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# Reclaim the Media

APR - 9 2003



927 22nd Avenue Seattle, WA 98122 206.709.0558 www.reclaimthemedia.org  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
SEATTLE, 3 March 2003

Contact: Jonathan Lawson/Susan Gleason  
(206) 709-0558

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## FCC TO HOLD MEDIA CONSOLIDATION HEARING IN SEATTLE

Northwest Citizens' Groups, Musicians and Media Unions Roll Out the Red Carpet  
City Council passes resolution in support of diverse media ownership

FCC Commissioners Michael Copps and Jonathan Adelstein will hold a rare public field hearing in Seattle on March 7, to hear public testimony regarding the Commission's omnibus review of federal media ownership rules. At stake are a number of regulations limiting the number of media outlets a single company can own. The country's biggest media companies favor fast deregulation, while a growing number of citizens' voices are calling for more public process.

The March 7 hearing, hosted by the University of Washington Law School's Shidler Center for Law, Commerce and Technology, will take place from 9am to noon at the University of Washington's HUB Auditorium. Three broad topics will be covered: Localism (local accountability) in Media, the Effects of Media Consolidation on Radio, and the Effects of Consolidation on News. Testimony from invited panelists will be followed by audience questions.

Days before the hearing, the Seattle City Council passed unanimously a resolution supporting diversity in media ownership, and urging the FCC to avoid weakening the existing ownership rules. According to the resolution, deregulation of the ownership rules would "reduce competition, local accountability, diversity of content and voices, and the amount and quality of news coverage in broadcast and print media across the country, while providing windfall profits for a small handful of corporate media owners."

A number of citizens' groups in the Northwest are celebrating the upcoming hearing as a chance to defend the media's traditional values against what they see as a threat posed by deregulation.

"Our democracy thrives when we have access to news and culture from diverse media sources," says Jonathan Lawson of the Seattle-based advocacy group Reclaim the Media. "In order to have real diversity of views, ownership of the media has to be diverse as well. The FCC has to decide whether free speech and freedom of the press are intended for everyone, or just for five or six huge conglomerates."

The region's labor community is also concerned with media consolidation. Unions representing newspaper, television and radio employees have all taken public stands opposing deregulation. In February, the King County Labor Council passed a sweeping resolution calling for the FCC to retain and strengthen media ownership regulations. The labor council represents over 150,000 working men and women in and around Seattle.

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The FCC officially announced its intentions for an unprecedented omnibus review of the six major ownership rules in September 2002. The rules being reconsidered include national and local caps on the number of radio or television stations a single company can own; a rule disallowing one television network from swallowing up another; and the rule prohibiting cross-ownership of a newspaper and a broadcast station in the same market. The FCC has hinted that it may make a decision this spring on whether to revise or abolish any of the current rules.

As Commissioner Copps schedules additional public hearings on media ownership, members of Congress are taking a growing interest in the issue. Several Senators have convened their own media policy-related hearings. In February, Congressman Jim McDermott joined 29 other members of Congress in writing to FCC Chairman Michael Powell. Their letter reads in part: "The fundamental principle of free speech and the crucial role played by the media in a free democracy are in serious jeopardy if the FCC moves forward with this process... [The FCC] must open the process to further public comment and scrutiny."

The FCC is divided over whether public hearings are necessary at all. Chairman Powell, who favors deregulation, has derided the hearings as a "nineteenth-century whistlestop tour." Speaking at another public forum in January, however, Commissioner Copps said of the ownership rules, "certainly, no issue before the FCC is so important. At stake are core values of localism, diversity, competition, and maintaining the multiplicity of voice and choices that undergird our precious marketplace of ideas and that sustain American democracy."

Reclaim the Media is a Northwest-based non-profit organization promoting press freedom, media diversity and community media access. Since the group's founding conference last September, Reclaim the Media has presented media literacy workshops and public speakers on media policy in a variety of contexts. The organization is part of a loose national affiliation of media activist groups which support community media and advocate for media policy reform.

Further information about the Seattle FCC hearing, including the names of participating panelists, will be posted at [www.reclaimthemedial.org](http://www.reclaimthemedial.org) as soon as available. The entire proceedings of the FCC hearings and related events will be broadcast live on the Internet by [www.Radio-X.org](http://www.Radio-X.org).

# Reclaim the Media

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## THE FUTURE OF MEDIA: Media Ownership and the Public Interest

### Daytime Event Schedule – HUB Lawn, HUB 106B

#### Future of Media – Daytime Events: “*Shaping the Media Landscape of Seattle*”

- 9am – 1pm, Media Action Zone: Open Mic Testimonials, Information Tables, Media Installations, HUB Lawn
- 12:00 – 12:20 Press Conference, HUB Lawn
- 12:30 – 1:30, Performances, Speakers, HUB Lawn
- 1:30 – 3:45, Community Panels in HUB 106B

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#### 1) Media Action Zone

9am -1pm, HUB Lawn

Speakers, Information, Media Installations, Open Mic Testimonials

#### Media Action Zone: Who’s Organizing This?

S.A.M.E. (Seattle Alliance for Media Education) and Reclaim the Media

Contact: Sarah Ankersmit, [Ankersmit@aol.com](mailto:Ankersmit@aol.com), 206-522-6956

