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Reed Hundt
Chairman, FCC
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

September 1, 1995

From: Bea Goodrich
Dwelley Point RR 1 Box 275
Franklin, ME 04634-9720

Dear Mr. Hundt,

In your recent television interview you expressed the views of the millions of silent majority who are outraged over the abrogation of all moral restraints in television.

Television has become a cesspool of extremism that panders to the basest in human behavior. Violence, murder, sex, and the lowest level street language have become the order of the day.

How can we expect moral behavior to be the norm of our youth when they are assailed daily by the muck that calls itself television? Hard Copy, for example, scours the world for the worst degradation it can find to sensationalize its programs. Even radio has lowered its standards. Just listen to WRKO's Boston-based show, Howie Carr, host, as an example. Presumably with the blessing of the station's management, he lards his chatter with street profanity that has no place in a program which is being heard in thousands of homes.

This letter expresses my opinions and the opinions of my husband, of course; but I know first-hand that our friends and relatives feel as strongly as we about the debauching of media whose promise was once bright with options for uplifting, educating, and entertaining its viewers and listeners rather than desensitizing them ^{with} programs that vitiate the drive for excellence which is vital to any nation's survival.

Having heard your views, I now take heart in the knowledge that at least there is someone - you - out there who cares.

Sincerely,

Bea Goodrich

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BOOKS

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Bangor Daily News, Tuesday, April 11,

Third book published in Happy Hollow

HAPPY HOLLOW STORIES by Judge Tortoise (Book Three), by Bea Goodrich. Windswept House Publishers. Softcover. \$7.95.

By Mark Woodward
Of the NEWS staff

Later this month, April 27 and 28, the book fair at the Fruit Street School in Bangor will feature Maine authors. The children and their parents who attend the fair the afternoon of the second day are in for a rare experience, an opportunity to meet Bea Goodrich, the Franklin author who has enriched the world of children's books with her exceptional skill as a writer and by her steady commitment to factual accuracy and excellence.

Mrs. Goodrich has much in common with her wise and gentle Judge Tortoise, and it is no surprise that he chose her to write down the stories he related of his busy Hollow that borders a salt marsh near the Maine coast.

She knows the judge's turf well.

Seated at her typewriter in a farmhouse on Dwelley Point, she had only to look outside to survey a domain that provided excitement of such variety that she and the judge were able to collaborate on more than 300 weekly columns over nearly six years for the Bangor Daily News.

On a summer morning, the rasping caw of a crow over Route 1 later could become the inaugural flight to the ocean of the Hollow's Blacky in



Bea Goodrich

Book Three:

"...And then, there it was - the Shining Sea! It was a sight that amazed the crow. Water, water

everywhere, sparkling in the sun. Blacky's dark eyes could see, the water that rippled, and moved, and heeled to the shores of a curving, sandy shore where it broke up into foam-tipped bits and pieces." For crow and reader, it is worth the trip.

Later, in "Who was Ranebow the Dragon?", the sticky humidity dissolves beneath a dark thunderhead that brings rain and a little fear to the Hollow, as Judge Tortoise and Ming Ching the ringneck pheasant find shelter in the judge's home in the raspberry patch:

"It was a noisy storm. Lighting and thunder always made Judge Tortoise nervous. He wished he could shut himself up in his shell, but he knew that would offend his guest. So he sat as quietly as he could beside his stately friend."

Human or animal, one must admire such dignity and courtesy while the earth trembles in the grip of a coastal Maine thunder-bumper. Children, tortoise and pheasant can then share their awe and delight in the halo of a rainbow and Ming Ching's account of its origin.

Like the judge, Goodrich has a thorough knowledge of the habits of the state's wildlife, and an eye for detail, as when Mo, a too-gentle young muskrat is driven from the winter lodge by his more aggressive brothers and sisters:

See 'Happy Hollow' on Page 2.

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Page 2

'Happy Hollow' a meld of imagination, factual accuracy

● from page 1

"...he ran over to the plunge hole and dove into the icy water of the duck pond. Pedaling swiftly, he swam over to one of the muskrat push-ups.

"Muskrats build push-ups during the winter months when there is ice on the surface of the water. To make them, they swim underwater and cut small holes in the ice. Through these holes they push up roots and weeds above the ice. When the pile is large enough, a crawl space is cleared out inside it. These piles are called push-ups. Muskrats use them as extra shelters."

As the good judge and Goodrich explain, the interne-cine combat in the lodge has an important function. Young muskrats claw and tumble together like kittens, learning the art of self-defense. The excessively timid

dren. The Happy Hollow Books also help on another level, bringing light and vision to children afflicted with chronic eye disease. Goodrich donates one third of the proceeds from her books to the Eye Retina Institute of Boston, a center for research on children's eye ailments.

For two people so studious in the habits of indigenous wildlife, there is a curious ending to Book Three.

"Gold Eyes Shining" describes the encounter between two young owls who venture beyond the edge of the Hollow to the face of a cliff where, "Emerging from the pile of rocks heaped against the wall of the overhang was a large, fierce-looking animal. In the moonlight the terrified owls could see it clearly.

Happy Hollow
Stories
by Judge Tortoise



Bea Goodrich



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Reed Hundt, Chairman FCC

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