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10 about localism, competition and diversity, why  
11 not go back to the original rule, one outlet  
12 per -- per community. (Applause.)

13 And if consolidated media is really the  
14 best way to start with public interest, why is  
15 the majority of the public unaware of the media  
16 ownership -- (Inaudible) -- the future  
17 elimination of analog television as they know  
18 it, how digital interactive television will  
19 impact their lives.

20 If media wants to serve the public  
21 interests, they must make the public aware of  
22 the information they need to make informed  
23 decisions.

24 And we ask you to help us find our way to  
25 a balanced media landscape that can give us

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1 the hurricane coverage we need, as well as the  
2 opportunity for the public to get the  
3 information they need for democracy.

4 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. SIGALOS: Would the following people  
7 go to their nearest microphone, starting with  
8 Number 27, Cynthia Mercer, James McCarthy,  
9 Beth Wolfe, Chris Brudy, Bill Bucolo and  
10 Andrew Rock.

11 Erica Rogers.

12 MS. ROGERS: Erica Rogers, Regional Vice  
13 President of the American Heart Association.  
14 Since 1948, the American Heart Association has

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15 worked with the media to generate funds and  
16 educate the public about fighting vascular  
17 disease.

18 Here in the Tampa Bay Area, broadcasters  
19 work closely with our organization to achieve  
20 these results by sponsoring our fundraising  
21 events, hosting special media events and  
22 providing editorial coverage of the issues.

23 The local media sponsor of our  
24 fundraising events have, by doing so, by  
25 giving the agreed amount of public service

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1 announcements designed to drive attendance  
2 while also creating awareness about  
3 cardiovascular disease (sic.)

4 Thanks to media support of our local  
5 fundraising events, we've raised nearly 2.5  
6 million dollars in Tampa Bay Area within the  
7 last 12 months.

8 Not only have the local broadcasters been  
9 generous with their donation and on their  
10 inventory, but they've also created their own  
11 special media events designed to teach Tampa  
12 Bay how to stop how diseases grow (sic.)

13 Each year the American Heart Association  
14 works with the local affiliates to host  
15 Charter Heart (sic) in February and Stroke  
16 Alert in May. Each event, at no cost to the  
17 American Heart Association, includes viable  
18 interviews, packaged stories, a day-long phone  
19 bank at the station in which viewers are  
20 encouraged to call and receive additional

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21 information.

22 Three years ago, during one of these  
23 events, a viewer called in to the phone bank  
24 having just seen a story about a young woman  
25 suffering from a stroke. The viewer described

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1 having similar warning signs. She was quickly  
2 to told hang up and dial 911. We received a  
3 note from that viewer a week later saying that  
4 story saved her life.

5 The American Heart Association teaches  
6 the community how to reduce the risk from  
7 heart disease through these special media  
8 events as well as through traditional  
9 editorial coverage.

10 I could recount dozens of examples, like  
11 the one I just mentioned, of the positive  
12 impact our partnership with local media has  
13 had on the people in our community.

14 The local media allows the American Heart  
15 Association to connect with hundreds of  
16 thousands of Bay Area residents each and every  
17 month in a meaningful, memorable and  
18 manageable way.

19 Our media partnerships are truly helping  
20 the Heart Association not only change lives  
21 but save them.

22 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

23 Cynthia Mercer.

24 MS. MERCER: I want to take a walk down  
25 memory lane. I'm a child of television. I

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1 grew up in the '50s and early '60s. And  
2 media -- and I actually remember when media  
3 were locally owned.

4 I had grew up in Charlotte, North  
5 Carolina. We had a couple of network  
6 television stations. The quality was poor, by  
7 today's standards, but it was local  
8 information and served the community.

9 There were farm reports in the early  
10 morning. There was a children's program later  
11 in the afternoon. There was usually a  
12 home-making show in the middle of the day.

13 And, by the way, the stars of the local  
14 children's program was available for birthday  
15 parties. And most of the kids knew this guy  
16 personally.

