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**APPENDIX**  
**To**  
***Bravo! re the movie UP! (CBSC Decision 03/04-930, December 15 , 2004)***

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**I. The Complaint**

The following complaint dated February 24, 2004, was sent to CBSC:

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing this letter to complain about programming on the Bravo! channel on Feb. 20 at 11:45 PM. The movie was listed in the T.V. guide as an adult movie called "UP". Bi-line – Buxom women fend off violent men in a small town.

Well, I am an adult but I could only manage to watch 25 minutes of this pornography before I totally lost it. Let me itemize what was shown in that time.

- 1) Man whipping another naked man.
- 2) Man spanking same guy who was laying on his back with a naked woman sitting on his face holding his legs up to facilitate the spanking.
- 3) Man having anal sex with same guy.
- 4) Two naked women – one draped over a tree while the other uses her tongue on her female genitalia.
- 5) Woman using dildo on other woman.
- 6) Man forcing woman to have sex, actually trying to rape her. Physical force and eventual murder of man.
- 7) Law enforcement officer forcing sex with same woman. ETC! ETC! ETC!

Now this is all in approximately 25 minutes including commercial breaks.

I am so mad I could spit. NEVER in my life would I expect to see this crap in my living room.

I've complained to Shaw Cable service to no avail. Apparently, they have no say as to what Bravo! channel puts on. WHY NOT!! We pay them monthly for their service. Phoning Bravo Channel would probably be a waste of time I'm sure.

This type of programming is not appropriate for the average viewing audience. What really scares me is that programming like this can be accessed by kids and teenagers who might be up on a Friday night. The violence and nudity undermine the values parents are trying to teach their children. If the sick and perverts want this type of programming there are other outlets that are available, but the average household should not have to endure this pornography in the safety of their own homes.

We are already deluged enough with regular programming with nudity and violence we do not need to be assaulted with blatant pornography.

Shaw cable should be held responsible for their programming choice and Bravo! should be severely censured for deeming it necessary to think that the general public wants to be exposed to this type of show.

I should add the next program listed on Bravo started at 1:30 AM was called "Lorna". Bi-line [sic] – A buxom woman bored housewife seeks satisfaction elsewhere. I can only imagine what that was about!!

Who can fix this?

Thanks for listening

## II. Broadcaster Response

The broadcaster sent the following response dated March 1 to the complainant

Dear Ms. B,

This letter is in response to your complaint regarding the movie "UP!" which aired on Bravo! Friday February 20, 2004 at 11:45 p.m. in Manitoba.

We appreciate your concern about this particular movie. We understand it is not to all viewers' taste, but let me explain that this particular movie is a part of an ongoing series of seventeen of director Russ Meyer's movies, which had their world television premiere on our digital station, drive-In Classics. The late night screenings of Meyer's films on Bravo! were part of an eight week promotional "sneak preview" of the digital Drive-In Classics channel. This is the second time we have run the Meyer series.

In presenting these cult movies on Bravo! we were particularly sensitive to the broadcast regulations that specify that mature content cannot be broadcast prior to 9:00 p.m. in the province of origination, in this case Ontario. (The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission – the CRTC – in consultation with members of the public, determined that 9:00 p.m. in the province of origination constitutes the "watershed hour" in respect to content for adult viewers). We therefore scheduled the Russ Meyer movies at the late hour of 1:00 a.m.

In addition, we observe the system of on-screen ratings and viewer disclaimers that is in place to help viewers make choices about the programming that reaches them.

"UP!" was rated 18+, carried on-screen disclaimers warning viewers of nudity and violence and mature subject matter and was scheduled at an hour when children were unlikely to be watching television.

While I can certainly appreciate that a movie like "UP!" may seem somewhat shocking, or at least inappropriate for an arts channel like Bravo!, we believe that the films of Russ Meyer have received sufficient critical accolades and attention over the years to warrant a (late night) programming spot on our channel.

By way of background, within the genre of drive-in movies, Russ Meyer is considered a master. His 1959 film the Immoral Mr. Teas was the first "nudie-cutie" film ever released and started a whole new genre, and films such as "Beyond the Valley of the Dolls" developed huge cult followings.

As he explained in an interview with film historian/presenter Elwie Yost (which we've run on both Bravo! and Drive-In Classics to help contextualize these historically influential films), Mr. Meyer's style was largely influenced by Al Capp cartoons such as Li'l Abner, which featured larger than life caricatures of American stereotypes. As a result, sexuality and action scenes

are so over-the-top that they are meant to be humorous and "cartoon-like in nature". This is particularly true of "UP!" which is loaded with silly dark humour. The film critic Roger Ebert co-wrote the film!

There is a wealth of critical commentary that I could quote, but I wanted to re-assure you that we respected broadcast codes on choosing the late hour; that, as Russ Meyer movies are considered an important contribution to the film lexicography, we felt the Drive-In overview of his work was appropriate to Bravo!

Bravo! is a specialty channel, available on a discretionary basis. It is not an over-the-air free tv channel. Our audience tends to be comfortable with the ratings we provide for programming of a mature nature. However, this represents a very small part of our line-up.

We do our best, as responsible broadcasters, to provide you with appropriate rating and disclaimer information. With V-chip ratings and the new digital technology, concerned viewers such as yourself have the increased ability to make educated decisions about which programming to allow into your homes, and to block that which you believe unsuitable.

Whatever your final evaluation, please be assured that all Bravo! programming decisions are carefully considered and evaluated in light of critical acclaim and/or historical importance.

We regret that our broadcast of "UP!" did not live up to your expectations for our channel. We take viewers comments very seriously, and will keep yours in mind as we strive to improve our service.