

A democracy cannot function properly unless the populace has regular, affordable access to thought-provoking information and narrative that allows the mind to grow and grasp complex, nuanced ideas. The larger media conglomerates grow, the less they have to attend to such needs and the more they are free to push the bottom line: profits. There is AMPLE EVIDENCE that large media conglomerates have suppressed controversial information when directed to do so from the top. If we keep more of the little guys in the game, it will foster continued competition, and public outcry against censorship will have to be considered by big media companies so that they can maintain the competitive edge.

I am currently satisfied with the cable rates in my area because currently there is an independent cable provider in my area. However, if that provider were not here, Time Warner would be free to raise its prices. The answer looks pretty simple to me: don't let Time Warner get so big that they can swallow up these few local providers.