17 And these local shows advertised local  
18 businesses that many people in the community  
19 knew and -- and went to -- went shopping  
20 there. On the weekend there was usually a  
21 local bandstand-like show for teens.

22 The evening news was news, not a promo  
23 for network programming or cross-promotion for  
24 the station's sister newspaper. There was  
25 always an editorial that made you think. We

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1 often disagreed, but it was better than what  
2 we have now.

3 The radio carried a variety of  
4 programming. There were black-owned stations.  
5 The DJ programming was strictly local with a

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6 few minutes of national news and sports on the  
7 half-hour.

8 Now my main sources of local and state  
9 news are our local public and community radio  
10 stations and the Internet and the St. Pete  
11 Times.

12 I tune out most of the commercial TV  
13 stations and all commercial radio. They no  
14 longer serve my needs. News is -- I get my  
15 television news for international and national  
16 from the BBC and PBS.

17 I would ask you, please, put the "local"  
18 back in local media and support democracy.  
19 Thank you.

20 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

21 James McCarthy.

22 MR. MCCARTHY: Good evening. I'd like to  
23 thank the Commissioners for coming to Tampa to  
24 listen to this. I'm a disabled veteran, and  
25 I've been in this position for 45 years.

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1 I have some experience in the media,  
2 because I've worked for two newspapers and  
3 worked for a publisher in Hartford,  
4 Connecticut, and more recently have become  
5 involved with community nonprofit TV and radio  
6 here in Tampa.

7 As a concerned citizen, I try to gain  
8 news from as many possible sources as I can,  
9 because, frankly, I don't trust most of them.  
10 Recently, a couple of my more liberal friends

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11 chided me for reading the Tampa Tribune over  
12 the St. Petersburg newspaper.

13 I was informed that the Tribune wrote at  
14 the level of a fifth-grader, and the  
15 St. Petersburg newspaper wrote at the level of  
16 a ninth-grader. I am smarter than a  
17 fifth-grader.

18 I would like to congratulate some of the  
19 speakers, most notably the ones from the  
20 newspaper, the Neighborhood News, and the last  
21 speaker that spoke. He was right on the  
22 money.

23 It's unfortunate many of the decisions  
24 made in corporate America have to do with  
25 money. But in the case of the media, it's

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1 really tragic when they have their own  
2 agendas, and they slant the news, do their --  
3 whatever they call it -- "spins" in order to  
4 accomplish their agendas. It doesn't say much  
5 for how we receive news in this country and  
6 is -- the problem is exacerbated by companies  
7 who own too many companies. Thank you.

8 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

9 Beth Wolfe.

10 MS. WOLFE: My name is Beth Wolfe. I'm  
11 opposed to further media consolidation. I  
12 don't think the current arrangements serve the  
13 public interests.

14 The current level of media consolidation  
15 has created the illusion of diversity; media  
16 landscape that may appear diverse on its face

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17 but in reality fosters little or no debate and  
18 includes little or no divergent perspectives.

19 In Tampa Bay, the only place where I can  
20 hear my perspective, hear from minority  
21 candidates or learn the details of government  
22 decisions made on my behalf is the community  
23 radio station, WMNF (Applause.)

24 The station that's been for -- finance  
25 the -- (Inaudible.) This community station

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1 has survived in spite of the corporate media  
2 environment not because of it.

3 Citizens are clamoring for access to  
4 media with diversity and local information.  
5 So 30 years ago activists walked door to door  
6 in this community soliciting contributions to  
7 start this radio station. And they still  
8 support it today, because it helps them be  
9 better citizens.

10 But in today's media environment,  
11 consolidation levels as they are, there would  
12 be no way that a commercial-free,  
13 listener-supported broadcaster could start up  
14 and survive.

15 Licensing restrictions aside, the idea of  
16 creating and funding another source of media  
17 doesn't seem urgent for most people, because  
18 they languish under the idea of this illusion  
19 of diversity.

