

Maybe I don't understand the FCC's purpose well enough, but isn't one of the jobs of the FCC to protect the people from the excesses of the free market?

It seems to me that effectiveness is more important than efficiency. That is, corporations may be more efficient if they can grow bigger and consolidate many news organizations together. However, this does not mean that the news will serve the public good more effectively. A diversity of perspectives is always necessary for quality news, although some viewers may not consciously worry about it. So if media consolidates, Americans who work long hours, and don't have much time to worry about news diversity may settle for listening to the radio a little, to the TV a little, and reading the newspaper a little. They may not even realize that there are other opinions and perspectives out there, nor do they have time to research those other perspectives.

It seems to me that the FCC censoring the S-word and the F-word is a violation of separation of church and state; Maybe I wouldn't feel that way if I were a Christian, but that's the whole point: why are Christian "values" being imposed on non-Christians? If saying "F--- that S---" is part of my culture, part of my way of life, then how is our society free if such a culture is censored for no practical moral reason? It seems very similar to colonial England suppressing Irish music and Irish dancing. We view the oppression of the Irish as horrible now, but I think future generations will think it odd that in 2006 we still had the Christian-manners-police slapping \$100,000 fines on cultural diversity.

As the FCC reconsiders its media ownership rules, please don't allow more media consolidation. When different companies control the TV, radio and newspapers in my community, they compete with each other to provide me better local and national news and information.

I don't want the same company that owns my TV station or my radio station to also own my newspaper. I would just get the same news recycled for a different outlet.

I rely on my local media sources to find out about national and local issues. And I want to feel confident that I can get all the viewpoints I need to make well-reasoned decisions about these issues. I also want media outlets in my town to care about my needs and interests.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. I look forward to hearing from you about your efforts to ensure diversity, localism and independence in our media.