

* Re: MEDIA CONSOLIDATION

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06-121

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10/27/06

Dear FCC -

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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Thank you, Mr Adelstein & Mr Copes, for being here in Oakland to let the Bay Area people express their concern with another round of media consolidation attempts. (I don't really understand why we have to go thru this again when it seemed clear the public is against any more media consolidation as evidenced in 2002 or '3.) But here we are again!

I am strongly against any more media consolidation. I don't see any benefit to it other than to make the corporations richer. So I urge the FCC to stick up for the people and for the small, independent media who need a voice, too, and not allow anymore media consolidation.

* RE: NET NEUTRALITY

Sirs, I also work for AT&T in San Ramon, Ca. I'm a 10 year employee with the company. I am a hard working, dedicated AT&T employee; first of all, though, I am for equality to all informational providers to the Internet, I strongly disagree with AT&T, Verizon, Comcast & all the other big co's, and I don't like how they're trying to push deregulation and tiered pricing/accessibility.

Please stand up for Net Neutrality. I see AT&T telling its thousands of employees that it's all about more competition equaling lower prices. I never see them broaching the subject of net neutrality. And I see the employees fall for it! Well, FCC, please don't you fall for it, too!

Thanks so much for your time & support!
Lou Petrozka

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YOUTH MEDIA COUNCIL



A/just Hip-Hop

Fairness and Accountability in Hip-Hop Radio

"Back in the day when I was young, I'm not a kid anymore but some days I sit and wish I was a kid again." -Skee-lo

Hip-Hop began in the 1980's just like radio did in the 1930's, by giving voice to the disenfranchised. Today 98% of the nation is reached by radio, while hip-hop has become an international phenomenon. In the Bay Area, 106.1 KMEL is the primary radio station for over 600,000 people, the vast majority of which are young people of color. As both hip-hop and radio have matured, it has been within a profit-driven music and media industry bent on using culture and the airwaves to shift public policy to the conservative right. Despite the potential of hip-hop radio stations to give voice to the conditions of impoverished communities worldwide and our fight for democratic rights, corporate and right-wing power places hip-hop radio at risk of being used not to transform racism, sexism, and class oppression but to maintain them. There's no doubt - the fight to reclaim hip-hop radio is a critical media justice issue.

This summer, members of the Si, Se Puede Fellowship - a training project of the Youth Media Council to develop the media strategy and activism of emerging organizers of color - conducted action research to identify the challenges corporate and right wing power posed to the use of hip hop radio as a tool for justice, and what listener-driven policy, standards, and action could improve access and accountability at the stations and their parent company Clear Channel Radio - returning both hip-hop and radio to their birth, when they belonged to you.

Three Steps to Hip-Hop & Radio Justice!

Legislate media policy that promotes racial justice and youth rights

- Renew broadcast licenses every 3 years instead of every 8 years
- Demand limits on corporate ownership and that corporate owners conduct studies to determine the impact of ownership rules on youth and communities of color
- Encourage local government to oppose hate radio and anti-competitive station practices

Increase hip-hop radio access and accountability for local artists and organizers

- Station decision makers should conduct regular community meetings with listeners and media activist groups
- Hip-hop radio stations should host representative, rotating advisory boards with real decision-making power over programming and community activities
- Hip-hop radio stations must implement feedback mechanisms to ensure responsiveness to community needs

Oppose racism, sexism, and homophobia in hip-hop programming

- Create a Code of Ethics for hip-hop radio DJ's and hosts
- Work with local community groups to increase relevant and representative news and educational programming
- Conduct and share station-based monitoring of programming content
- Institute content standards and training that opposes media bias and supports free speech and first amendment rights

Hip-hop Radio could be a vehicle for social change, but it's up to you!

For Commissioner Copps and Adelstein 06721

FCC HEARING ON MEDIA OWNERSHIP ACCEPTED

OCTOBER 27th, OAKLAND

NOV - 2 2006

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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TALKING POINTS to share with you

This form is intended to help you formulate your comments before going to the microphone.
Remember: You will only have two minutes to speak (that's about 250-300 words!). Use your time wisely!

Greetings, my name is Cathleen Plutchok (Palo Alto)

I am/represent a private citizen
(mention a community you belong to, example: your neighborhood, ethnic group, profession, etc)

Commissioners Copps and Adelstein, please stop media consolidation! Yes!

