

PM 9335

00080319

22 AUG 98

TO: F.C.C.

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

1919 M STREET N.W.

ROOM 8202

ATTN: BROADCAST COMPLAINT OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

FROM: WYMAN MARTIN

#4 KYLES CREEK WAY

HEUDERSOVILLE, N.C. 28792

RE: WYFF

P.O. BOX 788

505 RUTHERFORD STREET

GREENVILLE, S.C. 29600

M&B ENFORCEMENT
COMPLAINTS
INVESTIGATION

AUG 26 3 02 PM '98

RECEIVED

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN;
THIS LETTER IS TO BE CONSIDERED A
FORMAL COMPLAINT AGAINST THE
ABOVE COMPANY.

MY CIVIL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED
BY THE T.V. STATION WYFF. THEY
HAVE DENIED ME THE RIGHT TO
WATCH CHANNEL 292 + 293 ON
MY TELEVISION.

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

ON AUG 12 @ 2:30 PM ~~THESE~~ CCB

TWO CHANNELS WERE BLACKED OUT,
AND HAVE NOT BEEN TURNED BACK
ON AS OF THIS DATE.

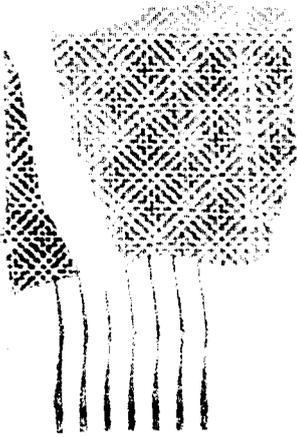
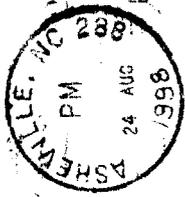
I FEEL IT IS MY RIGHT AS AN
AMERICAN CITIZEN TO WATCH WHAT
EVER I CHOOSE ON T.V.

MY NEIGHBORS HAVE NOT BEEN
EFFECTED ~~BY~~ BY THIS GAME.

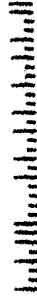
IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS
PLEASE CALL ME AT 828-685-2853

Weyman Martin

 Wyman E. Martin
4 Kyle Creek Ln.
Hendersonville, NC 28792-9650



FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION
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WASHINGTON, D.C. FRS 1111 1111
20554



FITN: BROADCAST COMPLAINT OFFICE

Satellite TV system blacks out network

BY JIM WOOLDRIDGE

Times-News Staff Writer

Direct TV, a television system using 18-inch dish antennas, has blacked out the NBC channels formerly received by a local subscriber.

Direct TV says the customer can receive these broadcasts from a Greenville, S.C., station using a regular antenna.

Not so, says Wyman Martin, who lives on Kyles Creek Lane in a valley surrounded by three mountain ridges.

Martin says he and a neighbor can't receive any TV signals except from satellites.

"On Aug. 12 at about 2:30 p.m. my wife said both NBC channels, 292 and 293, had gone off the air," Martin said. "There was an instruction at the bottom of the monitor to call Direct TV."

When he called, he was told Prime Time 24, the program supplier for the system, had ordered the cutoff.

The cutoff, he was told, was requested by WYFF, the NBC station in Greenville, S.C. The station said Martin can receive their signal with a regular antenna.

Local broadcasters, he was told, don't want to lose local customers to satellite systems.

On Thursday, Martin called WYFF. He said he did not reach the manager but was told he should write a letter explaining his situation and requesting a waiver of the cutoff.

Martin then checked with his closest neighbor who said he was still receiving the satellite's NBC channels, one from New York and the other from California.

"How did they decide who was to be cut off and who was to stay?" he asks.

WYFF vice president and general manager David McAtee said Tuesday he understands some locations in the mountains can't receive a good over-the-air signal from the Greenville station.

He said he has recommended waivers

in these cases and will continue to do so.

"I'm not sure what happened, but if he will request a waiver, we'll see that he's treated fairly," McAtee said.

Martin, a retired manager of a John Deere plant, said his life will go on without the channels, but he is disturbed by a system in which he pays extra each month to receive eight network channels but is denied reception of two of them.

"Next month will they take away the CBS, ABC, PBS and Fox channels?" he asked.

He said he was given no advance notice of his blackout. On Monday, five days after the cutoff, he received a letter from Direct TV mailed Aug. 7 from Van Nuys, Calif.

