

CS97-55

# RAMADA® GRAND HOTEL

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Chairman Reed Hundt,  
1919 M. Street N.W.,  
Washington, D.C. 22036  
June 1, 1997

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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JUN 16 1 51 PM '97

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES BUREAU

Dear Sir,

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I am writing to express my concern & opposition to the current system of T.V. program content. Children always are the innocent victims of a society & then society wonders what went wrong when children mature after the fashion of violence, abuse, hatred & racism which is continually being projected through television.

It is bad enough that such garbage is allowed in the U.S. communication system; but to allow it to not be controlled or properly identified before viewed by innocent victims, children, is unforgivable.

Why does the almighty dollar control the lives of politicians & not characteristics of genuine love & true caring for the forth coming future, our children?

It is a powerful person who stands up & makes changes for the good of all &

Ms. J. Conner read  
L. B. B. C. F. E.

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few 'bucks' to look good to big businesses, or to acquire a few votes

As a concerned parent & single moth isn't it about time our priorities are set 'straight'. Family comes first. Please 'stand out' & change the current system & program content & make it necessary for the ratings systems to clearly identify, to parents, the specific nature of the T.V. programs i.e. 'V' for violence, 'L' for adult language.

Eventually, when these toxic programs are not supported, the quality of our television system can only rise.

On behalf of those who can't write & speak for themselves, children, I implore that you change the system now & give these kids moral support by letting them know we do care about them. They are our future, their actions will create their world, our world.

Sincerely,

Lynne Walmsley  
2535 Camelot Court

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Penny E. Keiter  
P.O. Box 178  
Rockville, Va. 23146

Mr. Reed Hundt, Office of the Secretary  
FCC Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

May 18, 1997

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JUN 16 1 47 PM '97  
CABLE SERVICES BUREAU

Dear Mr. Hundt,

I wish to voice my concern (and opinion) about the television industry's proposed age-based rating system, which has taken precedence over a descriptive and content-based system.

Having my first introduction to the system, and subsequent *baptism by fire* when the well-made movie, Schindler's List was aired, I was mad at myself and at the rating system. I not only felt inept for not remembering the distinction that the second half of the movie was more viewable than the first half, (or vice-versa,) but, also negligent for thinking that the networks care about children. In my opinion, the first half of the movie was not appropriate for our 13 and 15 year old daughters.

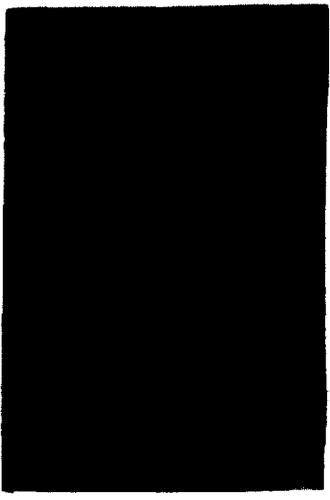
I can only deduce that the age-based rating system was derived either as the first thing that came into the minds of the executives and their support staff, (perhaps with the *support staff* being an operative component in the decision-making process, possibly devoid of anything except college-major skills,) or as a calculated effort to increase ratings by attempting to manipulate the marginally concerned parent into having their trust and authority solicited, or by seducing an ignorant parent into thinking that parenting can be an effortless endeavor and thereby sanctioning mindless family viewing and entertainment.

I think that it is unconscionable for the TV industry to in any way suggest that they are doing a public service, when in fact, the public is "servicing" them.

Sincerely,

*Penny Keiter*

Penny Keiter



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FCE - ILLINOIS

An Affiliate of the National Association for Family Community Education

June 11, 1997

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mary Ellen Keegan  
President  
25 S. Crescent Drive  
Mundelein, IL 60060  
Telephone 847-566-7056

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Jean Lesniak  
Vice President  
8311 Osceola  
Niles, IL 60714  
847-967-7655

Dear Hon. Reed Hundt:

Elizabeth Wertke  
Secretary  
32550 N. Highway 12  
Ingleside, IL 60041  
815-385-4243

As a member of the National Association for Family and Community Education and a concerned community member, I am writing to respectfully request that you vote to change the TV program ratings **from** age based **to** Sex, Violence and/or Language based. Age basis is an inadequate description of content.

Shirley Rees  
Treasurer  
1425 Steward Road  
Steward, IL 60553-9728  
815-824-2279

I'm not asking for programs to be prevented from being shown, but rather rated in TV Guide and newspapers as to the content so parents and caretakers can determine children's viewing experiences in accord with parent's standards.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to family and community concerns.

