on the Objectivist trouncing the arguments coming from ANY quarter. My request is as much on behalf of philosophy as such, as it is for Objectivism in particular. However, I believe Objectivist ideas ought to be presented because they represent a complete departure from both the "Right" and the "Left".

As is obvious to most observers, America is at a loss for even the semblance of clear political vision as to its future well-being, and nowhere is this vacuum more evident than in the stale, shallow formulations (not to mention candidates) being offered up by the two major political parties. The path out of America's politico-economic dead end must begin with a thorough analysis of the underlying premises that give rise to it, and the only branch of human knowledge capable of performing that task is the science of philosophy.

Objectivism is uniquely qualified to address such issues since, as an Aristotelian-based system, it stands as the only significant champion of the distinctly Aristotelian ideology of America's founders in the face of the multiple Platonist variants that have plagued our country for over a century.

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In addition to the information on the enclosed flyer, I'd like to call attention to a couple of speakers and some of their works concerning issues that are of particular timeliness:

- Leonard Peikoff

-) the state of the American economy;
-) why the collapse of the Soviet Bloc implies an urgent need for defense readiness, not de-funding and dismantlement;
-) the Health Care crisis and Socialized Medicine;
-) the state of American education;
-) the America/Japan trade conflict

(It is also worth noting that Peikoff is a PHENOMENAL communicator - clear, precise, insightful, and on occasion, uproariously funny.)

- George Reisman (Professor of Economics at Pepperdine University)

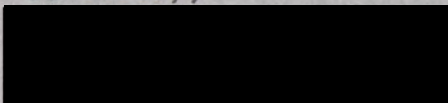
-) true Laissez-Faire Capitalism vs. America's contemporary "free" market - the implications of that distinction;
-) Capitalism vs. Collectivist variants;
-) the condition of Eastern Europe;
-) the meaning of Environmentalism;
-) "Multiculturalism" in American education

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Although some fresh perspective on the upcoming elections would be of value, this request is not primarily election-oriented. As Peikoff has said, "A philosophy...does not back candidates.". My hope is that you will include Objectivist speakers as one source among the many from which you select guests - assuming this is how you go about planning your programs (I am ignorant of your procedures & criteria).

One quick final question (sorry for being so long-winded...): Do you archive any past programming from C-SPAN? I would be very interested in obtaining videos or transcripts of certain speeches/debates, etc. presented in the past on C-SPAN. Thank you for your time, and keep up the good work!

Sincerely,



Portland, OR 97225