20 People see a Spanish-language TV station  
21 or a newspaper, and they may assume it's owned

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22 and operated by someone who's got an interest.  
23 But 99 times out of a hundred, it's owned by a  
24 media conglomerate, controlled by shareholders  
25 or wealthy PR firms on Madison Avenue.

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1 Can the public interest be served best by  
2 those whose first priority is a 20-percent  
3 profit margin?

4 The video news release in convergent  
5 newsrooms who don't -- (Inaudible) -- they all  
6 play a part in lulling people into the  
7 illusion that they are local media outlets  
8 working to serve their interests, when  
9 actually the corporate bosses in cities far,  
10 far away have had their corporate filters on  
11 it first.

12 Community stations are one answer. But,  
13 again, starting one today from scratch, when  
14 people are already paying ever-increasing sums  
15 for cable TV and satellite radio, which  
16 creates this illusion of diversity, could be  
17 just like this shy of impossible (sic.)

18 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

19 (Applause.)

20 Chris Brudy.

21 MR. BRUDY: My name is Chris Brudy.

22 Let's see, the biggest media companies will  
23 extend their reach further after this, even  
24 though it's gone far too far, as it is.

25 To be honest, the media should be

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1 fragmented down to the lowest level. It would  
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2 be great if nobody owned more than one radio  
3 station, one newspaper, one channel;  
4 unfortunately, that won't happen.

5 A remand of the Fairness Doctrine should  
6 be reinstated. Lapses should be severely  
7 punished.

8 A VOICE: That's right.

9 MR. BRUDY: The won't happen either. The  
10 reason is because the same people that own the  
11 mainstream media and the MSN are the same ones  
12 who are the war-profiteers, the same ones who  
13 financed, present control -- controlling the  
14 executive branch.

15 They are making big money on the war.  
16 And they need to fool the America vacuum.  
17 People need to get this back in (sic.) This  
18 is what the mainstream media does.

19 And all along, the United States is being  
20 run by traitors headed by Dick Cheney. These  
21 traitors with the MSN, own the whole  
22 oligopoly, have stolen the white House in  
23 2000, they are going to straight on the  
24 attack, and they have -- in 9/11 -- killing  
25 thousands of Americans (sic.)

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1 They were out to gain the U.N. and the  
2 American public with a wall of big lies  
3 concerning the attack. They fooled us into  
4 backing their invasions in Afghanistan and  
5 Iraq. And they were after all -- and the  
6 money that could be drained from the treasury

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7 (sic.)

8 The fact that they had just finished  
9 assuming power in 2004 through the use of  
10 their voting machines was just an added bonus  
11 for them. It could've not've been done  
12 without the help of the Republican mainstream  
13 media oligopoly.

14 They've corrupted and criminally misused  
15 the defense, intelligence and law enforcement  
16 sectors in the federal government making this  
17 hearing really just kind of a side show. The  
18 real news story is treason, hundreds of  
19 treasons.

20 They need -- they need some help in this  
21 country, and that's from the free Internet.  
22 Thank God, there are still ways to get some  
23 information around. There are still ways to  
24 do -- and find out what has been actually  
25 going on here.

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1 You should go with people like Bob Bowman  
2 and Mike Hooper and Gary Singh (Phonetic),  
3 Mark Adams, Clint Curtis and Prison Planet  
4 (sic), if you'd like to know more. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. SIGALOS: Bill Bucolo.

7 MR. BUCOLO: Good afternoon,  
8 Commissioners. I'm Bill Bucolo. Thank you  
9 very much for coming to the Tampa Bay to  
10 personally to hear our views on media  
11 ownership and consolidation.

12 I'm a media broker. And I worked in  
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13 print communications and in the general field  
14 of journalism for over 40 years. I currently  
15 publish an area-wide e-mail list of several  
16 hundred local -- (Inaudible) -- residents and  
17 activists.

