



Making South Carolina Great!

PALMETTO FAMILY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 5, 2009

Contact: Oran P. Smith
803-733-5600 (office)
803-360-1194 (cell)
oran@palmettofamily.org

“Family Council: Gossip Girl Episode is Every Parent’s Nightmare”

Palmetto Family Council is joining with the Parents Television Council® (PTC) in asking South Carolina CW Network affiliates to pre-empt an episode of the teen-targeted “Gossip Girl” television program. According to CW’s own advertising, the episode will feature teen characters in a sexual threesome. CW’s tagline on its promo: “Every Parent’s Nightmare.”

“Gossip Girl” airs on a non-cable network during primetime (9 pm ET/PT and 8 pm CT/MT).

“To include a storyline like this on a program that is expressly targeted to impressionable teenagers is reckless and irresponsible. We are asking each CW Network affiliate to use their common sense and preempt this episode,” said PTC President Tim Winter.

“CW has been defending graphic content on ‘Gossip Girl’ by asserting that they don’t target teenagers. Such a claim doesn’t even pass the ‘laugh test.’ The network’s own promotions talk about the program as a ‘parent’s worst nightmare.’ How many 30-year olds care what their parents think? Zero.”

Palmetto Family Council President Dr. Oran Smith agreed, saying that the program and the time slot clash with South Carolina values. “Because this is not a cable-only show, the content travels on public airwaves. We are calling on the seven (7) CW affiliates broadcasting into South Carolina to respect decency and South Carolina values by finding something else to run on Monday night at 9:00 p.m.”

Palmetto Family has called its members to action, encouraging them to contact local CW affiliates and remind them that the FCC has affirmed affiliates’ ability to pre-empt any network programming that is “unsatisfactory or unsuitable or contrary to the public interest.” According to Palmetto Family, the law is clear: contracts between networks and their affiliates may not legally prevent preemption of programming that does not meet local community standards.

For more information on this effort, readers may see “Must Not See TV” at www.palmettofamilylife.com or Top News at www.palmettofamily.org.

Description of Gossip Girl:

Based on a series of popular novels by Cecily Von Ziegesar, “Gossip Girl” follows the lives of young, privileged socialites in New York City. Now in its third season, the show conveys the message that sex is a tool used to manipulate others. Real consequences are non-existent in this fantasy world and the characters play musical chairs with their sex-partners, but suffer no physical or psychological ramifications. Drugs and alcohol are omnipresent on the show though none of the characters is legally old enough to drink.

###