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#### 2) Press Conference

12:00 – 12:20, HUB Lawn

Confirmed Speakers:

**Jenny Toomey** – Executive Director, Future of Music Coalition

**Deborah Semer** – Executive Director, Recording Academy, PNW Chapter

**Jonathan Lawson** – Co-founder, Reclaim the Media

**Sarah Ankersmit** – Co-founder, SAME

#### Press Conference: Who’s Organizing This?

Reclaim the Media

Contact: Susan Gleason, [susan@gleason.net](mailto:susan@gleason.net), 206-709-0558

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#### 3) Performances, Speakers

12:30 – 1:30pm, HUB Lawn

#### Performances, Speakers: Who’s Organizing This?

S.A.M.E. (Seattle Alliance for Media Education) and Reclaim the Media

Contact: Sarah Ankersmit, [Ankersmit@aol.com](mailto:Ankersmit@aol.com), 206-522-6956

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#### 4) Community Panels

1:30 – 3:45pm, UW HUB, 106B

**1:30 - 2:30** "*The importance and role of independent and local media in the changing media landscape*" moderated by **Geov Parrish** (Seattle Weekly) with confirmed panelists **Kristen Walsh** (KBCS), **Nhein Nguyen** (International Examiner), **Naomi Ishisaka** (Colors NW), and **Adam Holdorf** (Real Change)

**2:45 - 3:45**, "*Networks in the information age*" moderated by **Sheri Herndon** (Indymedia/Reclaim the Media) with confirmed panelists **Jonathan Jay** (Microradio.net), **Amoshaun** (Radio X), **Doug Schuler** (former chair of Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility), **Lance Bennett** (Ruddick C. Lawrence Professor Communication and Professor of Political Science at the University of Washington), and **Sally Soriano**

#### Community Panels: Who's Organizing This?

S.A.M.E. (Seattle Alliance for Media Education) and Reclaim the Media  
Contact: Derrick Hochstatter

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### Evening Event Schedule – Experience Music Project, SkyChurch

#### Future of Media – Evening Events: "*The Future of Media – Action for Media Democracy*"

7:00pm – 10:30pm, Speakers and Performance, EMP SkyChurch

7:00pm – 10:30pm, Media Action Zone, EMP Lobby

Doors open at 7pm. Free, donations accepted. Tickets available in advance at EMP box office. All Ages.

#### 1) Speakers and Performance – Schedule:

7:00 Doors Open

7:00 – 7:20 DJ V-One

7:20 – 7:30 Intro, MC Kristen Walsh, Program Director, KBCS 91.3 FM

7:30 – 7:40 Deborah Semer, Executive Director, PNW Chapter Recording Academy

7:40 – 7:55 Jenny Toomey, Executive Director, Future of Music Coalition

7:55 – 8:00 Rep. Jay Inslee, U.S. Congress

8:00 – 8:05 Rep. Jim McDermott, U.S. Congress

8:10 – 8:30 Davey D, Host, Hard Knock Radio, KPFA

8:30 – 8:45 Keynote: FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

8:45 – 9:05 Spaceboat TV, "Tactical Immersion Lab" – live video collage

9:05 – 10:30 Headliner: Chuck D and the Fine Arts Militia

#### Speakers and Performance – Who's Organizing This?

The Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Recording Academy, Reclaim the Media and KBCS 91.3 FM

Contact: David Meinert, [david@fuzedmusic.com](mailto:david@fuzedmusic.com), 206-352-5365

#### 2) Media Action Zone:

7:00pm – 10:30pm Emailing stations, letter-writing, information tables, EMP Lobby

#### Media Action Zone – Who's Organizing This?

Reclaim the Media

Contact: Brenna Wolf, [brenna@reclaimthemedial.org](mailto:brenna@reclaimthemedial.org), 206-770-9850

**EMP Events – Co-Sponsors:**

KBCS 91.3 FM, Reclaim the Media, The Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Recording Academy, Radio X, The Stranger, The Seattle Weekly, The Newspaper Guild, Fuzed Music, Guitar Center, AFTRA, RIAA, A Territory Resource, , Public Interest Associates, KEXP 90.3FM, Earth on the Air Independent Media, and anonymous contributors.

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**FUTURE OF MEDIA EVENT ORGANIZERS**

**Reclaim the Media** is a Northwest-based non-profit organization promoting press freedom, media diversity and community media access. Since the group's founding conference last September, Reclaim the Media has presented media literacy workshops and public speakers on media policy in a variety of contexts. The organization is part of a loose national affiliation of media activist groups which support community media and advocate for media policy reform.

**The Recording Academy** is a membership-based organization best known for organizing the annual Grammy Awards, and representing some 18,000 musicians and others in the recording industry nationwide, including about 750 in the Pacific Northwest. Advocacy for musicians' issues is a top priority for the organization.

