

12 June 2004

Dear Mr. Shales:

Because I keep a TV blazing all the time beside my computer (a news junky habit after 50 years as a newspaper reporter-editor-publisher), my special award for TV coverage of the Reagan ceremonials on Friday has to go to C-SPAN.

Instead of the often grating and irreconcilably intrusive chit-chat of the Washington chatting class on network and cable TV during profound moments requiring silence, C-SPAN provided nothing but pictures and sounds – and no commentary.

It was moving, complete, self-explanatory, riveting and no less sweeping than the big boys provided. Viewers could deduce for themselves what was happening before their eyes.

Perhaps this is C-SPAN's signature technique. But it surely was masterful and deserves some public recognition.