The letter said in part, "Under the Satellite Home Viewers Act, if your local network affiliate believes viewers in your area can receive an acceptable signal from its station by using a conventional rooftop antenna, it can challenge your right to receive the same network's programming via satellite."

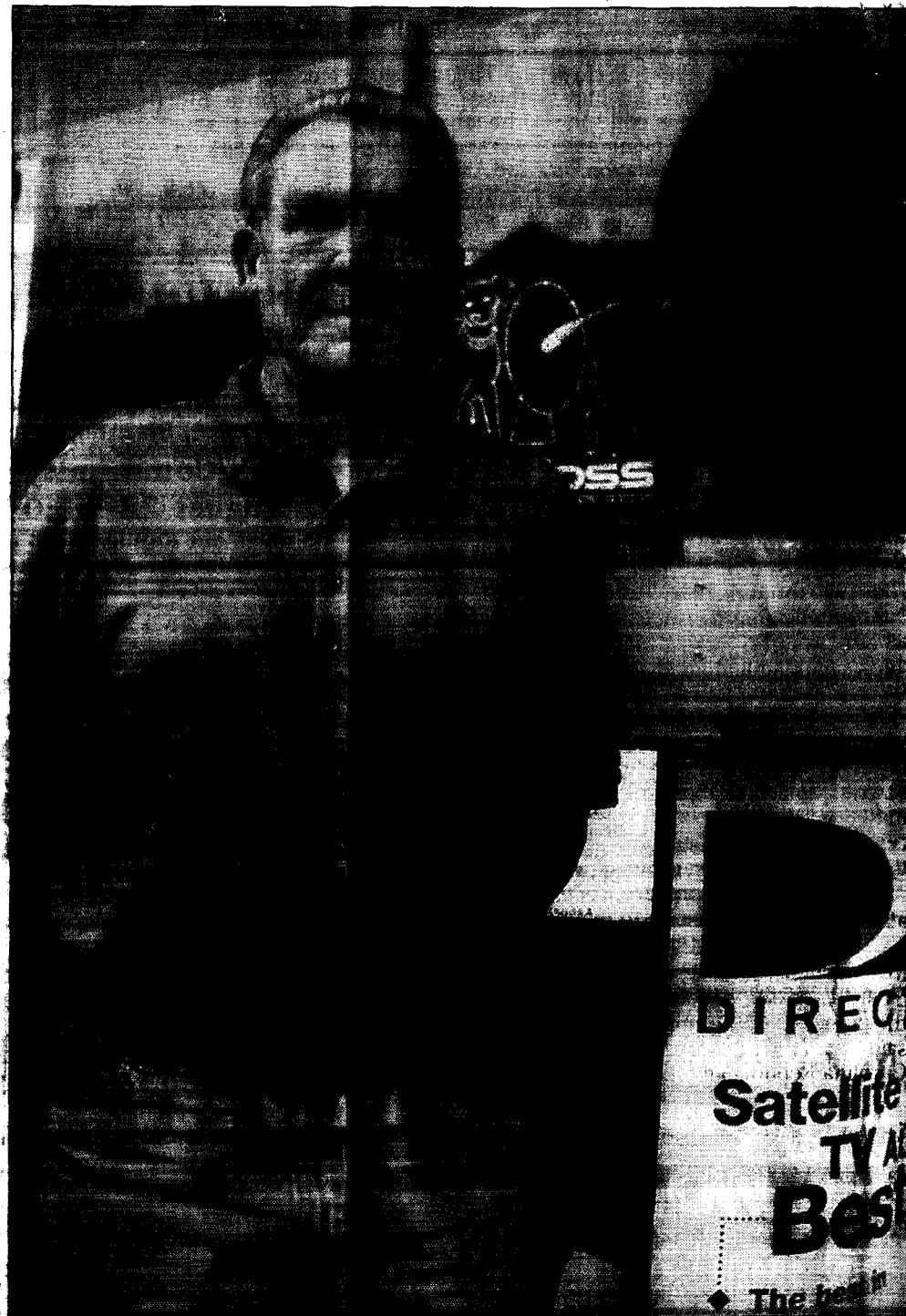
"Prime Time 24 has instructed Direct TV to disconnect one or more of your network services because it has received such a challenge from one or more of your local network affiliate television stations."

