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[REDACTED] JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07306

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Brian Lamb
C-SPAN
400 N Capital Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lamb:

05-01-94

For several months I have been promising to communicate with C-SPAN in general and with you in particular. Your 04-29-94 Journalist Roundtable motivated me to submit a fax. That event stimulated, at last, this long postponed correspondence.

My thoughts are likely to mirror a series of expressions of appreciation which you must have already received. Regardless of its likely familiarity, it is important to me that I convey my gratitude to you and to your colleagues.

The essential character of your contribution, I believe, originates within the sincere regard you convey to your callers. You seem uniquely suited to accept our anxiety, our anger, and our opinions as woven within a deeper, more meaningful, desire for a non-assaultive cognitive contact. People are hungry to be an authentic part of dialogue. In the eloquence of our short-sightedness or in the brilliance of our insight they...no we, experience genuine acceptance as co-partners in an exchange of information. C-SPAN affords contact with purpose, and dignity through regard.

Dialogue was, perhaps, the ultimate promise of television. For C-SPAN it seems to be a guiding star and for us, the involved audience, it is an exquisite gift.

I believe that the realization of a reasoned and thoughtful challenge from television is genuinely threatened to become "lost on the information superhighway". The potential metamorphosis of the medium, at this moment, carries within no guarantee of commitment to excellence or even the expectation that lessons learned will be lessons carried forth.

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Philip Slater, in his brilliant essay The Pursuit of Loneliness, describes the assault that technology has committed against the support beams of social community. One analogy he sets forth is the interstate highway system as a barrier to true contact and communication. We drive our cars along highways which are "ours" and therefore are frustratingly cluttered with the vehicles of "others" who we regard as distractions and infractions to the course and conduct of our individual journeys. One cannot escape the notion that few skills have evolved in the transactional aspect of medium which will assist us navigating within the "information superhighway". There is a clear and present danger that there is a loss of contact and context ~~is~~ etched within the technology at hand. If we have yet to fully define the costs of our concrete superhighways, what do we contend to know of our more esoteric technology?

It is my hope that C-SPAN will tenaciously embed itself in whatever evolution takes place. Yours is a seminal contribution to the medium. It is a marker, a signpost, an example. I hope that it will be protected for it is among the brightest and the best and it is most deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

