

April 26, 1998

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Ithaca, NY 14850

ITHACA

Mr. Steve Scully

C-SPAN

400 N. Capitol St. NW

Suite 650

Washington, DC 20011

Dear Mr. Scully,

I have always found watching "Washington Journal" when you moderate it to be excellent. I was disappointed, therefore, this morning to see how poorly the discussion developed.

I think the low point was when a woman from Florida called and talked of her community's plan to do sustainable development, & she stated she believed this concept came from a conference in Rio de Janeiro. She asked if either guest knew anything about this bigger issue which was now something being developed in her community. Both said "no!" and talked in platitudes about the importance of local issues to people. Then it was back to talking about Paula, Monica, boring...

What amazed me is that the biggest issue facing the globe is what human activity is doing to our planet. One key concept put forward has been the idea of development that is sustainable, in the sense that it does not necessitate depleting the earth of its key resources;

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clean air, water, fertile land, etc. The Rio de Janeiro Conference was an international attempt to address this. The recent conference in Japan was a follow up on this. That your panelists pleaded ignorance to this is unbelievable to me! Their ignorance, however, may explain why the media gives a steady, sorry diet of Paulo, Monica, et al. - "bread and circuses" to divert the masses of us from the real issues we need to be talking about and addressing.

You have an incredible opportunity to inform and educate. The other junk is readily at hand. Please give us what it's hard to find elsewhere: depth on important issues and intelligent, well-informed discussions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

