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Hamilton, New York 13346
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January 24, 1993

C-Span
400 No Capitol St NW
Washington, D. C. 20001

Dear C-Span:

As a viewer who watched your extended weekend coverage of Oxford and American Rhodes Scholars before the presidential inauguration, I want to thank you for the outstanding job you did. The very idea of producing not a ten-minute segment or even a one-hour special, but two whole days of coverage was highly original—and a very brave undertaking too. It shows that C-Span, in a class by itself, can do things no other form of television can. It shows too that you have a vision of the kinds of new things that can be done and the courage to try them. I hope you'll do more programs like it when the right subject and opportunity comes along.

As a Rhodes Scholar I watched it with my memory and emotions engaged—it brought back something of the real spirit of what Oxford was and is. I tried to watch too as an objective viewer, and found it interesting and informative. In other words, it was educational in the best sense. I'm a teacher, so I have a strong commitment to the idea that those in the public service, whether the news media or the office of the president himself, have a responsibility to educate the public. To the extent that we are ignorant or biased or even just reacting in automatic categories without examining them, we aren't free. Kennedy was the last president to try to free the public in this way by asking them to understand the world; President Clinton seems to have a similar vision, which in his case must surely go back at least in part to Oxford. Your program stressed the Oxford vision of public service (a Rhodes ideal, as you pointed out), and in doing this you performed an important public service yourselves.

I was also glad that the unanswered innuendoes made against Rhodes scholars during the campaign, that they were somehow an elite not to be trusted, were shown by your program to be the complete nonsense they are. The young people you interviewed in Oxford especially showed that.

In conclusion, your staff, and especially Brian Lamb, whose combination of openness, intelligence and dispassion makes him one of the very best professionals on any network today, have my ardent admiration. Please pass on to them that this viewer liked the program a lot.

Sincerely,
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