

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

April 23, 1984

Sirs:

At 68 and with a formal education that reached all the way to fourth grade I had hesitation about writing these 500 words. Even including all of the words that I have seen on the walls of mens' rooms I doubt that my total vocabulary takes in 500 words.

But what the hell! While watching T.V. I've always felt like the cat in the children's fairy tale. I could look at the Queens (ABC-CBS-NBC) but I was not allowed any input to them. They always did it their way--whether I liked it or not. Now it is di ferent. Since the advent of C-Span this old cat has been purring. I feel more a part of things.

Now I see and hear interesting people and events. And I now have the added pleasure of not having to listen to pontificating anchormen and self-styled experts who insisted on telling me their version of what I was seeing and hearing.

The C-Span people are unobstrusive and they only do what is necessary to 'set up' and then they get out of the way and allow their guest experts to take over.

The networks have always treated the viewers as though they were dealing with morons.

C-Span realizes that there are morons out there but also that there are others out there, too. C-Span's mix is very good.

But nothing is perfect and the chance of attaining perfection in any business or endeavor is, in my opinion, an impossibility.

But that does not mean that a continuing effort should not be made to go higher even though a high level performance has already been achieved. Striving for perfection should always be a criterion.

In my opinion, C-Span's sights are right on target and you have me looking right at you from the vantage point of the bull's eye.

My lack of ability with English grammar could be an embarrassment to some people but I am a hearty soul. Cut since I am under 500 words I am sending you the following

- 3 umlauts
- 7 cedillas
- 4 dieresis
- 7 question marks
- 10 periods
- 3 apostraphes

was not to cross over. They knew what was right for me. Since C-Span I am free at last.

It was not until I had finished this letter that I realized that I was staying behind the red line. The networks had always indicated that I w

- 2 commas .
- 3 quotation marks
- 1 exclamation point

and a partridge in a pear tree.

Please feel free to sprinkle any of these marks any place they might be needed to spruce up this entry.

My very best to all at C-Span,

(see original to get gist)

From now on this is my side of the line.