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Fairfax, VA 22032
February 21, 1997 CS97-55

Federal Communications commission
1919 M. ST. NW
Washington, D.C. 22090

Dear Sir or Madam,

I do not like the new T.V. ratings. They are not effective enough. Most people just ignore them.

However, I may have a solution. Don't base the ratings on age, but on content. If the show has violence in it, then the rating should say that the show contains violence. If the show contains adult material, then the rating should say that the show contains adult material.

Please consider this idea, thank you.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Miller
Carolyn Miller

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C 597-55

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c/o Frost Middle School
4101 Pickett Road
Fairfax, Va 22032
February 19, 1997

FCC
1919 M Street NW
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am glad that America has taken the first step toward helping our children grow up in a better world. By putting the TV rating system into affect, we have started taking better care of our future, the children. Unfortunately, I do not believe that it is enough. The system, in my eyes, is not strong enough. We need something that can and will better explain the content of the show. I believe that it should say the level of violence, language, and sex/ nudity instead of what age it might be appropriate for. By doing this, the parents may decide what is right for their children to see. An example would be a show that has vulgar language in it but no nudity. Some parents may then decide that it is alright for their children to view it, but if it had said TV-M they might not let their children see it because the rating does not tell the parents what the show contains.

Another concern of mine is that I do not think that the television companies should be able to rate their own shows. I believe that a separate committee made up of people that are not in show business should view the shows and then rate them. It is not fair to the public when the television companies get to scrutinize their shows, because they might not look at them as carefully as other people.

Thank very much.

Sincerely,

Megan M. Morris

Megan M. Morris

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Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington DC 20554

CABLE SERVICES BUREAU
MAR 10 10 26 AM '97
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2/20/97

CS Docket No. 97-55

Dear FCC,
We appreciate the opportunity to file this formal comment concerning the ratings system recently implemented by the television industry.

It is our view that the age-based system that has been adopted by the television industry is <u>not</u> adequate to accomplish the goal for which it was implemented. There are several ways that an age-based system fails, and we would like to draw your attention to two of them.

The first problem is that it is administered by the television industry itself. If the goal is to protect our children from explicit sex, violence, and language content, then the public would be well served by having an independent body overseeing this function. We cannot reasonably expect "the fox to guard the hen house". Whatever ratings system is implemented, it must be administered by those who have the best interests of America's children as their motive. The television industry is incapable of rating the content of their own productions, because profit is their primary motive.

Secondly, a poor ratings standard is worse than no ratings system at all. The current age-based system gives no guidelines concerning the offensive *content* of the shows. If we don't specifically address what is offensive in a given show's *content,* then all we are doing is giving the television programmers a shield to hide behind when consumers are offended at what television contains. The age of the viewer is relatively insignificant at this point. Offensive content is offensive content, for adults as well as children. There should be no double-standard.

Instead of the current age-based system, a better plan would be a content-based system administered by individuals who are fully independent of TV production and profits, who have high moral and ethical standards which flow from the Judeo-Christian faith upon which this nation was founded.

Traditionally, parents have been the primary filter for protecting America's youth from inappropriate TV viewing. In view of the relatively weak state of the modern American family, it becomes all the more important for the FCC to implement TV ratings which truly offers *all* viewers protection from the daily bombardment of explicit sex, violence, and language which characterizes much of current television programming.

The best solution is for the television industry to quit broadcasting explicit sex, violence, and language. Until that unlikely event happens, it is up to good and moral people to prevail in this effort of determining what is appropriate for public television viewing.

We urge the FCC to implement content-based ratings, which afford Americans the *most* protection possible.

Sincerely,

Joe & Jean Sabo
1357 Cedar Ridge Trail
Nappanee, IN 46550

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Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Reinert Spille

Reinert Spille
1509 North Main Street
Monticello, IN 47960

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Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington DC 20554

CABLE SERVICES BUREAU
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2/25/97

CS Docket No. 97-55

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We urge the FCC to implement content-based ratings, which afford Americans the *most* protection possible.

Sincerely,

Dan & Marlene Lowe

Dan & Marlene Lowe
59670 Thornberry Court
South Bend, IN 46614

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CABLE SERVICES BUREAU

MAR 6 - 1997

FCC MAIL ROOM

MAR 10 10 26 AM '97

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120 West Valley Brook Road
Califon, NJ 07830
March 3, 1997

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sirs:

The purpose of this letter is to express our support for a new content-based system of rating television programs. The current system of TV-PG and TV-PG13 is seriously flawed. Many primetime shows contain strong sexual content, adult language and large doses of violence and are still rated TV-PG. A new system with content-based information showing levels of sexual, violence and language content would be much preferred.

Sincerely,

Steve Smiley Sally Smiley

Steve Smiley Sally Smiley

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