

Great Falls, Montana 59404

May 5, 1994

## Ax MTV, not C-SPAN

Here is your chance to speak up instead of complaining. TCI Cable is removing C-SPAN from Channel 19 and airing fx (a mix of old movies and reruns.) I enjoy watching the Moscow News and the House and Senate debates aired on C-SPAN.

Since reprogramming requires removal of important information, I suggested to TCI that they remove MTV. I was told that MTV was one of the most watched stations based on surveys. Where were these surveys taken, in schools?

Based on my survey of grandparents, married parents, single parents, and even a single female without children, my survey is against MTV at 100 percent.

If enough people call and complain or cancel their service, maybe TCI will see that people care. Anyone with a brain larger than a pea can see MTV is a terrible educational tool. It's your choice: You can enjoy the increased shooting, gang graffiti, theft, destruction of property, unwanted sexual abuse of all forms, or start doing something about it.

Your comments are more than welcome.

LOUIS SERFES, 4201 Clark Ave.

Mr. Brian Lamb:  
C-SPAN  
400 North Capital Street  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

I thought you might find the enclosed Great Falls Tribune (a Gannett publication) articles interesting. It was very disturbing to me.

Once before TCI cable dropped C-SPAN, and it was months before they included it again in their programming. C-SPAN plays a major role in my viewing habits. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

One (1) of two (2) sheets

## G.F. Trib, 4/21/94 C-SPAN <sup>MT.</sup> getting <sup>Section</sup> B-page reshuffled

By JAMES E. LARCOMBE  
Tribune Staff Writer

June 1 may be a dark day for political junkies.

C-SPAN, which provides 24-hour coverage of the U.S. House of Representatives and other public affairs doings, will be dropped from the local cable line-up offered by TCI Cablevision.

Replacing the cable stalwart will be a rookie: fx, a new venture from FOX Broadcasting. A notice in TCI bills describes the new offering as "original, entertaining and sometimes interactive."

Wes Huffman, TCI's Great Falls manager, said he has few details of exactly what kind of programming fx will include.

"It will be a family-oriented kind of general programming," Huffman said.

C-SPAN won't be lost completely. Since the notices in monthly cable bills were mailed, TCI has worked a deal with Channel 7, the public-access station, to carry some C-SPAN programming.

The public access coverage won't be in prime time. It will stretch from midnight to 10 a.m.

"We won't have to drop it totally," said Huffman.

The decision to put the fx on Channel 19 wasn't made haphazardly, Huffman said. Contractual obligations require TCI to carry the new channel. The current cable system is handling all the channels it can. Something had to go.

Relying on surveys, conversations with customers and other methods, TCI determined that C-SPAN was the least-watched of the local cable offerings, Huffman said.

"There were only a few channels that we could even consider dropping and C-SPAN was one of them," he said.

A Washington D.C. spokeswoman for C-SPAN said a number of other cities served by TCI apparently will lose the public affairs programming.

There has been some static from local viewers, Huffman said.

"It does provide programming that isn't available anywhere else," Huffman said. "I'm sure people who are really attuned to that channel will be concerned. For others, they probably never watch it."

The loss of C-SPAN from the cable line-up may not be permanent. TCI has launched a \$14 million program to rebuild its local system with fiber optic cable over the next two years.



Great Falls, Montana 59404

Cascade

## Suspect survey 4/30/94

It was with dismay and disappointment that I read in this morning's paper the announcement that C-SPAN coverage is being reduced on TCI cable.

It is one thing to drop or reduce public service coverage as a result of asinine or ill-advised rules like "must carry." It is quite another when the schedule is changed to allow the addition of yet another offering from that seemingly endless supply of witless drivel provided by the Fox network.

In addition, it would be instructive as to how the survey was conducted. Who was surveyed? How were the survey questions phrased? And finally, who conducted the survey?

I suspect this survey was taken by "Beavis & Butt-Head."

PHILIP E. CALL, 3804 Cactus Ct.

EDITOR'S NOTE: TCI says C-Span will continue to run in Great Falls about 18 hours a day on its system.

## Great Falls (Gannett) MT Section 1B C-SPAN gets a stay, will be aired on two channels

By Tribune Staff 4/30/94

C-SPAN has found new life on local cable TV.

TCI Cablevision has backed off plans to dump the public-affairs channel. Calls and letters of protest helped save the channel, said Wes Huffman, TCI's local manager. Most presented rational arguments for the programming, he said.

"I was pretty impressed with the attitudes people showed" toward public affairs programming, Huffman said Friday.

Last week, the cable company announced its intent to drop C-SPAN, now on Channel 17, and replace it with fX, a new channel from FOX Broadcasting Company

officials said they were required to carry the new channel and lacked capacity to add channels. C-SPAN appeared to be the least popular channel in the line-up, they said.

Channel 7, the public-access station, would have carried some C-SPAN programming under the proposed arrangement.

The new deal will have C-SPAN available from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday on Channel 5, which is currently used to promote offerings on premium channels and pay-per-view offerings. Channel 7 will broadcast C-SPAN from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday.

The changes in programming will take place June 1.