

Folks,

I believe that we can have a strong democracy only with an informed voting public - informed by truth, that is, not falsehoods.

Apropos of which, ABC's plan to air the Disney company's "docudrama" on 9/11, which I gather contains many falsehoods, will only add to the confusion of the general populace; due to the media's soft-peddling and lack of firm, in-depth questioning when it comes to the Bush administration's policies, and also to the ranting and raving conservatism ideology that occur on FOX news (to name only one example of many), there is plenty of confusion and misleading without ABC adding to it. We would appreciate your making sure that whatever goes out over our (I mean that literally - i.e., the public's) airwaves is at the very least factually correct, even though it may be biased (right of free speech and all that).

Your oversight on these matters is crucial, I believe, to enabling Americans to vote wisely. You have a grave responsibility to watch over the factual content of reporting of anything, and demand that it be corrected if it's false.

One of the major problems, it seems to me, is the consolidation of the media into huge, corporational entities, owned (usually) by individuals who are biased to the point that they fire those who disagree with them, and edit the content of all news so it reflects their own bias. More of these corporations are owning fewer and fewer newspapers, which gives a very one-sided slant to much news that is received by many Americans. I don't think that's healthy.

Media consolidation has already led to declines in local and minority ownership as well as the homogenization of content in radio and television. Permitting cross-ownership of newspapers and broadcast stations, or allowing further concentration in local television markets, will only worsen the problems we already have.

When the FCC attempted to weaken and remove media ownership limits in 2003, millions of Americans rose up in protest. Congress and the courts ultimately intervened to turn back that misguided regulatory process.

Now that these same rules are being reconsidered, the FCC should stand firm with the public against further concentration of media ownership in the hands of the few. A vote against media consolidation is a vote for democracy.

Thanks for your serious attention to this,
Yours sincerely,

Newton Wayland