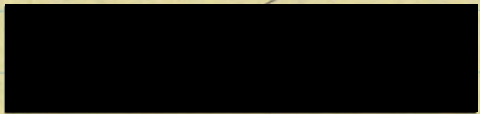


10/13/05

Brian:

Was good talking to you
yesterday! It's been a long
time since I had a chance to
talk to anyone about Cable TV,
and ^{it} brought a lot of good and
"not so good" memories back!

Want to repeat what I
said yesterday, you've made a great
contribution to Cable and yes,
to our Society. Proud to know you
Brian!



P.S. Talked to Dorsey about his
Article. He is sincere and really
meant what ~~he~~ said in last paragraph!
Do you ever see my old friend
Paul Maxwell? If you would please,
have one of your "team" send me his
address if you know it. THANKS!

TV Tonight

TV RADIO PICKS | courier-journal.com

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E5

MONDAY
OCTOBER 10, 2005

At any price, C-SPAN is a monument to informed journalism

TV NEWS AND REVIEWS

Tom Dorsey



A nickel won't buy much these days, but it purchases a world of information and enlightenment for every cable subscriber. That's what it costs each cable household to get C-SPAN, which provides the greatest civics lesson about how our government really works — and sometimes how it doesn't.

Five cents a month is what every cable subscriber pays to offset the cost of seeing C-SPAN, which televises the House of Representatives, and C-SPAN II, which covers the U.S. Senate. Never before have so many people gotten so much for so little, especially on cable television. C-SPAN doesn't get a penny from the government.

There are those who have said that watching C-SPAN is like watching grass grow. But evidently a lot of people like to watch grass grow. About 12 percent of Americans told a Pew Research Center poll that they regularly watch C-SPAN. That's 34 million people who tune in at least once a week. One of five Americans watches it at least twice a week.

That's the best present C-SPAN could receive after 25 years on the air. The fourth oldest cable network was founded by Brian Lamb in 1979 with a grand total of \$25,000 from the fledgling cable industry. It's the best investment the industry ever made. Lamb runs a tight ship. Funding C-SPAN for a whole year costs less than making one sitcom for a season.

C-SPAN is like the Great Wizard of Oz, pulling back the curtain that shrouds the way our government works. It shows the House and Senate for what they are, with our elected officials engaged in no-holds-barred debates. C-SPAN doesn't tease you with 10-second sound bites; it delivers the whole speech. It is Congress in the raw.

Of course, you may say those sessions are just the front Congress puts on for the public and that you don't see the back-door dealing that really represents how government works. C-SPAN delves into that, too, and does it better than anybody else with call-in and interview programs that feature some of the best people in their fields explaining what's happening.

C-SPAN also airs hearings and panel sessions that evaluate topics such as Social Security, Medicare, health and jobs that are mostly ignored on the network evening news.

Today radio and television are flooded with shows where people call in. C-SPAN launched the idea a quarter of a century ago and continues it today with programs such as "Washington Journal," a three-hour public forum in which the callers are the main attraction instead of biased talk-show hosts.

If you work for C-SPAN as a host or moderator, you park your personal opinions at the doorstep. C-SPAN hosts play the role of referees, but they rarely have to blow the whistle or throw any caller out of the game.

For the most part the people who care enough about government to want to learn by tuning in C-SPAN keep a civil tongue when they get on the air. It's rare to hear anybody even raise his or her voice. The callers are often famous



C-SPAN televises the House of Representatives and C-SPAN II airs the U.S. Senate. The network was started in 1979 by Brian Lamb with \$25,000 from the cable industry.

people, including former presidents and even movie stars.

Lamb is the best of listeners, and his questions are concise. "What's that mean?" he'll ask or just say: "Explain." He doesn't pretend to know everything. He gives new meaning to the term self-effacing. He is the most low-key interrogator on television with the possible exception of PBS' Jim Lehrer.

