

MM93-48

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March 8, 1993

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MAR 15 1993

FCC - MAIL ROOM

Dear Sir:

I am writing concerning an article in our newspaper put out by Associated Press suggesting that the FCC is seeking public comment on how we might guide broadcasters in programming, especially for children. Specifically the article mentions "G.I. Joe" and asks if it can be considered educational. I would like to express my grave concerns regarding TV programming.

First, should "G.I. Joe" be considered educational? ABSOLUTELY NOT. What kind of society are we trying to build? Warriors? Where do children get the ideas that you solve problems with violence and weapons? A "nice-middle class-good student" 7th grader at our local "nice" school brought a LOADED gun intending to use it against another child this month!

I truly believe this country needs to provide more quality programming. Why can't we make programs for children where people (or animals) solve problems? true-life adventures here or in other countries? I am sure if producers were encouraged to write quality TV shows, interesting, true life adventures without violence, they COULD do it and make them good. There could be true-life shows about ghetto and white children who do things together to make their neighborhoods better, "hands across America/We are the World. There could be exciting shows about children who do good things, children here or in other countries who overcome hardships or handicaps, stories of courage/bravery without violence. about past heroes, about snow or sea near-calamaties.

I cannot believe that there are not plenty of creative ideas which do not depict violence which could be shown for children. Even old "Davey & Goliath" programs for young children would be possible (I do not mean the sugary "Care Bears" which were popular for awhile). CHiPs is a decent program, old Lassie shows, old Cosby shows, "Eight is Enough". We are fortunate enough to be able to afford Disney channel which occasionally has good children's movies ("Never Cry Wolf", excellent racial programs like the one where the Black dude was transported back to a pre-Civil War plantation--only on once! Too often they are on at 2 a.m.) I realize these are not available but the children who need decent programs the most do not have access to Disney channel.

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The commercial which follows "G.I. Joe" is even worse than the program itself. 12 years ago toy manufactureres made "GoBots" and transformers which were cars which transformed into robots, etc. but they didn't always shoot guns. Now they all seem to be horrible monster-like characters who shoot a tremendous armada of weapons (and get a tariff tax break also)! Must we encourage destruction? Why not encourage constructive toys?

Children will buy what is advertised. Why not advertise toys which are cars which transform into robots or other things without the guns? There are so many things children can do. I have taken care of preschoolers for 15 years plus raising my own children and very few played guns. Why? Because there were other things to do. Please let's build a CONSTRUCTIVE not a destructive society. The children who watch these shows are those most at risk. Let's not encourage violence in the schools or on the playground. Let's begin by showing alternative shows on TV--shows which show people getting along together, solving problems in ways other than just shooting each other.

TV commercials for movies encourage violence. One 20-second commercial a few months ago showed a man hitting a woman--why condone that and advertise it for the little ones watching? How do they grow up believing violence, especially men hitting women is wrong? The new movie "Sirens" 20-second preview shows people smashing a car window--is this what we want to encourage? Why show the wanton violence?

We might also encourage HONESTY in our commercials. Most of them ese days thing it's funny to show people being dishonest. That may be funny for some but for those whose values are just being formed, they may cause a lot of trouble for us 12-30 years down the road.

I hope this will reach the proper agency doing the survey by the April 23 date. Let's clean up TV.



Pat Bath
3 Ticknor
Laguna Niguel, Ca. 92677

MM93-48

RE

MAR 15 1993

March 10, 1993

Federal Commerce Commission
ATTN: Mass Media Bureau
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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MAIL ROOM

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am a member of the South Florida Preschool PTA and for the last two months our group, with the support of the Dade County PTA, has been monitoring the amount and quality of children's television aired on public airwave (as opposed to cable) stations in Miami in connection with the Children's Television Monitoring Act of 1990.

We have been appalled by our discovery that less than 1% of each of the four (4) station's total broadcast time is devoted to children's broadcasting and even more greatly distressed by the fact that less than 25% of that 1% is educational or informational children's programming. (Note, the PBS station was not monitored as we felt the quality and quantity of educational children's television exists there without question.)

According to an article in The Miami Herald on March 7, 1993, the FCC has recently denied station license renewals for lack of children's educational television. Our group commends your actions and sincerely *urges that the 1990 law be reviewed at the earliest possible date and be made more stringent and specific as to the amounts of educational/informational children's television programming stations are required to air.* The law, as it presently stands, is too vague as to its addressing of this issue.

Further, we suggest that guidelines as to what constitutes educational/informational children's television programming be established in order that shows like "Leave It to Beaver" cannot be construed by stations as being educational television.

Your promptest attention to any actions that result in more children's educational/informational programming is urged and appreciated by myself, our group and parents nationwide.

Very truly yours,

Carol J. Y. Wilson
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Very truly yours,

Maggie Wilson

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