

No Where to Go -- Nothing to Do

Our retirement plans were uprooted when I became suddenly disabled, and then 3 years later, my husband became disabled, in a completely unrelated way. Add to that, the causes for our chronic pain and other health issues are either very rare, so little information is known, even by doctors, or so recently diagnosed within the medical community that half the doctors don't even believe the diagnosis exist, and none of the doctors have any ways of treating them. What are the chances that our doctors will spend any of their time searching the Internet to learn the latest treatments?

The Internet gives us the ability to keep seeking new ways of treating our health problems, as well as a forum to have social contact with the outside world. It is a rare day, when both of us are up to going out together, and even then, activity is limited to no more than three hours per day. Despite our years of work, Social Security Disability is just enough to live on, with no extras for lavish spending. We don't own cell phones, nor have cable TV, so we can afford coming onto the Internet. It is also the only place I know to go when I need clothing, since my pain area is along my waistline, forcing me to only wear clothing that doesn't bind the waist.

Without free access to all stores, and all informational sites online, we will have to completely jump over to being recluses. Our connection with others will be cut down to an occasional conversation with a cashier, until I run out of clothes to wear outside. (Bibfronts are going out of style, and shortalls have never been in style.)

As conservatives, we're all for big businesses, but even then monopolies should remain illegal! We already live in a liberal city, whose two newspapers are run by the same liberal conglomerate. Our local news stations are also run by conglomerates, so, in those brief moments when they actually tell news (compared to the "important stories" of celebrities' lives) there is no doubt of liberal opining, so the Internet is still the only place we can get real news.

Hopefully, you will remember the story of that little town in Mississippi during Katrina, to understand the need for free press, as well as, a free Internet. Not only do our lives depend on it, but the freedom we all have in the United States, requires this medium to remain neutral.

Your decision even goes beyond the boundaries of the United States, since the Internet is an International medium now. With that, your decision will have more ramifications than the war in Iraq could ever have, and given how the use of the Internet is slowly pushing politicians to act to help the people in Darfur, your decision will also save lives of millions around the world. Please make the sound decision, and keep our Internet free. Thank you.