18 our founding fathers considered the free  
19 flow of information to be the life blood of  
20 our democracy. It is the prized right of  
21 Americans (sic.) Over 200 years later, we  
22 still, obviously, do not take it for granted,  
23 as you can see from your mail and the large  
24 audiences you draw to a public hearing.

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25 That said, it must be clear what the

1 public's opinion of the FCC's recent trends  
2 toward corporate consolidation is.

3 Consolidation interferes with the free flow of  
4 information, because large corporations simply  
5 cannot serve local businesses and residents as  
6 well as local business and residents.  
7 (Applause.) And people have suffered because  
8 of it.

9 Unless you have decided that America  
10 needs less media diversity, less locally  
11 produced news, less responsive public service,  
12 you need to stop supporting corporate  
13 consolidation over local media.

14 Please encourage diversity. Also  
15 encourage more locally-produced news and  
16 entertainment. Make this mandatory, no matter  
17 who owns the media.

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18 And please keep this in mind about the  
19 giant corporations who ask you to approve  
20 owner consolidation. Be suspicious.  
21 Corporations exist to make money, not to  
22 provide a free flow of information.

23 I remind you, it is large corporations  
24 who consistently oppose governmental roles in  
25 universal health care, clean air, water and a

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1 healthy government, our environment. Please  
2 say -- that they oppose better safety  
3 regulations in the workplace --

4 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

5 MR. BUCOLO: -- and developing  
6 alternative energy, and only large  
7 corporations -- (Inaudible) -- stop this  
8 disastrous war.

9 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

10 MR. BUCOLO: Corporations are killing us.

11 MR. SIGALOS: Will the following people  
12 please go to the nearest microphone. Anne  
13 Goldenburg, Wayne Sallade, Kristin McClanahan,  
14 Mary Ann Massolio, Jamie Ewing and Ben  
15 Winthrop.

16 Andrew Rock.

17 MR. ROCK: Commissioners, thank you very  
18 much for taking your show on the road and  
19 letting the public into the process for a few  
20 hours. I really hope you will remember our  
21 voices when you're back inside the beltway  
22 surrounded by lobbyists.

23 We are your constituents, not them. We

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24 are the people who care about democracy, not  
25 them -- (Applause.) I'm here as a concerned

1 citizen, who is incredibly concerned about the  
2 preservation of American democracy. And  
3 that's why I'm against further consolidation  
4 of the broadcast media.

5 Democracy relies on the press, now called  
6 the media, to inform us and provide diverse  
7 opinion. Unfortunately, the corporate  
8 broadcast media is not about informing the  
9 public. As Steven Wilson said, it's about  
10 selling to the public, what to buy, what to  
11 think, who to vote for.

12 My wife and I don't have a television.  
13 We didn't when we were raising our kids, and  
14 that's precisely because we wanted them to  
15 grow up as we well-informed citizens and  
16 independent thinkers.

17 We prescribed to the -- we subscribe to  
18 the St. Pete Times, but we rely on WMNF and  
19 the Internet for our real news.

20 As we said earlier, it's amazing when you  
21 travel internationally to find there's better  
22 coverage of the United States in foreign  
23 papers than you find in our own shores.

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24 Yes, the networks do a good job, pretty  
25 much, on the hurricanes. But what have you

1 heard from them about global warming, until  
2 about ten days ago when it was impossible to

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3 ignore?

4 Finally, I want to make a heart-felt plea  
5 to the Commission. TV and radio broadcasters  
6 should be required, as a condition of  
7 licensure, to provide free and equal time to  
8 all credible political candidates.  
9 (Applause.) Out elections should not be  
10 decided by which candidate raises the most  
11 money and pays for ads on television.

12 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

13 MR. ROCK: Thank you.

14 MR. SIGALOS: Anne Goldenberg.

15 MS. GOLDENBERG: Hello. Good evening.

16 I'm Anne Goldenburg. I'm the executive  
17 director of the Tampa Education Cable  
18 Consortium. We are a small, nonprofit local  
19 company that's made up of all of the local,  
20 educational and cultural institutions here in  
21 Hillsborough County.