**S.A.M.E. (Seattle Alliance for Media Education)**, a group sponsored by Teen Futures Media Network, College of Education, was launched in November, 2002 by several UW students and other young adults living in the Seattle area, all of whom are concerned with the lack of attention to media education in our country. Our neighbors in Canada require media education as a part of the curriculum in their schools. In other countries such as Australia and Great Britain, media education has been required for several years. The need for media education in other countries was recognized in large part in response to the influence of American media on their youth.

**KBCS 91.3 FM** is a listener-supported, non-commercial radio station licensed to Bellevue Community College in Bellevue, Washington. Funding for KBCS comes from a variety of sources, including listener contributions, Bellevue Community College students and administration, and community business support. Our programming features an eclectic mix of blues, folk, jazz and world music. We present Free Speech Radio News and other cultural and public affairs programs. Our programmers are community volunteers who love radio and strive to make listening to KBCS a constant pleasure for you.

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## Presenter & Panelist Bios For Future of Media Events

### BIOS – Daytime Events (UW HUB)

**Lance Bennett** is the founder and Director of the Center for Communication and Civic Engagement ([www.engagedcitizen.org](http://www.engagedcitizen.org)) at the University of Washington. The Center facilitates collaborative work involving students, faculty and practitioners in North America and Europe. The Center is dedicated to communication research and policy initiatives that enhance the quality of citizen engagement with social life, politics, and global affairs. Current work on media systems and civic engagement can be found on the Center website at [www.engagedcitizen.org](http://www.engagedcitizen.org). A major focus of new work is globalization and political change, with an emphasis on digital media and the organization of global policy networks. The Global Citizen Project ([www.globalcitizenproject.org](http://www.globalcitizenproject.org)) showcases various initiatives in global communication and public policy.

**Adam Holdorf** is managing editor of *Real Change*, Seattle's biweekly newspaper covering issues of poverty and homelessness. He works with at least 30 volunteers who produce news, features, photography, poetry, and illustrations. Last year, *Real Change's* circulation grew by 18 percent.

**Sheri Herndon** is a media and social change activist with 12 years of experience creating media and educating people about independent media to promote radical social change. She was the News director at KCMU Public Radio in Seattle for four years, where she developed a news program that became one of Seattle's most progressive and vibrant activist information sources. As one of the founders of the *Independent Media Center* in 1999, she has spent the last 3 years focusing her energy on developing the network and supporting IMCs in the global south. She recently cofounded the Tactical Media Fund to address financial scarcity in the south and to help identify and support cutting edge global communication projects. At the local level, she cofounded Reclaim the Media, a Northwest-based nonprofit promoting press freedom, media diversity and community media access. She is also on the international editorial board of Next Five Minutes and is working as a consultant for a social justice communication project based out of New York City. Her latest projects include working with Duke University and several Brazilian and Italian organizations on the "Global Media Project", as well as coordinating a series of interviews and case studies of the most notable environmental, human rights and global social justice movement networks.

**Naomi Ishisaka**, 28, is the editor in chief of *Colors Northwest Magazine*, a full-color, monthly magazine about people of color in the Northwest. Ishisaka is a Seattle native and has worked at several Puget Sound newspapers, including The Seattle Times, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, The News Tribune and the Bremerton Sun. In her previous jobs she has served as a copy editor, wire editor, page designer, late news editor and weekend editor. Ishisaka is a graduate of The Evergreen State College in Olympia and has a B.A. in ethnic studies. Ishisaka's journalism education includes editing training at the Dow Jones Copy Editing Program and she is a recent graduate of AAJA's Executive Leadership Program. Ishisaka is a frequent speaker at media workshops and community events. In their first year of publication, *Colors Northwest* entered six and won six top-three awards in the 2002 Society of Professional Journalists Western Washington Competition. Ishisaka won two awards.

Artist and writer **jonathan jay** has been active in creating human scale insurgent media outlets and free expression for the past 10 years. From street level agit-prop postering campaigns, to micro radio, and distributed internet audio networks. Since 1999, he has founded or been instrumental in creating [IndyMedia.org](http://IndyMedia.org) - a participatory global news network

MicroRadio.NET - a portal for free internet and micro radio stations, Radio-X.org a Seattle based Community Access Internet Radio Station, and SambaFM.org, an advocacy group working to deregulate micro-powered non-commercial access to unused frequencies on the FM band.

**Nhien Nguyen** is currently editor at the *International Examiner*, a nonprofit newsjournal for the Northwest region's Asian American communities. Prior to her editorship position, Nhien was a freelance writer for the *Examiner* and other publications such as *A. Magazine* and *Colors Northwest*. As former development director at the Wing Luke Asian Museum, Nhien has skills in fundraising and community development. Recently, Nhien received the Seattle Arts Commission Literary Award 2002, where she will develop a collection of short stories. She is also completing her first fiction novel based on her experiences as a Vietnamese American

**Geov Parrish** spent 15 years working in the noncommercial/commercial broadcast industry. From 1984-91 he served as founder and president of M Street Corporation, which remains one of the radio industry's leading sources of FCC regulatory and technical research and reporting. In 1991 he left M Street to pursue full time community and alternative media activism, including the founding of the community newspaper *Eat The State* in 1996. His political commentaries are regularly featured in *Seattle Weekly*, *WorkingForChange.com*, *Alternet.org*, in these times, and through syndication newspapers and websites across the country.

