

I have heard and read "rumors" purporting that Sinclair Broadcasting Group is requiring its stations to air the anti-Kerry documentary "Stolen Honor" as a news event sometime in the coming weeks.

I went to the Sinclair Broadcast Groups website <http://sbgweb2.sbgnet.com/index.shtml> and read the following disclaimer "we welcome your comments regarding the upcoming special news event featuring the topic of Americans held as prisoners of war in Vietnam. The program has not been videotaped and the exact format of this unscripted event has not been finalized. Characterizations regarding the content are premature and are based on ill-informed sources. "

This statement seems very strange, since when I look at the schedule for my local Sinclair Broadcasting Group affiliate KMWB-23 they have "Stolen Honor" scheduled to run on Wed 10/20 at 9:00PM.  
[http://www.kmwb23.com/minneapolis\\_mn/](http://www.kmwb23.com/minneapolis_mn/)

This program does reference Americans held as prisoners of war. However, it most definitely has been videotaped, and the exact format of Stolen Honor has been finalized as of (at the very least) 9/8/2004... this is when "Stolen Honor" videos went on sale online at <http://www.stolenhonor.com/>

Not only is the Sinclair Broadcasting Group threatening to air a smear piece directed squarely at Senator Kerry, they are lying about it in advance. This seems like nothing more than an effort to suppress the mounting complaints until after the program has aired. This way Sinclair can deal with the fallout as a simple cost of doing business.

In this era of 5 second broadcast delays set up to avoid expletive language and wardrobe malfunctions the FCC has an opportunity to prevent a true obscenity.

If "Stolen Honor" airs it may or may not have an effect on the upcoming Presidential election. However, allowing it to air, unchallenged, as a news piece and taking that chance is an enormous risk.

I implore you to take prompt action, and rule in advance that the airing of "Stolen Honor" is not a news event and qualifies as nothing more than an obscene disregard of the public interest.

Thank you in advance,

Ian Smith