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Jersey City, NJ 07306
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FEB 28 REC'D

CSPAN
400 N. Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 412
Washington, D.C. 20001

MAR 20 ANS'D

Dear C-SPAN:

I am writing in regards to Brian Lamb's interview last night with one Michael Fumento, author of a tract called "The Myth of Heterosexual AIDS."

I don't think C-SPAN would provide a forum for a "historian" who had written a triade claiming the Holocaust had never occured. Certainly, you would have provided some accurate and factual balance if you did present such an author. But this interview with Mr. Fumento was the softest of soft features, and this for an author (and a book) that has been universally criticized for being as inaccurate as our hypotheical historian.

During the course of the program, Mr. Fumento stated that HIV is "a virus that likes to be transmitted via anal intercourse." Leaving aside the fact that as a inanimate strand of RNA, HIV has no preferences whatsoever, the reality is that HIV disease is a disease of blood and blood products. It is transmitted as the result of contact between infected blood (or blood products) and non-infected blood. In terms of discussing the "risk" of heterosexuals, Mr. Fumento stated that bisexuality was the primary cause of such a risk, and given the low level of bisexuality, the risk was minimal. Mr. Fumento has presumably never heard of the continent of Africa, where AIDS (the final stage of HIV disease) is almost exclusively transmitted through heterosexual intercourse. Furthermore, he seems never to have heard of the world's oldest profession; if he thinks that all suburban, heterosexual businessmen are totally faithful to their wives, his fantasies have developed into a pychosis. Mr. Fumento in his book states that no money should be spent to treat individuals with HIV disease; this would result in massive death throughout the nation. Such an opinion raises serious questions about his motives and his ideology; these questions were not asked.

My question for C-SPAN is: why didn't Brian Lamb make any of these points? Don't your reporters believe in doing research before interviewing someone on such a subject?

Let me make it clear I am not questioning Mr. Fumento's right to hold or espouse his views; I am questioning the irresponsibility of not presenting his views in a factual context.

I have been trying to think how I could show my displeasure at C-SPAN economically. You don't sell advertizing, you're not a subscription channel, there does not seem to be any way I can withhold from you any money for having been so irresponsible.

Brian Lamb at one point apologized to Mr. Fumento for asking a mild question about Mr. Fumento being "a voice in the wilderness." It is to your viewers that Mr. Lamb (and the network in general) owe the apology.