**Doug Schuler** is a former chair of Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility (CPSR) and a founding member of the Seattle Community Network (SCN). Doug has written several books and articles, including New Community Networks: Wired for Change. His new books (available fall, 2003), co-edited with Peter Day are "Shaping the Network Society: The New Role of Civil Society in Cyberspace" (MIT Press) and "Community Practice in the Network Society: Local Action/Global Interaction" (Routledge). For over nearly 20 years Doug has been engaged with issues relating to society and computing, mostly as an activist with CPSR. He has worked on many CPSR projects including all eight of CPSR's biannual symposia on the "Directions and Implications of Advanced Computing" (DIAC) conferences, which provide a public forum for social implications of computers. Currently, he is a faculty member (Evening and Weekend Studies) of The Evergreen State College on the technology and social implications of the Internet. Doug is currently the program director for CPSR's Public Sphere Project where he is helping to construct a large Pattern Language for Participation, Action, and Change.

**Amoshaun Toft** is an audible activist and democracy organizer in radio and information. He has worked in community radio for 5 years and has explored networking and counterinstitutional projects from participatory journalism to international content distribution platforms. Projects he has helped to found include *Radio.Indymedia.org*, *ReclaimTheMedia.org*, *Radio-X.org* and the Free Media Network.

**Kristen Walsh** is the Program Director for KBCS. KBCS is true democracy in action - a steward of the public airwaves, an alternative resource for news. For 30 years, KBCS has served as this region's most independent and uncensored source of music and news. "We have the courage to sound different, airing great programs like *Democracy Now!* and *Free Speech Radio News*. All of our expert dj's and producers are local community volunteers." To get involved in making radio that matters, contact, Kristen at 425.564.2716

## **BIOS – Evening Events (EMP)**

**FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein** served for fifteen years as a staff member in the United States Senate, before being appointed to the Commission last year. For the past seven years, he has been a senior legislative aide to United States Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), where he advised Senator Daschle on telecommunications, financial services, transportation and other key issues. Prior to his service in the Senate, Adelstein held academic positions at Harvard and Stanford Universities. Adelstein is also an accomplished blues harmonica player.

**Chuck D**, co-founder and leader of the seminal rap group Public Enemy, is also an outspoken advocate for musicians' and listeners' rights in relation to the corporate recording industry. Public Enemy became the first major label artist to pre-release songs on the Internet in the then-new mp3 format, pleasing fans and sparking controversy within the industry.

Chuck D is in demand as a lecturer on rap, race and reality, and has spoken in front of over 500 major and minor universities, high schools, organizations and prisons. In addition to Public Enemy, Chuck D is now performing with a new group the Fine Arts Militia, making their Seattle debut this Friday.

**Davey D** is a nationally renowned hip hop historian, journalist, DJ and community activist. Host of the award-winning talk show "Hard Knock Radio" at KPFA (Berkeley, CA), Davey D is also webmaster of Davey D's Hip Hop Corner ([www.daveyd.com](http://www.daveyd.com)), among the longest-running and most comprehensive hip hop sites on the Internet. Formerly community affairs director of KMEL (San Francisco), Davey D was dismissed by managers at the Clear Channel-owned station two weeks after interviewing Congresswoman Barbara Lee about her vote opposing the U.S. war in Afghanistan. His firing was criticized as "corporate media censorship" by numerous Bay Area community groups.

Self-proclaimed "rocker" **Jenny Toomey** is the Executive Director of the Future of Music Coalition. She is also an intellectual, an activist and a musician. In the past two years Jenny has spoken about music and technology in many settings, and has presented testimony on media consolidation before congressional committees and the FCC. In March 2001 she was named one of Internet Weekly's "25 Unsung Heroes of the Web" and more recently received a special achievement award from the Washington Area Music Association for her activism.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
SEATTLE, 6 MARCH 2003

Contact: David Meinert, Recording Academy  
(206) 352-5365  
Jonathan Lawson/Susan Gleason, Reclaim the Media  
(206) 709-0558

## **RAPPER CHUCK D, FCC's ADELSTEIN FOCUS ON MEDIA AT EMP EVENT** "The Future of Media" organizers hope to make media policy a household conversation topic

FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein will be the keynote speaker at "The Future of Media: Action for Media Democracy" community event to be held in Seattle's Experience Music Project venue, Friday, March 7th. The concert/lecture event also features popular rap performer Chuck D, U.S. Reps. Jim McDermott and Jay Inslee, Bay Area radio host Davey D, Jenny Toomey of the Future of Music Coalition, and Deborah Semer, Executive Director of the PNW Branch of the Recording Academy. The event is scheduled to coincide with a rare FCC public hearing on media consolidation to be held in Seattle on the University of Washington campus earlier in the day.

Organizers of the event, including the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Recording Academy, Reclaim the Media and KBCS 91.3 FM, hold that the increasing consolidation of media companies is already having a detrimental effect on the music industry, the quality of local news reporting, the availability of diverse information and perspectives, and the public's access to the publicly-owned airwaves, and that further deregulation of existing media ownership rules will worsen the impact.

