
APPENDIX

CBSC Decision 05/06-1611 Global re an episode of *fatbluesky*

Initial Correspondence

The CBSC received the following complaint via e-mail on May 27, 2006:

Hello,

I wish to inform you of a program aired on Global TV Saturday, May 27th, Morning at 10am. This show called Joe and Kudo featured a drunken man driving a power boat, while drinking beer and not wearing any safety gear, and using the f-word a lot, telling youth to figure out how they can live like him. I only saw this clip towards the end but am shocked and wondering if there is any controls [*sic*] left in this industry on morale [*sic*] and good example standards. Or for the sake of rights and freedoms is this complaint going to be put off as another conservative person's nutty comment?

On June 1, the complainant wrote directly to the broadcaster:

Hi,

I have only received an acknowledgement from Global of receiving this e-mail, to this date. Are you going to reply?

A Global Viewer Relations representative replied on June 2 with the following:

First, we would like to apologize for the delay in response. As you can imagine we are frequently inundated with emails and phone calls; however, your concerns have not gone unheard.

The show you are referring to, *fatbluesky*, has since been pulled from conventional airing. I'd like to apologize for the crude and inexcusable behaviour portrayed on the show, and would also like to stress that we do not condone such actions. I'd like to thank you for your patience in the matter, and we hope to continue providing quality viewing suitable for you and your loved ones.

The complainant responded to that e-mail on June 2:

Dear Viewer Relations,

Great news to hear you pulled the show. Will there be an on-air statement of regret and explanation to youth of Global's non-support of this video's message, and apology? It's the right thing to do. Don't you think?

Broadcaster's Response

Global's Coordinator of Compliance Standards then sent a lengthier reply on June 8:

We are in receipt of your correspondence expressing concern regarding the content of *fatbluesky* which aired on Global Television on May 27th, 2006 at 10:00am.

Unfortunately, this program was not screened before it went to air and we fully acknowledge our mistake and apologize for the error. We do have a screening process in place where most programs are carefully screened to ensure that they do not contravene our industry guidelines or are simply not in bad taste. However, in this instance this program slipped through the cracks. We have since pulled this program and we agree that the content is not suitable for air. In future, we will make sure this type of omission doesn't happen again.

As responsible broadcasters, we are sensitive to your concerns and beliefs. Our purpose and intention is to entertain and inform, not to offend our viewers. We value and respect the fact that you have an interest in our programming and that you were concerned enough to let us know your opinions.

We thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Additional Correspondence

The complainant submitted his Ruling Request on June 15 with the following note:

Hi,

I am grateful to Global for pulling the program, and to [Global's Compliance Standards Coordinator] for the apology and assurance of better screening. I did recommend that Global do the right thing and apologize on air to the viewers (youth) at 10:00 am Sat. morning and state they don't uphold this man's statements or use of such language. That was not spoken about in their response.