

CS 97-55



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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

April 15, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
FCC, 1919 M Street  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt,

I'm writing to you as a concerned parent, grandparent, and pastor of a thriving church in Ventura, CA.

This letter is to express our concern over the age-based rating system that has been put forth by the television industry to evaluate program content. We're not all playing from the same page, and as a result I believe the age-based rating system is not valid. It will not protect the young, impressionable minds of our children. They spend so much time watching TV that they tend to believe everything they see as truth. You and I know it isn't.

Look at what is happening to Family Home TV. The violence and sexual promiscuity are not fit for most adults, let alone our children.

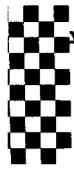
It is time for us as a country to be more concerned about wholesome values rather than how we can make money. Therefore, I ask you and the FCC to develop a content-based system along with a return to the Family Hour. There is too much at stake.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Leonard W. DeWitt  
Senior Pastor

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April 7, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners  
c/o Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W., Room 222  
Washington DC 20554

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Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners

RE: CS DOCKET NO. 97-55, FCC 97-34

We are writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Monacan High School PTA to voice our opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, U.S. News and World Report and Media Studies Center/ Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

The FCC, by law, is required to determine that the industry's rating system has met statutory requirements of the Telecommunication Act of 1996. We do not believe this system does so and ask that the FCC not approve the industry rating system as presented. Instead, we request the following:

That under no circumstances should the FCC approve the industry's rating system. Furthermore, the FCC should accept no rating system that does not include content information about programs shows as V (for violence), S (for sexual depiction and nudity) and L (for language).

That the FCC require a V-chip hand broad enough hat would allow parents to receive more than one rating system;

That the ration icon on the TV screen be made larger, more prominently placed on the screen, and appear more frequently during the course of a program:

That the rating board be independent of the industry and the FCC and it include parents; and

That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,

*Scott C. Arnold*  
Scott C. Arnold  
Co-President Monacan PTA  
Richmond, Virginia

*Jane K. Arnold*  
Jane K. Arnold  
Co-President Monacan PTA

Richmond, Virginia

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DEAR SIRs:

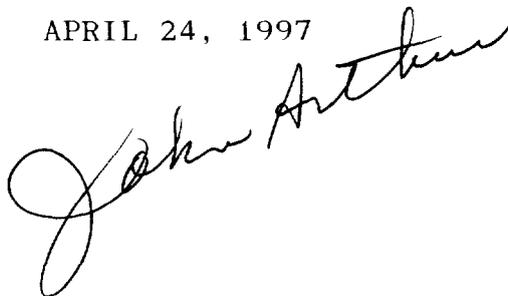
ALLOWING THE MEDIA TO RATE THEIR OWN PROGRAMS IS AKIN TO LEAVING A FOX IN THE HENHOUSE TO PROTECT THE CHICKENS. ALSO, IT COMPLETELY VOIDS ANY CHANCE OF A V-CHIP BEING OF ANY USE.

PRIOR TO 1970 MOST PROGRAMS COULD BE RATED 'WATCHABLE'. FROM 1970 TO 1990 WE HAVE TO REALIZE THAT 'ADULT SITUATIONS' AND 'ADULT LANGUAGE' ARE POLITICALLY CORRECT EXPRESSIONS FOR FILTH. THESE PROGRAMS SHOULD BE RATED: F1 FOR FILTHY, F2 FOR FILTHIER AND F3 FOR FILTHEST.

FROM 1990 TO DATE, THE RATINGS MUST BE MUCH STRONGER: EF1 FOR EXTREME FILTHY, EF2 FOR EXTREME FILTHIER AND EF3 FOR EXTREME FILTHIEST.

JOHN ARTHUR  
1907 HW 5 N.  
APT. 609  
BENTON, ARK.  
72015

APRIL 24, 1997



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