

cc: T. Murphy

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[REDACTED]
Derry, NH 03038

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C SPAN, Viewer Information Dept.
400 North Capitol St. N.W.
Suite 650
Washington, D.C. 20001

To Whom It May Concern

I am a long time viewer and enthusiastic "C-SPAN" supporter. I have never written to you before, but, today your programming has me very upset. I tuned in today at 9:00 a.m. expecting to see live coverage of one of the most important and controversial issues facing America today, AIDS. According to a lead article by the Associated Press in today's paper a congressional committee was to conduct a hearing on "the domestic crises of our time".

I have several questions for you:

What coverage have you given to this hearing?

If your answer is none, why ?

If your answer is some, why not this particular segment?

I realize that you must make choices in selecting your programming however, at the time this hearing was being conducted C-Span was broadcasting a live interview of Government Securities, while C-SPAN II was providing live coverage of The House of Representatives, neither of which could be construed to be as important as the topic of AIDS.

It was announced yesterday that Kimberly Bergalis, who is dying of AIDS which she contracted from her dentist, was to provide testimony to the Committee. Also to appear was her father George Bergalis. It is well known that she and her father are outspoken critics of the position taken by the Government and Professional Health provider organizations against mandatory testing of health professionals for HIV.

I was able to switch to CNN and watch the opening statement of Kimberly and her father. If it was newsworthy enough for CNN to interrupt their normal programming, why wasn't it covered by your network?

9-25
10-7

I have always been of the opinion that I could rely on you to provide unbiased coverage of the important issues of the day, but, I will be completely honest with you, it is my opinion that you are either unaware of the significance and importance of providing this information to the American public or deliberately avoiding this testimony for political reasons; which is it ?

I phoned your office (long distance) this morning to register my feelings regarding this matter but felt it necessary to bring it to your attention in writing. I am anxiously awaiting your response.

Sincerely