Yours truly,  
*Shirley Rees*  
Shirley Rees  
1425 Steward Rd.  
Steward, IL. 60553-9728

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DOCKET # 97-55  
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Box 24, Spear, South Dakota, 57520  
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**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

The Honorable  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C., 20554

Dear Commissioner Reed Hundt:

It is my understanding that the Federal Communication Commission is about to hold a review of the television industry's ratings system. As for me, I do not think the present system is adequate for parents to control the programs that the children view. There really should be an honest evaluation of programming that we can really rely on. I don't have all the answers but I do urge that the commission hold public hearings to try formulate a reliable and useable rating system.

I believe that much of the youth and some adult Violence and lack of respect for others rights are generated from television programming as seen by the children as there were growing up.

I know your work load is heavy and very critical but I hope you can see your way clear to take time to form a good useable rating system.

Sincerely,



Betty Ann Tuffy

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

June, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Chairman Reed Hundt

I am concerned that the family issues of recently implemented television ratings system does not address the needs of parents and grandparents.

The Association For Family and Community Education, a grass roots organization which has been involved in family issues for the past 60 years, supports the content based television rating system, using V (violence), S (sex), and L (language) symbols to indicate the content of a television program.

Television is a wonderful tool for educating our children and grandchildren. Please help us use it wisely thru the implementing of a content based rating system.

Sincerely,

*Charlotte Bingham*  
Charlotte Bingham  
Member, FCE-Illinois

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Colorado Association For  
Family & Community Education

1522 Garland  
Pueblo, CO 81006-9735

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W., Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing in behalf of the Colorado Association for Family and Community Education about our concerns regarding television programs for children. We are a family-oriented organization and realize the influence that television has on children.

The television industry is not accepting responsibility for the kinds of programs being produced nor the hours that they are aired. The age-based rating system introduced in January, 1997, has not been used by all of the networks. And we feel that a content-based rating system would be more effective.

We need better quality programming -- with less violence, sexual content, and vulgar language -- and more educational programs.

I trust that you will do what you can to improve this situation.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Pinkerton  
President

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Chairman Reed Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sir:

The National Association for Family and Community Education and its affiliated Illinois State Association, supports the content based television rating system, using V (Violence), S (Sex), and L (Language) symbols to indicate the content of a television program.

I believe the 80% of parents surveyed by PTA and the thousands others who are not involved with PTA should be provided with an avenue for input into the development and implementation of a television rating system.

I would like to add my support for the letter ratings and ask for your support of this important bill.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Wertke  
815-385-4243  
Lake County, Illinois

*Elizabeth Wertke*

32550 N. Hy. 12  
Ingleside, Il. 60041

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June 19, 1997

Reed E. Hundt Head, Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20554

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JUL - 8 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing to express my disapproval of any government attempt to impose a rating system on the television industry. As a strong proponent of the First Amendment, I am deeply concerned that the FCC's actions regarding the television ratings system will ultimately chill the freedom of expression.

The voluntary guidelines adopted by the industry readily satisfy the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The language of the law, the Conference Report, and legislative history all suggest that the Federal Communications Commission should act only if the industry fails to do so. The industry has acted and has developed and implemented a voluntary ratings system. Whether the industry system could be improved upon or not, I believe the system unquestionably meets the standard of "acceptability" in the Act.

Any government voice or role in this area would establish a government stamp -- of approval or rejection -- for television programs. No government rating is able to reflect the broad range of American opinion in the thousands of hours of programming that appear on television each day. Although many Americans are concerned about television content, this cannot outweigh the need to protect the long-cherished constituency protected right of free expression. I agree with the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, which recognized (in ACLU v. Reno) "Laws regulating speech for the protection of children have no limiting principle, and a well-intentioned law restricting protected speech on the basis of its content is, nevertheless, state-sponsored censorship. Regulations that drive certain ideas or viewpoints from the marketplace for the benefit of children risk destroying the very political system and cultural life that they will inherit when they come of age."

I urge the Federal Communications Commission to recognize the importance of the voluntary nature of the new system and approve the TV Parental Guidelines. I believe that any attempt to design or implement a government-sanctioned rating system is in direct conflict with the First Amendment.

Thank you.