Share ONE story from your own experience and give specific examples about how Big Media is affecting you and your community. Most of your testimony should focus on your own story; this is what the Commissioners need to hear!
(See examples below)

I need to leave before citizen comments.
I came from Palo Alto to be here today.
Thank you so much for standing for our democracy!
To have a democracy we need to have many small
radio & TV stations, newspapers and the
free internet - for goodness sakes keep our internet
free & open to all. with open meetings & decision making.
TV could be such a powerful media for informing
America with the truth!

In the Bay Area are TV stations offer no diversity, Clear Channel dominates the radio market, and MediaNews monopolizes the daily newspapers (see examples of all of these on the back of this page.)

Give YOUR OWN EXAMPLE of ONE of these: There is so much we could learn from T.V. - instead we get programs on 4/5/7/57/etc.

1) Big Media means less diversity and less local programming. aimed at the lowest common denominator.
As local stations get bought up by big, national corporations with centralized operations, they become less accountable to our local communities and to the issues that are important to us. We end up with less coverage of community-oriented news, local sports, and local elections. People of color and working class families are either ignored or stereotyped.

2) Big Media means fewer viewpoints. Anyway - thank you for caring!
When one company buys multiple media outlets in a single city or town, that corporation gains immense influence over what information a community can access. Big corporations push out other outlets that may offer competing points of view. We are left with less diversity of voices and a narrower range of debate. A few channels are great 4/5/7 etc.

3) Big Media means fewer jobs and lower salaries.
A recent study of the radio industry showed that the more consolidated markets have fewer radio announcers, reporters, and technicians, and they are paid less. Job losses in these professions indicate that fewer local residents make decisions now about what music to play and what stories to report.

Thank you for helping us in the public
asset our ownership rights
No one should have to "buy" time for
necessary political speeches. We need to
be informed as well as entertained.
Our current main papers don't even notify
us of political debates for governor, etc. (over)

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For a horrifying look at what's happening to our Congress look at the pod cast of "today's Democracy Now" with Amy Goodman & Juan Gonzalez

TALKING POINTS
WHERE'S THE DIVERSITY?

We no longer have a democratic Congress — very scary

Women make up more than half of the U.S. population, but own less than 5% of all TV stations in the country.

People of color make up more than 1/3 of the U.S. population, but own about 3% percent of all TV stations in the country.

Blacks comprise 13% of the entire U.S. population but own about 1% percent of all TV stations in the country. 9 out of 10 Black households are NOT reached by any Black-owned TV station. Since 1998, the number of TV stations increased by approximately 12%, but the number of Black-owned stations decreased by 30%.

Out of an estimated 12,500 stories aired by ABC, CBS and NBC in 2005, the three major English-language networks, less than 1% were exclusively about Latinos or Latino-related issues.

NBC's Telemundo announced last Friday that it will close its San Jose studio and it will no longer offer local news in the Bay Area. This means there may be only one Spanish-language local newscast in a city that is more than 1/3 Latino. Telemundo news for the Bay will be piped in through Burbank and Dallas/Forth Worth.

CLEAR CHANNEL SPREADS HATE IN THE BAY AREA!

Current FCC rules limit corporate ownership to 8 radio stations in any one market. Clear Channel exploited a loophole in this rule and owns 11 radio stations in the Bay Area market (San Francisco, San Jose, Oakland).

Clear Channel owns 910AM KNEW, a right-wing talk station notorious for its sensational content. The Youth Media Council and Media Alliance monitored KNEW and found numerous incidents of hateful speech. For example, talk hosts used the word 'vermin' to refer to undocumented immigrants more than 43 times in one 40-minute segment.

The FCC now wants to remove existing ownership limits and allow companies like Clear Channel to own even more radio stations in the Bay Area. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

THERE'S A MONOPOLY IN PRINT!

One company (Dean Singleton's MediaNews) now controls more than 40 daily and weekly newspapers in Northern California—from Monterey to Marin—including the San Jose Mercury News and the Oakland Tribune. In other words, every major daily except for the SF Chron... but the SF Chron is a partner of MediaNews in its Bay Area merger! How do you spell monopoly?

Singleton's company has already announced over 100 layoffs in the Mercury News, the second time the Merc has cut staff in less than a year; more to come in the Contra Costa Times.

The FCC wants to allow Dean Singleton to buy local radio and TV stations. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

For more info:



www.action.youthmediacouncil.org

www.media-alliance.org

