

Mr. Brian Lamb, President and CEO
National Cable Satellite Corp. DBA "C-SPAN"
404 N. Capitol Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

February 20, 2008

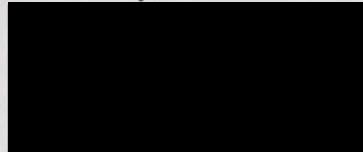
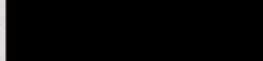
Dear Mr. Lamb,

I am writing to express my concern with the whole mission of C-SPAN and about ways in which the C-SPAN channels along with television and the Internet can be reconstructed so that the federal govt can be not only accountable to the general public but to also allow the average citizen to participate in the political process. Perhaps I am just parsing words, but I do not believe that C-SPAN provides Americans access to the political process; it allows Americans to observe the political process and to learn about the political process at a freshman college level and in a very dry way; even the interviews with people are very dry. The term "access to the political process" implies participation or involvement of some kind. Watching C-SPAN is not participation. There is no predominant culture of American citizens participating in the political process in a way that they can actually exert leverage upon their representative in Congress or at the state level. I am not saying it doesn't happen; of course it happens, but there is no culture of it. There is, however, a culture of Americans watching television and not really questioning the quality of the information that they are receiving or questioning it to no prevail or to no constructive outlet. C-SPAN could play a central role in changing that culture and in helping to provide a whole new culture, with the help of modern technology, of people actually having their voice, their ideas, weighed in into the political process. The fact that after all of these years C-SPAN hasn't really change that much and that you basically stay away from encouraging that kind of change in our culture can only lead me to believe that you are in fact an instrument of the establishment and a protector of the status quo. The way I see it, C-SPAN is helping the establishment control people's involvement in the political process by making it seem so awfully boring or by lowering the expectations of what "access to the political process" could really mean. I mean, CNN and FoxNews is at the far extreme on the other side of the spectrum where they just exploit everything to the point that people don't become educated, and CNN is the opposite extreme. Education of any kind needs to be interactive, intelligent, exciting, provocative, stimulating. Perhaps you should make an exception and bring back booknotes to interview someone like Susan Jacoby and promote her book "The Age of American Unreason." There was another provocative author on The Daily Show last week; I forget his name or the book title, but it was about how the Internet is set up in a way that can best serve the public in a very powerful way. Television needs to have the same kind of restructuring. Do you ever watch Bill Moyers's Journal and Now with David Broncaccio on PBS. Those programs are some of the few examples I can think of excellent television programming. It stimulates me, and excites me to the point that I feel a need to write to someone like Brian Lamb and try to get through to him.

By writing this letter, I am giving you the benefit of the doubt that you are not a government plant for the purpose of stabilizing the hegemonic institutions of our society whose ultimate goal is to protect the power of corporate control and the control of the establishment.

I don't want to ramble on. I think I have made my point and have spoken my peace. That's all I have to say. I'm exhausted. I'll leave it up to you to take the next step.

Sincerely,

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Levittown, PA, 19054

P.S.

If you interview Senator Obama within the next few weeks, please ask him to give you examples of ideas on how we can bring about the kind of change that he is talking about and about how to create the kind of culture he talks about or how, exactly, in terms of creating public policy, can we can reach that "better place."

And please interview people like Gore Vidal, Susan Jacoby, Bill Moyers, Bill Marh, or other freethinkers. Also, if you would like to know our national elections can be rigged, or are rigged, I will be happy to tell you; I might write you again to tell you anyway. And one more thing, I like you, but CHANGE!