22 We were created over 20 years ago to take  
23 advantage of the new thing in town, "Cable."  
24 We program now two 24/7, 355 days a year of  
25 noncommercial local educational programming.

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1 Here's some examples of the programs you  
2 can find on our local channel that you can't  
3 find anywhere else. We have gavel-to-gavel  
4 coverage of all of our school board meetings.  
5 We have the Florida Department of Education  
6 come into town, we are there to give the  
7 public the entire unedited coverage.

8 We also provide our local college

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9 students with over 52 college courses. So  
10 whether you're a student at the University of  
11 South Florida or HCC, you can get your college  
12 telecourse.

13 We also provide Math Homework Hotline. I  
14 don't know about your kids, but I know my kids  
15 sometimes have a little bit of trouble with  
16 math and, well, it is essentially the path  
17 (sic) in today's world.

18 When our community looked at this issue  
19 and asked how can we use television to help  
20 our kids, Math Homework Hotline was what we  
21 came up with.

22 We have great teachers who man the phones  
23 every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and help  
24 our kids. There are TV teachers that take  
25 live calls and off-screen teachers that take

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1 calls. We've helped over 2,000 kids this year  
2 and over 20,000 kids since we've been on the  
3 air.

4 We've also made tutorials that are  
5 available, not only on the air but on the web.  
6 We also do things with our League of Women  
7 voters, like school-board debates, so  
8 candidates in our community can really have a  
9 good understanding of what kind of school  
10 policies are going to be affecting their kids.

11 We also have over 110 noncommercial,  
12 nonviolent children's series on Saturday  
13 mornings. If you turn on the education

14 channel on Saturday morning --

15 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

16 MS. GOLDENBERG: -- you will not  
17 be cursorily interrupted. It's good stuff. We  
18 want more good stuff. So please be very  
19 careful when you're thinking about media --

20 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

21 MS. GOLDENBERG: -- in public and about  
22 how you can encourage a variety of public  
23 discourses.

24 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

25 MS. GOLDENBURG: Thank you.

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1 MR. SIGALOS: Wayne --

2 MR. SALLADE: It's "Sallade," sir.

3 Thank you. I'm not an elected official,  
4 not a former politician, not a business person,  
5 not a ex- -- disgruntled ex-employee. I'm the  
6 emergency management director from Charlotte  
7 County, Florida, Punta Gorda.

8 You heard Pat Roberts allude earlier this  
9 afternoon to what we went through on August  
10 13th, 2004, when we got the hurricane that was  
11 coming to Tampa Bay.

12 As the hurricane was bearing down on us  
13 with its winds of 150 miles an hour and gusts  
14 over 190 miles per hour that would destroy  
15 11,000 homes in our community, destroy six of  
16 our schools, four fire stations and countless  
17 lives, the broadcasters of my local radio  
18 stations, one a small independent AM from the  
19 west county, and the other, a Clear Channel 5

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20 station conglomerate was by my side.

21 They never left my side. Until we were  
22 forced to evacuate the emergency operations  
23 center, when the winds began to take the  
24 building apart, they stayed with me. They  
25 went with me to the hiding place where we rode

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1 out that hurricane that fateful Friday  
2 afternoon.

3 When the winds began to ease, they all  
4 wanted to leave before it was safe. I had to  
5 physically restrain them. When the Clear  
6 Channel guys got back to their studio, the  
7 roof was gone. They had the station back on  
8 the air -- one of their stations back on the  
9 air -- within about two hours.

10 They broadcast through the night for  
11 18 hours to the people of Charlotte County,  
12 who had no other means communication. They  
13 kept on the air, talking to people, letting  
14 them tell us what was going on.

15 They kept their representatives at my  
16 emergency operations center throughout the  
17 days and weeks that followed, including  
18 Hurricane Frances and Hurricane Jeanne, which  
19 forced us to evacuate our facilities again.

