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APR - 9 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Thank you for this opportunity
Commissioners Copps and Edelstein
This is also what democracy looks like

A young professional friend of mine, a beautician, recently returned from a visit to Norway

She said it was embarrassing to be an American. One reason was because it was so evident to her how incredibly limited US news coverage is compared to European news coverage.

There has been a great deal of attention paid to localism, and it should be obvious that local is inextricably connected to global. Just think about all the people from local communities all across America who are now on the other side of the world, primed for war.

World events have deep cultural roots, which extend thousands of years back into history and into every local community in multicultural America.

We need to diversify, not consolidate the media!

We need more points of view in the news to understand as much as possible about all the complex problems we are facing. We need more diversity in news so that we can intelligently participate in the process of democracy, which is the only way we will keep democracy.

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Thank you
Ruth M. Fruland
March 7, 2003