David Meinert of the Recording Academy states, "Media ownership rules are in place to protect the public interest – to prevent the further reduction of voices, perspectives, and diverse culture that we have access to. There may be more radio and tv channels than ever before, but the reality is, the range of voices and the range of music we hear has become more limited. Eliminating media ownership rules will impact some of the core principles of our democracy, and as such, the people should have a say. Yet, the FCC has made very little effort to inform the public of what is at stake, or to solicit public comment on the issue. It gives you the impression that the FCC would like to see the changes to media ownership rules codified as quickly and quietly as possible, allowing for input only from the major corporate media outlets – which, of course, stand to benefit from deregulation the most."

To facilitate greater public involvement in the media policy debate, event organizers will have a "Media Action Zone" set up at the EMP with information tables, postcard-writing materials, and email stations at which attendees can write to Congressional officials, asking them to exercise oversight over the FCC's decisionmaking process, to hold additional public hearings on media ownership issues, and to pursue legislative strategies to protect diverse media ownership, on the model of Senator Feingold's Competition in Radio bill.

**FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein** served for fifteen years as a staff member in the United States Senate, before being appointed to the Commission last year. For the past seven years, he has been a senior legislative aide to United States Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), where he advised Senator Daschle on telecommunications, financial services, transportation and other key issues. Prior to his service in the Senate, Adelstein held academic positions at Harvard and Stanford Universities. Adelstein is also an accomplished blues harmonica player.

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reclaimthemedi.org - Reclaim the Media

http://www.reclaimthemedi.org

**Seattle City Council Resolution**Posted by [rtm](#) (Thursday March 06 2003 @ 04:36PM PST)

A RESOLUTION in support of diversity in media ownership.

WHEREAS, freedom of the press and public access to diverse media are prerequisites for a functioning democracy; and

WHEREAS, the broadcast airwaves are owned commonly by the public, and should be managed to serve the public interest; and

WHEREAS, adherence to the highest journalistic principles is a public trust; and

WHEREAS, the public interest is best served by the availability of a broadly diverse range of viewpoints; and

WHEREAS, media diversity is seriously threatened by further consolidation of media ownership in an already highly concentrated market; and

WHEREAS, deregulation of radio ownership rules under the 1996 Telecommunications Act caused unprecedented consolidation, dramatically decreasing competition; and

WHEREAS, radio industry consolidation has also damaged local accountability and content diversity, in part by shifting control and resources away from local programmers and towards central managers, which has led to reductions in local news and public affairs programming, and reduced access to the airwaves for local musicians, community groups and public officials; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission is currently considering an unprecedented rollback of media ownership regulations which protect competition, content diversity and local accountability in our media; and

WHEREAS, the elimination or weakening of these regulations would worsen the effects of radio industry consolidation to date, as ownership deregulation will reduce competition, local accountability, diversity of content and voices, and the amount and quality of news coverage in broadcast and print media across the country, while providing windfall profits for a small handful of corporate media owners;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:

We recognize that as citizens in a democracy, we require public access to a diverse range of media voices and messages, in order to participate fully in our community's shared social, cultural and political life.

We urge the Federal Communications Commission to resist attempts to repeal the cross-ownership ban and further urge the Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to protect content diversity and press freedom by retaining and strengthening existing media ownership regulations, including regulations that limit the number of stations one owner may hold.

We further call upon the Congress to exercise its oversight in the area of federal communications policy through public hearings on media ownership issues; and to pursue legislation aimed at protecting our democratic media by prohibiting further media consolidation.

Adopted unanimously by the City Council the 3rd day of March, 2003.

[Topic: [FCC](#)]

## KCLC Passes Media Diversity Resolution

Posted by [rtm](#) (Thursday February 20 2003 @ 02:10AM PST)

At a Feb. 19 meeting, the King County Labor Council passed a resolution calling upon the FCC and Congress to protect media diversity by preventing further industry consolidation.

The KCLC includes several unions representing media industry employees, including AFTRA (radio/TV), the Newspaper Guild/CWA and the Seattle Musicians' Union (AFM).

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Resolution: Diversity in Media Content Requires Diversity in Media Ownership

WHEREAS:

Freedom of the press and public access to diverse media are prerequisites for a functioning democracy;

The broadcast airwaves and the Internet are owned commonly by the public, and should be managed to serve the public interest;

Adherence to the highest journalistic principles is a public trust;

The public interest is best served by the availability of a broadly diverse range of viewpoints;

Media diversity is seriously threatened by further consolidation of media ownership in an already highly concentrated market;

WHEREAS:

Deregulation of radio ownership rules under the 1996 Telecommunications Act caused unprecedented consolidation, dramatically decreasing competition;

Radio industry consolidation has also damaged local accountability and content diversity, in part by shifting control and resources away from local programmers and towards central managers. This has led to reductions in local news and public affairs programming, and reduced access to the airwaves for local musicians, community groups and public officials.

