

October 25, 1994

Mr. Lamb,

I just received a copy of Carl Sandburg's Abraham Lincoln and a note from Lea Anne today in the mail. I was thinking of purchasing that exact book while I was there but I opted to buy the Chicago Poems instead. Now I have both. Thank you.

I also wanted to let you know how much I appreciated the chance to go watch the debates. I had a fabulous time. I don't think I've ever felt so pampered and important in my life.

I've been thinking a lot about C-SPAN. Starting college can often be a confusing time for many people my age. During high school I thought a great deal about what kind of career I wanted to follow but now I've had to make concrete decisions about what direction I will be taking. Making that kind of decisions can be scary. The chance to meet the people who make C-SPAN work really had a deep impression on me. I've always wanted to do something that would benefit the people around me and to leave something promising for those who come after but being thrown out into the real world tends to dampen some of that youthful zeal.

What you and everyone else at C-SPAN have created has been the best thing that could happen to our country in a long time, especially to journalism. Today we are faced with reporters who wish to create a story rather than cover it, people who wish to exploit the fears of readers merely to sell more copies. Understanding what is going on in our country is hard enough without trying to decide whether the reporting was accurate. C-SPAN offers viewers the chance to see our government in an objective light. Actually, there is a tinge of irony in C-SPAN's reenactment of the Lincoln Douglas debates. The newspapers that covered the actual debates were probably the embodiment of biased coverage. If only C-SPAN could have been there in 1858.

What my trip to Galesburg showed me was that it is still possible to do something for the good of our country and be successful. You don't understand how many people I've talked to who want to become politicians and believe they will have to be "somewhat corrupt" to do so. It is sad that they are willing to lower their moral standards and sad that our country will be led by them. You've shown me that I don't have to let my youthful zeal be dampened and I don't have to compromise my standards for anyone.



I can only put a fraction of my admiration and appreciation for you and C-SPAN into writing. Thank you again for inviting me to the debate. If you ever drop by Chicago and have a chance don't hesitate dropping by the campus for a visit. It will be quite some time until I'm out of school but if I can ever help C-SPAN in any way I would more than happy to do so.

Sincerely,