Martin said he had contacted the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, which is sending him forms needed to lodge an official complaint with the commission that oversees all broadcasting.

Stan Yurth, owner of Bev & Stan's Electronics, said he expects new regulations in this field will be issued in the next few months.

The new rules are expected to allow certified installers to measure TV signal quality in "shadowed" locations and report the findings to broadcasters and regulators.

He said cutting out individual customers from satellite broadcasts is part of a system's technical capability.



A satellite TV company has blacked out the NBC channels formerly received by Wyman Martin.

PATRICK SULLIVAN/TIMES-NEWS

22 AUG 98

FM9335

TO: F.C.C

1919 M. STREET N.W.

FILE COPY ORIGINAL

ROOM 8202

ATTN: CABLE SERVICE BUREAU

WASHINGTON D.C 20554

FROM: WYMAN MARTIN

44 HYLES CREEK LANE

NEWTONVILLE, N.C 28792

RE: DIRECT TV

P.O. BOX 92600

LOS ANGELES, CALIF 90009

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FORMAL COMPLAINT AGAINST THE
DIRECT TV COMPANY.

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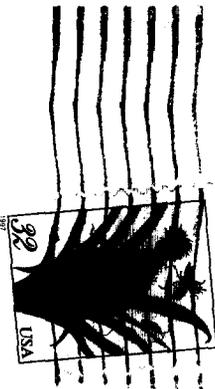
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Weyman Martin

Wyman E. Martin
4 Kyles Creek Ln.
Hendersonville, NC 28792-9650



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
1919 M. STREET N.W.

~~Room 2022~~

WASHINGTON D.C.

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FEDERAL CABLE SERVICE BUREAU



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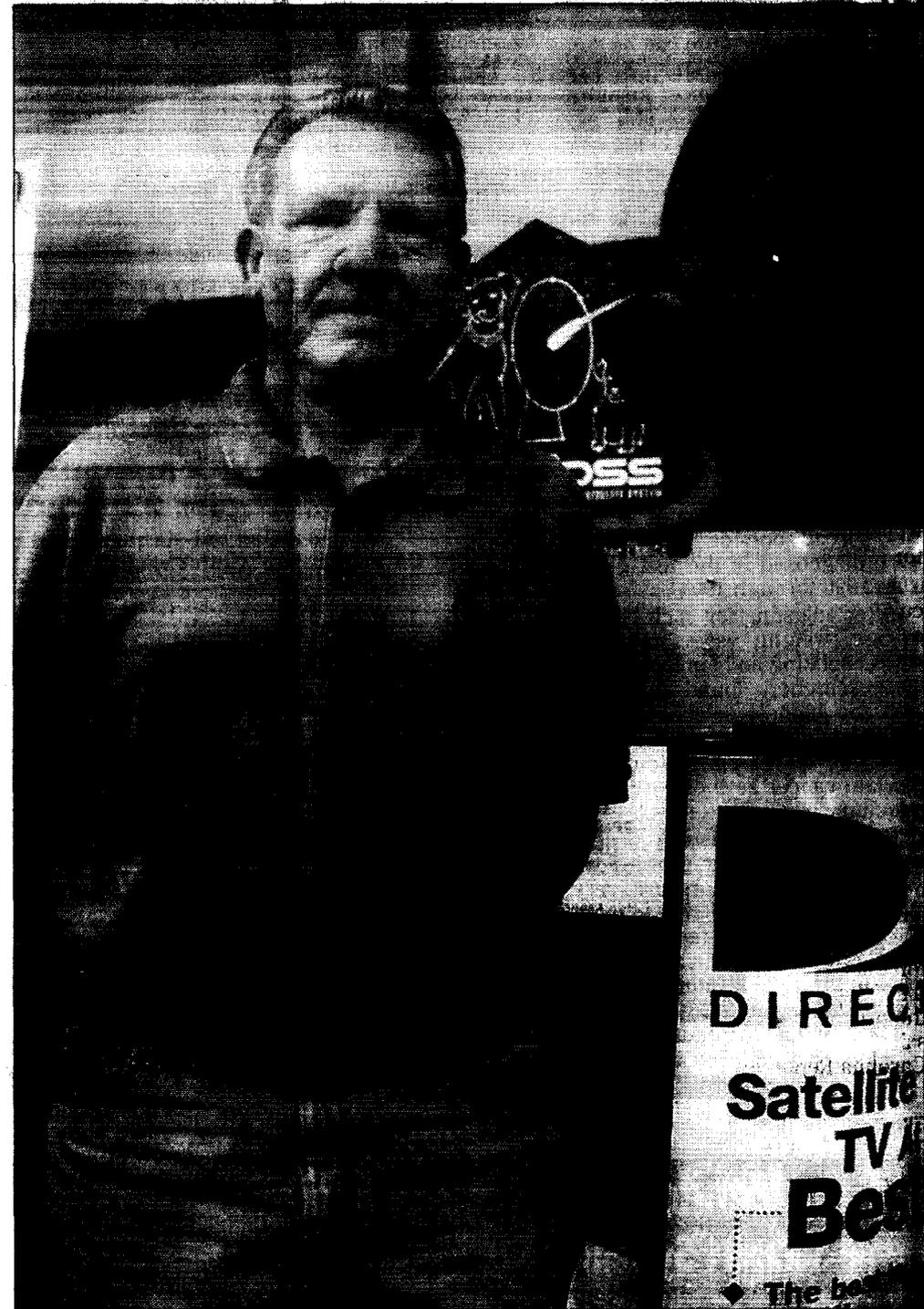
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PATRICK SULLIVAN/TIMES-NEWS