WHEREAS:

The Federal Communications Commission is currently considering an unprecedented rollback of media ownership regulations which protect competition, content diversity and local accountability in our media;

The elimination or weakening of these regulations would be highly likely to expand the negative effects of radio industry consolidation to date. Ownership deregulation will reduce competition, local accountability, diversity of content and voices, and amount/quality of news coverage in broadcast and print media across the country, while providing windfall profits for a small handful of corporate media owners;

RESOLVED:

We recognize that as citizens in a democracy, we require public access to a diverse range of media voices and messages, in order to participate fully in our community's shared social, cultural and political life.

We urge the Federal Communications Commission and the Congress to protect content diversity and press freedom by retaining and strengthening existing media ownership regulations.

We further call upon the Congress to exercise its oversight in the area of federal communications policy through public hearings on media ownership issues; and to pursue legislation aimed at protecting our democratic media by prohibiting further media consolidation.

Adopted by the King County Labor Council, 19 February, 2003

[Topic: FCC]

## Seattle Education Association Opposes Media Deregulation

Posted by [rtm](#) (Tuesday February 25 2003 @ 10:13PM PST)

WHEREAS . . .

- student access to diverse media content that provides differing points of view and new perspectives is important in supplementing what is learned in classrooms across the country; and

WHEREAS . . .

- educators, too, need access to the free exchange of ideas in the media; and

WHEREAS . . .

- the members of the Seattle Education Association believe that unrestricted access to a wide range of opinion, news and information sources is vital to our democracy; and

WHEREAS . . .

- a continuing concentration of ownership of the broadcast media is a threat as significant to educators as any limitation on access to school libraries or concentration of textbook publishers would be; and

WHEREAS . . .

- the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is expected to move towards deregulation of the federal rules which protect local accountability, content diversity and public access to our national media; and

WHEREAS . . .

- such deregulation could drastically alter the quality and breadth of the news and other media provided to the American public every day; and

WHEREAS . . .

- presently 10 companies already own and control 90 percent of the media outlets in the country; and

WHEREAS . . .

- the United States Supreme Court has said (1945) that "[T]he widest possible dissemination of information from diverse and antagonistic sources is essential to the welfare of the people."; and

WHEREAS . . .

- domination of the media by the few leads to the domination of public opinion of the many on issues of local, national and international import; and

WHEREAS . . .

- the airwaves are a public trust which, without regulation, will allow only the most powerful to be heard, threatening our democracy which depends on an open and diverse media,

Therefore, Be It Resolved That:

- we, the members of the Seattle Education Association, are on record as strongly opposing any changes in the current federal rules that would lead to further restricting public access to a free and open media; and

- the Seattle Education Association shall submit this resolution opposing such changes to the Federal Communications Commission in their hearings on March 7, 2003.

[Topic: [FCC](#)]

# Who owns the media in Seattle?

## Noncommercial and Community Broadcasters

**Bellevue Community College** [www.kbcs.fm](http://www.kbcs.fm) Bellevue  
KBCS-FM (91.3 'Worldwide Jazz and Folk')

**Mercer Island High School** Mercer Island  
KMIH-FM (104.5 'Mix of Tomorrow's Hits')

**Nathan Hale High School** Seattle  
KNHC-FM (89.5 'Seattle's Hottest')

**University of Washington** [www.washington.edu](http://www.washington.edu)  
KUOW-FM (94.9 NPR)  
KEXP-FM (90.3 'Where the Music Matters')

**Pacific Lutheran University** [www.plu.edu](http://www.plu.edu) Tacoma  
KPLU-FM (88.5 Jazz/NPR)

## Big Players

**Disney** [www.disney.com](http://www.disney.com) Burbank, CA [2001 sales \$25.3 billion]

KKDZ-AM  
[also owns: ABC, Disney Channel, ESPN, A&E, Lifetime, Walt Disney Pictures, Touchstone Pictures, Hollywood Pictures, Miramax Film Corp., US Weekly, Discover Magazine, Hyperion Books, 10 TV stations, 49 other radio stations, and other interests]

**Viacom** [www.viacom.com](http://www.viacom.com) New York [2001 sales \$23.22 billion]  
KSTW-TV (UPN 11)  
KBKS-FM  
KMPS-FM (94.1 new country)  
KYCW-AM  
KYPT-FM (96.5 'The Point')  
KZOK-FM (102.5 'Seattle's Only Classic Rock')  
[also owns: Infinity Radio (total 180 stations), CBS Television Network, MTV and BET Networks, Paramount Parks, Pictures, Television and Home Entertainment, CBS Enterprises, United Paramount Network (UPN), Showtime Networks, Viacom Television Stations Group, Comedy Central, Blockbuster Video, Viacom Plus, Viacom Outdoor, and Simon & Schuster.]

**Clear Channel** [www.clearchannel.com](http://www.clearchannel.com) San Antonio [2001 sales \$7.97 billion]  
KUBE-FM (93.3 'Seattle's #1 Hits')  
KJR-FM (95.7 'Super Hits of the 60s and 70s')  
KHHO-AM ('Sports Radio 850')  
KJR-AM ('Sports Radio 950')  
[also owns: 37 TV stations including KVOS (Bellingham), and over 1200 radio stations nationwide, plus another 250 or so radio stations overseas, and a national billboard/outdoor advertising operation, among other interests. Most billboards in Seattle belong to Clear Channel.]

