

As an Adelphia employee I can honestly say that Time Warner taking over my system (Southern California) will only bring good things to my fellow employees and customers. The only thing worse would be Adelphia being bought by some leverage buyout company like K, K, and R. Adelphia in my region is in really sad shape. It would benefit greatly from the superior engineering staff employed by Time Warner. The age of the mom and pop cable systems is past. Don't you remember what cable was like 10 years ago?

As a cable "insider" I believe that cable rates are for the most part fair. The pressure needs to be put on the likes of Disney (ABC and ESPN) and FOX SPORTS for the high rates they charge the cable companies. Rates will come down to compete with the

Dish, which has only a fraction of the infrastructure and contributes very little to local economies. All of the Dish infrastructure can be outsourced. No jobs, no payroll, no local taxes, no community involvement, etc.

Customizing channel lineups for individuals is technically difficult to the point of being impractical. Charging only for channels watched sounds like a simple request, but it has been proven to the FCC and some PUCs that there would not be a cost savings to the consumer. Think of every channel being either a pay per view or video on demand channel. There would be a charge every time you wanted to watch tv. A "basic" rate makes more sense.

Some cable companies do a better job with public access channels than others. My system in Los Angeles has an excellent public record. I agree that more money needs to go into public access, but with caution. Most public access time is taken up by special interest groups, including religious wackos and soft pornography. I believe a good local channel (not public access) would and is a very good thing. It is up to the local cities to demand these services and help make them happen.

Have you ever seen any local programming or public access on the Dish?