

[REDACTED]  
Lexington, Ky 40503

April 5, 1999

Mr. Brian Lamb, CEO  
CSPAN  
400 North Capitol, NW, Suite 650  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb,

Yesterday was a wonderful "Bookwater" kind of day. It started when Bert Jeter, the Lexington Herald-Leader Books Editor, mentioned the wonderful BookTV on CSPAN-2 and ended with the watching of the tenth anniversary special for "Bookwater."

Our local cable service, Intermedia, carries CSPAN-2 with the Fox Sports Network on the same cable channel. Unfortunately the sports portion is aired over the weekend. It was not until I was in Gallup, New Mexico, last December (went on my first balloon ride - it was great) and watching the hotel-carried channels that I discovered CSPAN-2's wonderful books weekend. That weekend the Miami Book Fair talks were aired. What great programs! When I returned home, I couldn't find anyone who was familiar with this programming. Had I dreamed all this? Had I been affected by the altitude? Or, was I still giddy from the excitement of my first ride?

But no, it was real. Mr. Jeter said so in his Sunday column. We must do something about getting BookTV aired here, somehow. Do you have any suggestions? I am calling Intermedia and I am writing a letter to the editor.

And at the end of the day was the wonderful retrospective of ten years of Bookwater. Unfortunately for me, I have only been a reviewer for the past couple of years. This allowed me to see what I've been missing.

Mr. Lamb, your interviews are such a pleasure to watch. You've read the book and ask questions of the author that I wish I could ask. You ask about the things that are not in the book. How did the authors get interested in the subject? What led them to the actual writing? What research was involved? And as the retrospective pointed out, who is referred to in the dedication? And we find out, in the hour, that these books become very personal to the author, as well as to the viewer. Interviews have piqued an interest I didn't know I had.

I am glad that CSPAN has made this effort to cover these books that might not otherwise get this thorough attention. I hope that this will continue into the future. ~~Slow~~ Though our numbers may be small, I think we are a very appreciative audience, and certainly a hungry audience for this kind of mental food.

When I talked with Mr. Jeter this morning to commend the mention of BooksTV, I was excited to know that he had talked with you. I consider myself a Brian Lamb groupie. Interviews are conducted in a straight-forward, matter-of-fact fashion and I always find it interesting when authors respond to your question in such a way that it evokes a reaction from you. You always appear so unflappable. It is interesting to observe what you react.

Does CSPAN publish dates when specific Sakhatu interviews will be shown? I have eight years of books I need to "watch."

Thank you for a wonderful day and for some great programming.

Sincerely,