**Tribune Broadcasting** [www.tribune.com](http://www.tribune.com) Chicago [2001 sales \$5.25 billion]  
KCPQ-TV (Fox Q-13)  
KTWB-TV (WB 22)  
[also owns: 13 newspapers including the Chicago Tribune and the Hartford Courant, 22 more TV stations, 4 radio stations and other interests]

**Cox Broadcasting** [www.coxenterprises.com](http://www.coxenterprises.com) Atlanta [2001 sales \$4.07 billion]

KIRO-TV (CBS)  
SeattleInsider.com  
[also owns: 14 more tv stations and 82 radio stations nationwide, as well as the Atlanta Constitution, over 17 daily and 30 weekly newspapers and magazines, Val-Pack Coupons and other interests]

**Hearst Corporation** [www.hearst.com](http://www.hearst.com) New York [2001 sales \$4 billion]  
Seattle Post-Intelligencer  
[also owns: A&E, ESPN, Lifetime Network, 11 more daily papers, many national magazines and commercial websites, and the King Features Syndicate, among other broadcasting, publishing, distribution and other interests]

**AT&T Comcast** [www.attbroadband.com](http://www.attbroadband.com),  
[www.comcast.com](http://www.comcast.com) Philadelphia [2000 sales \$2.02 billion]  
local cable TV/broadband Internet franchisee  
[also owns: cable TV/broadband franchises across the country, QVC, and other interests. Part owner of HBO, Cinemax and Court TV]

**Belo, Inc.** [www.belo.com](http://www.belo.com) Dallas [2001 sales \$1.37 billion]  
KING-TV (NBC)  
KONG-TV  
Northwest Cable News  
[also owns: 16 more tv stations, 6 cable channels, the Dallas Morning News, the Providence Journal (RI), the Press-Enterprise (Riverside, CA) and the Denton Record-Chronicle (TX)]

**Seattle Times Company**  
[www.seattletimescompany.com](http://www.seattletimescompany.com) Seattle [2001 sales \$388 million]  
Seattle Times  
[also owns: seven other papers in Washington and Maine, and related websites. Knight-Ridder, Inc. is a minority (49%) shareholder. Knight-Ridder owns over 36 daily newspapers, along with other periodicals, broadcasting and Internet interests.]

**Entercom Communications** [www.entercom.com](http://www.entercom.com)

Philadelphia [2001 sales \$332.9 million]

KBSG-AM/FM (97.3 'Good Times, Great Oldies')

KIRO-AM (news)

KQBZ-FM (100.7 'The Buzz')

KISW-FM (99.9 'The Rock is Back')

KMTT-FM (103.7 'The Mountain')

KNDD-FM (107.7 'The End')

KTTH-AM (770 'You Deserve the Truth')

KNWX-AM (1210 'The Business Station')

[also owns: 94 more radio stations nationwide]

**Fisher Broadcasting** [www.fsci.com](http://www.fsci.com) Seattle [2001 sales \$162 million]

KOMO TV (ABC)

KOMO-AM

KPLZ-FM ('Star 101.5')

KVI-AM

[also owns: 10 more TV stations and 25 more radio stations in the Northwest and the Southeast, among other interests]

**Village Voice Media** [www.villagevoice.com](http://www.villagevoice.com) New York  
Seattle Weekly

[also owns: the Village Voice, LA Weekly, and several other large-market weekly papers, and web broadcaster Voice Radio]

**Sandusky Radio** [www.sanduskyseattle.com](http://www.sanduskyseattle.com) Bellevue, WA

KWJZ-FM (98.9 'Smooth Jazz')

KLSY-FM ('Mix 92.5')

KIXI-AM (880)

KRWM-FM (106.9)

KKNW-AM (1105 News Channel)

**Millennium Digital Media** [www.mdm.net](http://www.mdm.net) St. Louis  
local cable TV/broadband Internet franchisee

[also owns: cable TV/broadband franchises in five states]

## Smaller Commercial and Religious Broadcasters

**Beethoven** [www.king.org](http://www.king.org) Seattle

KING-FM (98.1 classical)

**Index Newspapers** [www.thestranger.com](http://www.thestranger.com) Seattle

The Stranger

[also owns the Portland Mercury. Chicago Reader, Inc. (Chicago) is a minority partner.]

**Crista Ministries** [www.crista.org/broadcast](http://www.crista.org/broadcast) Seattle

KCMS-FM (105.3, Christian)

KCIS-AM

**Sacred Heart Radio** Kirkland, WA

KBLE-AM

**Kris Bennett Broadcasting** [www.ztwins.com](http://www.ztwins.com) Seattle

KRIZ-AM

KYIZ-AM

KZIZ-AM

**Salem Radio** [www.inspirationradio.com](http://www.inspirationradio.com) Seattle

KGNW-AM (Christian)

KLFE-AM

KOL-AM

KKMO-AM (Radio Sol)

[also owns 36 other Christian radio stations nationally; plus Salem Radio Network, which owns three radio networks and several syndicated Christian programs.]

