



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

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William Burrus
President
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December 5, 2008

John Potter, US Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260

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Dear Postmaster Potter,

By letter dated May 30, 2008, I contacted your office expressing the outrage of postal employees over the relationship between the Postal Service and the Approved Shipper relationship with a mailing service franchise named Goin' Postal. I have received unsatisfactory responses from Kathy Ainsworth and Deborah Hubbard of your staff that do not address the essence of my complaint which is the apparent reversal by postal management to continue its defense of postal employees from the cruel stereotype that the Postal Service is a breeding ground for violence.

In 2003, the Postal Service released official news bulletins expressing outrage over the use of the negative depiction of postal employees. Moreover, in concert with employee organizations the entire postal community expressed its outrage. The most recent official statement now attempts to qualify this negative depiction of postal employees as an effort at humor. This is unacceptable and postal employees need to know if this embracement of the term Goin' Postal is the position of the Postmaster General or a bureaucratic bungling by your subordinates.

Sincerely,

William Burrus
President

WB:RB:hjp//opeiu#2/afl-cio



POSTAL NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 10, 2003

Contact: Media Relations
202-268-2155
Release No. 098
www.usps.com

POSTAL OFFICIAL RAPS FOX-TV FOR SCURRILOUS PROGRAM

WASHINGTON - In an unprecedented move, a senior U.S. Postal Service official called upon the nine million employees of the mailing industry and the three-quarters of a million employees of the Postal Service to contact the head of FOX Entertainment Group to protest the scurrilous and abusive depiction of postal workers in a "Mad TV" segment set to air Saturday.

In a promo for this coming Mad-TV show, two postal employees are seen brandishing guns, talking about a shooting spree as customers cower near the floor.

In a reference to the movie "Network" - starring Peter Finch - Azeezaly S. Jaffer, Vice President of Public Affairs and Communication declared, "I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it anymore. For the last year, I've been working hard to 'Set The Record Straight' whenever a media outlet takes an unfair swipe at the Postal Service or its employees. And this is unfair. It's ugly. It's untrue. It's an insult to every man and woman in the Postal Service."

Mr. Jaffer issued a special message to employees and reached out to its postal partners in the mailing industry advising them of what was happening and urging them to contact Sandy Grushow, the Chairman of FOX Entertainment Group.

In August 2000, the U.S. Postal Service Commission On A Safe And Secure Workplace issued a 249-page report following a two-year study. The groundbreaking report includes the most comprehensive survey ever conducted of violence in the American workforce and was prepared by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University.

As Commission Chairman Joseph A. Califano Jr. noted, "Going postal is a myth, a bad rap causing unnecessary apprehension and fear ... This report should shatter the myth that postal workers are more violent than other workers and discourage the pejorative use of that expression."

Mr. Jaffer noted, "It's my guess that they didn't even read it, and they probably just gave it a few seconds on their news show."

Mr. Jaffer told employees offended by the promotion of the program, "As our holiday commercial says, no one works harder or goes farther to keep us all connected for the holidays. That was true in 2001 when you were at the front lines in the war on terror. It was true last year. It's just as true this year. And this is what we get from FOX."

He appealed to employees "to join me in setting the record straight. I've never asked for your help before, but I need you with me on this one. Together, we're going to turn the volume up so high that senior executives at FOX hear us loud and clear - and pull this insulting piece. Funny's funny. And this skit isn't. Let's take the skit - and a lump of coal - and stuff it in FOX's Christmas stocking with the clear message, "Return to Sender!"



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 11, 2003

Contact: Media Relations
202-268-2155
www.usps.com

FOX getting earful about Mad TV skit — two unions urge that it be pulled

If the e-mails and phone calls being received by Public Affairs and Communications VP Azeez Jaffer are any indication, FOX-TV is getting an earful. Jaffer says he's received over 4,000 messages of support — and they're still coming in — from active and retired USPS employees. They're saying we're united in opposing FOX-TV's planned Saturday night broadcast of a Mad TV skit that demeans Postal Service employees.

APWU President Bill Burrus has written to both the chairman and the president of FOX, expressing his dismay and outrage, urging FOX to take the promotional ad — and the skit — off the air. In a just-issued news release, NALC President Bill Young has demanded that FOX immediately withdraw this segment from Saturday night's program, saying, "It's totally unwarranted, even as a comedy skit."

Both union heads underline the contributions of USPS employees in serving our nation, during this year's holiday period and during the difficult days in the fall of 2001.

Jaffer thanked employees, "for letting FOX know how you feel. I am truly impressed by the pride you take in your daily work for the people of America. It's too bad FOX and Mad TV don't get it."

"In fact," explained Jaffer, "a FOX spokesman defended Mad TV as 'an equal opportunity offender.'"

"We can take a joke — and there are lot of them out there," said Jaffer, "but this skit, unfairly linking postal workers to guns and violence, is downright insulting."

Many employees have told us that FOX is no longer accepting e-mails at the addresses we provided yesterday. So, here are a few more you might want to consider:

You can e-mail FOX at askfox@foxinc.com. You can e-mail Mad TV by clicking on the phone dial at www.madtv.com/html/mes/messa.html. You also can write Mr. Sandy

Grushow, Chairman, FOX Entertainment Group, Building 100 Room 5110, 10201 W Pico Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064-2606.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 12, 2003

Contact: Media Relations
202-268-2155
www.usps.com

USPS pulls \$200K in advertising, while employees urge FOX to do the right thing

So what's the latest on the FOX/Mad TV issue?

The Postal Service has pulled \$200,000 in advertising from FOX-TV.

You're continuing to let FOX and Mad TV know how you feel about a planned Saturday night skit that insults postal workers.

John Hegarty, national president of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union, wrote to the chairman of FOX Entertainment group, objecting to "unfair stereotyping of postal employees" and "irresponsible TV shows." Hegarty urges FOX to put this segment "in the garbage can where it belongs!"

The mailing industry is involved, too. PostCom, the Association for Postal Commerce, wrote to Mad TV, pointing out that "postal workers are honest and decent people who make a complex system work well," saying the skit's stereotype is "appalling."

"We want FOX to do the right thing for the right reasons," said Azeez Jaffer, vice president, Public Affairs and Communications. "That's why we need to make our case with the facts — nothing else. This is an emotional issue, but we'll gain more ground by staying calm and using common sense when we're sharing our opinion with FOX or Mad TV."

We're continuing to receive thousands of your comments about this issue.

"I've never been prouder to be one of the 730,000 men and women of the Postal Service who serve our nation with distinction every day," said Jaffer.

One employee made the case with the facts in a heartfelt letter to FOX, explaining what "going postal" really means. It's not about threats. It's not about violence. "It means that over 700,000 employees make sure the mail gets delivered every day," she wrote. "When Sept. 11 happened, *our* Post Office in New York near ground zero was affected — but *your* mail was not . . . It means that throughout the year — and

especially during the holidays – postal workers get involved in their communities: buying toys for kids, dinners for the hungry, and working with countless other charities . . . It means that when your elderly neighbor lay helpless on the floor — unable to get to the phone — a U.S. Postal Service letter carrier noticed the mail was not collected and called police. The result often is that neighbor is alive today because a U.S. Postal Service worker cared.”

Still have comments? A channel for feedback is the FOX Broadcasting Viewer Comment Line at 1-310-369-3066.