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DENNISPORT, MA 02639

APRIL 25, 1984

I WATCH C SPAN BECAUSE I'M A MASOCHIST. I ENJOY THE FRUSTRATION OF HOLDING ON TO A PERPETUALLY RINGING PHONE WHICH NO ONE ANSWERS. WHILE I HOLD ON, THE PROGRAM PROCEEDS WITH NARROW-MINDED, UNINFORMED BADGERING QUESTIONS REFLECTING ALL SORTS OF PARANOIA (ESPECIALLY RE THE LIBERAL PRESS, WHATEVER THAT IS) MONOPOLIZING THE PRECIOUS TIME DENIED ME. MADDENINGLY UNRUFFLED BRIAN FIELDS THE QUESTIONS AS IF NON SEQUITURS, RED HERRINGS AND POLITICAL AXES WERE THE WISDOM OF THE AGES. IT'S GREAT FUN. BUT THE TRULY EXQUISITE PLEASURE CAME THE OTHER DAY WHEN I, AT LAST, HAD MY CALL ACKNOWLEDGED. AFTER A FEW MOMENTS OF CONVERSATION CONCERNING MY READING HABITS, I WAS CUT OFF WITHOUT A CHANCE TO TELL BRIAN THE HEADLINES OF MY PAPER OR TO ASK A QUESTION. AND I HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM. ONE MIGHT EXPECT THAT WAS THE HEIGHT OF FRUSTRATION, BUT IT WAS NOT. A MOMENT LATER BEFORE I COULD STOP SCREAMING, THE WHOLE PROGRAM WAS PRE-EMPTED BY CHANNEL 44 TO BRING TO A RAVENOUS PUBLIC THE GAVEL-TO-GAVEL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE. THAT WAS TOO MUCH FOR EVEN A MASOCHIST LIKE ME. <sup>YESTERDAY</sup> AND ~~TODAY~~ CAME THE TOPPER--A LURID DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS ANY VISITOR WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO IN WASHINGTON. SO THAT'S THE PERFECT REWARD FOR A MASOCHIST.--SEND THE TICKETS. I WILL BRING A SPECIAL GIFT FOR BRIAN--A BROCHURE FROM WILLIAMS COLLEGE, THE HOME OF THE FIRST <sup>TODAY</sup> SCHOOL OF POLITICS, LOCATED IN WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS. HE HAS PROBABLY HEARD FROM A FEW OF ITS ILLUSTRIOUS GRADUATES BY NOW. KIDDING ASIDE, I ENJOY THAT HOUR IN THE MORNING WITH MY COFFEE. IT BRINGS ALL SECTIONS OF THIS DIVERSE COUNTRY TOGETHER IN THEIR CONFUSED QUEST FOR THE MEANING OF WORDS. UNFORTUNATELY, THE CONFUSION PERSISTS AFTER THE DISCUSSIONS ARE COMPLETED, BUT IT'S HELPFUL TO REALIZE EVEN THE EXPERTS ARE CONFUSED. I LOVE CONFUSION (SO DOES MY TYPEWRITER). I'VE THRIVED ON IT FOR 69 ~~YEARS~~.

SINCERELY,  
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