This list was compiled by Jonathan Lawson. A more complete version is available at [www.seattleindymedia.org](http://www.seattleindymedia.org)

To learn more about media ownership, check out these resources:

[www.mediachannel.org](http://www.mediachannel.org)

[www.seattleindymedia.org](http://www.seattleindymedia.org)

[www.thenation.com](http://www.thenation.com)

# Reclaim the Media

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **RAPPER CHUCK D, FCC's ADELSTEIN FOCUS ON MEDIA AT EMP EVENT** "The Future of Media" organizers hope to make media policy a household conversation topic

FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein will be the keynote speaker at "The Future of Media: Action for Media Democracy" community event to be held in Seattle's Experience Music Project venue, Friday, March 7th. The concert/lecture event also features popular rap performer Chuck D, U.S. Reps. Jim McDermott and Jay Inslee, Bay Area radio host Davey D, Jenny Toomey of the Future of Music Coalition, and Deborah Semer, Executive Director of the PNW Branch of the Recording Academy. The event is scheduled to coincide with a rare FCC public hearing on media consolidation to be held in Seattle on the University of Washington campus earlier in the day.

Organizers of the event, including the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Recording Academy, Reclaim the Media and KBCS 91.3 FM, hold that the increasing consolidation of media companies is already having a detrimental effect on the music industry, the quality of local news reporting, the availability of diverse information and perspectives, and the public's access to the publicly-owned airwaves, and that further deregulation of existing media ownership rules will worsen the impact.

David Meinert of the Recording Academy states, "Media ownership rules are in place to protect the public interest – to prevent the further reduction of voices, perspectives, and diverse culture that we have access to. There may be more radio and tv channels than ever before, but the reality is, the range of voices and the range of music we hear has become more limited. Eliminating media ownership rules will impact some of the core principles of our democracy, and as such, the people should have a say. Yet, the FCC has made very little effort to inform the public of what is at stake, or to solicit public comment on the issue. It gives you the impression that the FCC would like to see the changes to media ownership rules codified as quickly and quietly as possible, allowing for input only from the major corporate media outlets – which, of course, stand to benefit from deregulation the most."

To facilitate greater public involvement in the media policy debate, event organizers will have a "Media Action Zone" set up at the EMP with information tables, postcard-writing materials, and email stations at which attendees can write to Congressional officials, asking them to exercise oversight over the FCC's decisionmaking process, to hold additional public hearings on media ownership issues, and to pursue legislative strategies to protect diverse media ownership, on the model of Senator Feingold's Competition in Radio bill.

**FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein** served for fifteen years as a staff member in the United States Senate, before being appointed to the Commission last year. For the past seven years, he has been a senior legislative aide to United States Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), where he advised Senator Daschle on telecommunications, financial services, transportation and other key issues. Prior to his service in the Senate, Adelstein held academic positions at Harvard and Stanford Universities. Adelstein is also an accomplished blues harmonica player.

**Chuck D**, co-founder and leader of the seminal rap group Public Enemy, is also an outspoken advocate for musicians' and listeners' rights in relation to the corporate recording industry. Public Enemy became the first major label artist to pre-release songs on the Internet in the then-new mp3 format, pleasing fans and sparking controversy within the industry. Chuck D is in demand as a lecturer on rap, race and reality, and has spoken in front of over 500 major and minor universities, high schools, organizations and prisons. In addition to Public Enemy, Chuck D is now performing with a new group the Fine Arts Militia, making their Seattle debut this Friday.

**Davey D** is a nationally renowned hip hop historian, journalist, DJ and community activist. Host of the award-winning talk show "Hard Knock Radio" at KPFA (Berkeley, CA), Davey D is also webmaster of Davey D's Hip Hop Corner ([www.daveyd.com](http://www.daveyd.com)), among the longest-running and most comprehensive hip hop sites on the Internet. Formerly community affairs director of KMEL (San Francisco), Davey D was dismissed by managers at the Clear Channel-owned station two weeks after interviewing Congresswoman Barbara Lee about her vote opposing the U.S. war in Afghanistan. His firing was criticized as "corporate media censorship" by numerous Bay Area community groups.

Self-proclaimed "rocker" **Jenny Toomey** is the Executive Director of the Future of Music Coalition. She is also an intellectual, an activist and a musician. In the past two years Jenny has spoken about music and technology in many settings, and has presented testimony on media consolidation before congressional committees and the FCC. In March 2001 she was named one of Internet Weekly's "25 Unsung Heroes of the Web" and more recently received a special achievement award from the Washington Area Music Association for her activism.

**The Recording Academy** is a membership-based organization best known for organizing the annual Grammy Awards, and representing some 18,000 musicians and others in the recording industry nationwide, including about 750 in the Pacific Northwest. Advocacy for musicians' issues is a top priority for the organization.

**Reclaim the Media** is a Northwest-based non-profit organization promoting press freedom, media diversity and community media access. Since the group's founding conference last September, Reclaim the Media has presented media literacy workshops and public speakers on media policy in a variety of contexts. The organization is part of a loose national affiliation of media activist groups which support community media and advocate for media policy reform.

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