



OFFICE OF THE BLACK STUDENT UNION

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

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HOMEWOOD CAMPUS

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To: "Roc" Productions,

I was informed this past week that "Roc" would not be on the 1994 fall schedule for Fox TV. What I do not understand is how such a extraordinarily unique show could not be on the roster. Although I am a student with an extremely difficult work load at school, I never miss "Roc." How can it not be on next year?

I have always liked Fox TV because I felt that your company was one which gave chances to many new African American shows. Charles Dutton and the rest of the crew are fantastic actors sending out a message from the inner city which needs to be heard. I do ponder if that is the reason for the discontinuation of the show. This is the last show viewed in Baltimore I would expect to see taken off of the air.

Mr. Dutton has had a great number of messages in his shows which I felt were necessary for the population to hear. He explored topics ranging from self determination: 1) when he ran for political office; 2) when Rocky Carroll's character organized a benefit concert for the inner city ; 3) when he bought the house next door and 4) the episode where Heavy D. decided to try and rid his community of a drug pusher. "Roc" also had shows dealing with the plagues of inner city communities: gun violence; drug use; homelessness; et cetera. It cannot be because of the message the show is sending out to its viewers. That cannot be the reason you all are deciding not to continue the show. Is it because mainstream America would rather not be faced with real issues on a comedy/drama. I assume that the mainstream would rather see soap opera problems dealing with nothing on late night TV.

I am a native of Baltimore City, just as Mr. Dutton is and I know his history and his efforts to keep hope alive in our town. The pride which I feel when I turn on my TV set to sit down and watch is overwhelming. Mr. Dutton beat the odds and has made something of the talents which were bestowed upon him. And he has not forgotten where his roots lie. One day I hope to meet him and maybe get him as an inspirational speaker here at Johns Hopkins University. Please let him know this and that he has our support and blessings. Thank you and please respond.