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Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature of Susan Brynteson]

Susan Brynteson Director of Libraries

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June 14, 1997

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JUL - 8 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Federal Communications Commission:

*Dear Chairman Hundt,*

As a member of the National Association for Family and Community Education (NAFCE), as a Christian, as a concerned citizen and as a grandmother I feel we should work for a better system for identifying what may be offensive TV programming.

The current rating system is not effective. Please see that this is studied and a new way be developed so that parents may better monitor and educate their children in selective viewing.

Thank You,

*Shirley M. Kehne*

Shirley M. Kehne  
P.O. Box 106  
Winnetoon, NE 68789

**fce**  
Nebraska Association For  
Family & Community Education

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Maryland Association For  
Family & Community Education, Inc.

CS97-55

BOOKED

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206 Baylor Road  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061  
June 17, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, Rm 814  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Thank you for working with the National Association for Family and Community Education (NAFCE) and its coalition partners in the Citizens Task Force on Television Violence, to provide better television programming for children, V-chip and Presidential Summit on Television Violence.

Now as a grandparent of a 5 year old and a 7 year old I am asking for your support of the means to improve the rating system on television.

Rather than the aged based rating system, I would prefer a content based rating system using L (Language), V (Violence), and S (Sex) symbols.

Sincerely,  
Claire Crow  
Vice President Public Policy



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17 June 1997

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt :

Did you know 80% of parents surveyed want a CONTENT-BASED RATING SYSTEM for television programs rather than the present age based rating system. MAFCE is strongly requesting the implementation of the L (Language), V (Violence) and S (Sex) symbols for content based rating by the television industry.

As a grandparent I join the parents who have written that the industry (age based rating) system fails to meet their needs of the best descriptive system for their use as a parent supervising their childrens TV viewing.

May I count on you to become an advocate for the CONTENT-BASED RATING SYSTEM?

Sincerely,

*Gene Crabtree*  
GENE CRABTREE  
Past President, MAFCE &  
Marketing Chairman



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Missouri Association For Family & Community Education

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Reed Hundt
Fax NUMBER: 202-418-2801
June 18. 1997

From: Joyce Smith
Phone/Fax: 417-473-6252

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Chairman Hundt:

I urge you to support the television SVL content based ratings system along with the current symbols. I realize this is not perfect but it is a start to help families who wonder why programs are rated as they are.

PG13 rated content, now, is what would have been R rated only 20 years ago! We're all getting so de-sensitized - we hardly notice bad language (it certainly never improves a TV show.) I do appreciate TV censors or whoever bleep out or removes language from TV shows and movies shown on TV.

We have had some time in our lives to balance the before and after - children lacking this balance shouldn't have to be exposed and become de-sensitized to excess SVL!

If everyone gets 'use to' all the horrible words, violence, perverted and vulgar sex, glorified drug use - compared to a happy life or to just have hope for a better future - someone will have to come up with more and more shocking SV & L we can't even imagine or comprehend now!

As a member of the National Association for Family & Community Education (FCE) and it's affiliated Missouri State Association and as a parent and grandparent, I hope you will think of the children who are 'educated' by television, Please help us.

Sincerely.

Joyce Smith (handwritten signature)

Joyce Smith
NAFCE Vice-President/Public Policy Chairman
Route 2 Box 1700
Niangua MO 65713

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lets have a TV rating system  
that describes the CONTENT  
of the program so I can make  
a decision - not have the  
decision made by some rating  
organization.

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Thomas J. Busch  
1131 N. Western  
Park Ridge Ill. 60068

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June 16, 1997

Dear Mr Reed Hundt,

I am writing to ask your support for the addition of the SVL rating to the present TV Rating. We are not happy with the new system, more needs to be done. Please!

The filth we now have on T.V. is contributing to the crimes of our country and the demise of the family unit.

Lucienne Jaeger  
17 North Rd.  
East Kingston  
N.H. 03827

State Board Member +  
president of County Advisory Council  
Family, Community + Education (FCE)  
formerly known as Extension Homemakers.

Dear Mr. Hundt,

CS97-55

June 4, 1997

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T.V. channel 1 should be restored. High-definition T.V. requires a higher bandwidth. Channel 1 should begin at 30 MHz. Channels now using the range can be re-assigned to the SHF or EHF range. T.V. manufacturers will eventually make sets to receive channel 1. High-definition T.V. should be limited to channel 1 at first. It is too much to convert all T.V. channels at first. The area between 70 MHz-83 MHz is also not used. Viewers are far more likely to watch VHF.

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Very Truly,  
Stefan Pasqua

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