

C-SPAN BOOKNOTES
400 N. CAPITAL ST., N.W.
SUITE 650
WASHINGTON D.C. 20001

ATTENTION: BRIAN LAMB

[REDACTED]
SUGARLOAF KEY
FL 33042
[REDACTED]

December 4, 1994

Dear Brian:

Viewer

First, I'd like to thank you and your staff for the most thoughtful and informative shows I've ever seen on television...and Booknotes is my favorite. In what seems to have become an age of mean-spirited and dishonest punditry from both the left and the right, C-SPAN, almost alone, tries to speak with a reasonably objective voice. No one else appears to know, or care, what it means to communicate facts, or ideas, or opinions, with reasonable honesty... to be a journalist.

Which brings me to a suggestion for an interview subject: John Fraser, seventeen years as a reporter and editor at the Toronto Globe; seven years with Saturday Night magazine; and now, senior resident fellow at the University of Toronto's Massey College. His recently published, "Saturday Night Lives! Selected Diaries", is the best exploration of the low state in which journalism finds itself that I've read. As an ex-newspaper reporter and editor, myself, I **hate** what I read in the papers and see on television, today. This goes for the editorial page and the front page; the network news and, most especially, those horrible round tables of self-important and self-promoting pontificators and propagandists presenting news as confrontational entertainment.

I have a strong hunch that you've already thought of Fraser as a worthwhile subject for a Booknotes interview; but, if you haven't, please check out "Saturday Night Lives". It gets my vote.

Speaking of votes, in order, my three favorite Booknotes interviews and subjects are: Lewis Lapham, "The Wish For Kings"; Howell Raines, "Fly Fishing Through the Mid-Life Crisis"; and Willard S. Randall, "Thomas Jefferson -- A Life". I'd like to see ^{each} of them again. I would add your last week's interview with Charles Murray, but I have not, as yet, read "The Bell Curve". The interview, though, was fascinating.

Again, thank you for C-SPAN.

Cordially,

[REDACTED]
Sugarloaf Key, Florida