"I never wanted to be a star," Lamb, 63, told the newspaper *Newsday*. "I wasn't anybody when C-SPAN started, and I'm not anybody now." The Lafayette, Ind., native is an ordinary kind of guy who likes country music.

One of the interesting things about

C-SPAN is that many congressional representatives raised a ruckus when Lamb proposed the idea of showing their sessions uncut 25 years ago.

They said it would turn serious government business into show business. It's amazing that politicians were ever able to argue that the public shouldn't see how their elected representatives made the laws that rule their lives. It gave new meaning to the word arrogance.

But when the cameras were turned on, many of those same politicians were the first to get up in front of the microphone so their hometown constituents could see them in action, which is ex-

actly the idea.

Lamb told National Public Radio that the U.S. Supreme Court should quit hiding out from the American public it's supposed to be serving and let cameras in. He doesn't expect that to happen during his stay at C-SPAN because he thinks the judges on the bench are too out of touch with the times.

In his time with C-SPAN, Lamb has built one of the best monuments to informed, intelligent journalism this country has ever seen.

In the news

► Oprah Winfrey's TV company will bring Food Network personality Rachael Ray to syndicated television next season with a daytime talk show.

► NBC has picked up "Conviction," Dick Wolf's new series about assistant district attorneys, for midseason. It won't be part of his "Law & Order" franchise.

Also tonight

► Kim Yonts, a Beechmont, Ky., housewife who devotes much of her life to her 5-year-old's appearances in beauty pageants, trades places with a free-spirited Pennsylvania artist on "Wife Swap" at 8 on ABC.

► The head guy on "CSI: Miami" doesn't believe a young man who confesses to murder and tries to save him from prison at 10 on CBS.

► The season finale of "Weeds" is at 10 on Showtime.

Tom Dorsey's column runs Monday through Saturday. Call him at (502) 582-4474 or e-mail him at tdorsey@courier-journal.com.

Online: Ask Tom a question at courier-journal.com/tom

B.C.



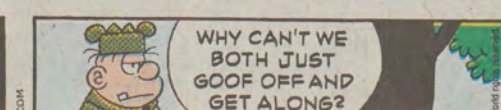
FUNKY WINKERBEAN



REX MORGAN, M.D.



DILBERT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Daddy says the Italians invented pizza and Americans invented delivering it."

MARMADUKE



"He orchestrated a mutiny at the obedience school today."

DENNIS THE MENACE



WONDERWORD | David Ouellet

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BEFORE BEDTIME

Solution: 5 letters

R P A G E N I T U O R B F D S
A E E M I T O N C E K L I M L
E O A G E M Y S L O E A S G A
B N H D V S O E S H P N N G R
E T D K A A M O S E O I E E O
L Y S T C E L T R I L S T R M
B F N H N A I U T L R S Y H V
A A A T M M T A E E I R E Y I
F I A A U N R P T S E G T M D
R R J L E T S C T S N S I E E
Y Y A V S L A N R I H M R Y O
P T D U E R E U D E A I O O S
E A L E A R N N E E T L V U O
A L P H A B E T R T R E A T N
I E C P I H S D N E I R F H G

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1/10

Adventure, Ages, Alphabet, Bear, Chair, Characters, Diaper, Dream, Elementary, Ending, Fable, Fairy, Fantasy, Favorite, Friendship, Illustrations, Lesson, Milk, Morals, Name, Night, Nursery, Once, Page, Parents, Pyjama, Read, Rhyme, Room, Routine, Sheets, Shelf, Sister, Sleep, Smile, Song, Spelling, Stimulate, Tale, Teddy, Time, Tired, Treat, Values, Videos, Youth.

Last Saturday's Answer: Suspense

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DEEXU
□ □ □ □ □

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DARNB
□ □ □ □ □

NAKTIE
□ □ □ □ □

DIRNEH
□ □ □ □ □

www.jumble.com



Now arrange the circled letters

[Redacted]
Louisville, Ky 40291



Mr. Brian Lamb
c/o C-span
400 W. Capitol St N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

20001+1511