✓ 8/3

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RECEIVED

AUG 26 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

From: "Andrew Morris" <AMorris@VisionInfoSoft.com>
To: J1.J1 (RKEENEY), FCCMAIL.SMTPNLM("dlatham", "gtristan...
Date: 8/26/98 3:10pm
Subject: Regarding Satellite Stations

To Whom It May Concern:

I am VERY unhappy that I had my PRIMETIME 24 Satellite stations turned off because I moved 1/2 mile to an area that supposedly receives a GRADE B Picture. I was able to receive these stations (NBC, CBS, ABC and FOX) on my Satellite dish until I moved 1/2 mile down the road. I live in VISTA, CA where there are a lot of hills. I live in an area that the court defines as "predictive Grade B" and I cannot get any picture by using a conventional outdoor rooftop antenna, because of the distance I live from the broadcast tower (approx. 50 miles). I also cannot receive a picture because my reception is blocked by hills, mountains, and tall buildings.

I am well aware of the fact that the Grade B contour was never intended to be used to determine whether or not a consumer can receive an acceptable picture. It was originally intended as a rough calculation to prevent broadcast signals from interfering with one another.

Sincerely,
Andrew Morris
Drewmorris@jps.net
1437 Phillips Circle
Vista CA 92083
(760) 414 9410 home
(760) 633 1277 ext 32 work

CC: FCCMAIL.SMTPNLM("drewmorris@jps.net")

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Charles & Patricia Warren

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

4532 92nd St NE
Marysville Wa 98270

RECEIVED

Phone 360-659-5933

AUG 21 1998

August 07, 1998

DISH Network
Attn: Customer Service
Customer Service Center
P O Box 33577
North Glenn CO 80233

Re: (360)659-5933

Customer Service:

We have the DISH Network for our motorhome as we travel 6 months of the year. We ordered the West Coast Package so we could receive news from home on KOMO, Channel 4 Seattle. This service has been changed or "localized" to a California package. Since we have no need of a "California package" we canceled it and were advised we would be charged a cancellation fee. This seems ridiculous - the network changed what we had ordered to something we don't want and charges to cancel it! We request this charge be removed from our bill.

We were also advised we would need a second dish to receive a Seattle package when it is available. There is no way we can nor would we want, to carry two dishes in our motorhome. We would very much like to have our Seattle station back and on the dish we now have.

Sincerely,



Charles & Patricia Warren

cc: FCC ✓
Washington PUC
Colorado PUC

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Dear Sir:

We subscribed through
Dish Network to ABC-D
Channel 246 over a year
ago, so we could get KOMO
(Seattle) news.

We live in Liberty Lake,
Wash. 300 miles East of
Seattle & we have business
interest in Seattle area.
Satellite is the only way
we can keep up on that
area's news.

Please do not restrict
our right here in eastern
Washington from viewing that
area. It was removed from

are several weeks ago.
+ we do not care about
only Calif. news.

No. of Copies Recd
3008A tel

Thank you
Mrs. Nick Chalich
P.O. Box 8
Liberty Lake, Wa.
99019
Ph. 509-891-9017