20 Those folks from Clear Channel were there  
21 for us. And I just thought that side of the  
22 story needed to be told. That's one local  
23 news story that is very, very good news. And  
24 I'm very proud to be a partner and to have

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25 them as partners in my community.

1 And this is my chance to publicly thank  
2 them for their efforts on August 13th, 2004,  
3 and the weeks that followed. Thank you.

4 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

5 Kristin McClanahan.

6 MS. MCCLANAHAN: Hi. Thank you very much  
7 for the opportunity to speak tonight.

8 I work for Junior Achievement. I'm a  
9 marketing manager of Junior Achievement of  
10 West Central Florida. In case you don't know,  
11 Junior Achievement is a nonprofit organization  
12 that provides programs and activities to  
13 children, teaching them the economics of life.

14 Junior Achievement of West Central  
15 Florida feels the collaboration of eight Clear  
16 Channel stations has made a tremendous impact  
17 on our Bay Area and young people more so than  
18 anyone individual radio station would have  
19 been able to do or could ever do.

20 Clear Channel radio stations provide  
21 job-sharing experiences for hundreds of high  
22 school students throughout the year.  
23 Corporate team members volunteer inside the  
24 classrooms, teaching kids about the economics  
25 of staying in school.

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1 And Clear Channel is a major sponsor of  
2 two enterprise villages on both sides of the  
3 Bay. By Clear Channel's support and  
4 contributions to Junior Achievement, they

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5 impact more than 30,000 kids annually.

6 Clear Channel Communications is one of  
7 Junior Achievement's top partners in the  
8 community, providing the children with a  
9 unique experience that no other business could  
10 alone provide.

11 Their participation allows for kids to  
12 learn about mass communication and the  
13 business principles needed to support this  
14 industry in our community.

15 On a personal note, whether the media  
16 industry is being consolidated or broken up,  
17 as a young person with younger siblings, I  
18 feel that what's most important and what I  
19 would like to see happen in the media industry  
20 is a little bit of reformation.

21 I want to see more honesty. I hate that  
22 everything seems to be driven by what brings  
23 in the most ratings and what brings in the  
24 most money. I want to see good intentions,  
25 and I want to see what's best for the people,

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1 whether that's more or less, I just want to  
2 see what's best.

3 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

4 MS. MCCLANAHAN: Thank you.

5 MR. SIGALOS: Mary Ann Massolio.

6 MS. MASSOLIO: Good evening. My name is  
7 Mary Ann Massolio, and I'm the executive  
8 director for the Children's Cancer Center,  
9 which is a local 501(c)3 organization that's

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10 been here in the Tampa Bay Area for about 30  
11 years.

12 We've talked a lot tonight about  
13 organizations, Clear Channel's WFLA. What I  
14 wanted to do is kind'a tap into the  
15 individuals behind these big names.

16 Clear Channel is a huge company. It does  
17 what it needs to do. But what I want to do is  
18 talk a little bit about the above and beyond  
19 that these employees do.

20 They don't need to be at our fundraisers,  
21 they don't need to be at our children's  
22 funerals, they don't need to be arranging any  
23 -- (Inaudible). But they do. They have their  
24 jobs. They are required to do PSA. But what  
25 they do above and beyond is what I want to

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1 talk about today.

2 And Ron Diaz and Ian Beckles are two fine  
3 examples of that. As many of you maybe  
4 listened to them for sports reasons, you'll  
5 also hear that they do a lot of promoting of  
6 the Children's Cancer Center.

7 Ron had one of our teams on about two  
8 years ago on air, fell in love with this  
9 child, and as a result, has done an annual  
10 golf tournament every year, again on the side,  
11 off the air, behind the scenes.

12 But I want everyone to know that Ron Diaz  
13 has raised over \$80,000 for the Children's  
14 Cancer Center, on his own, recruiting friends,  
15 as has Ian Beckles, as has Tom Doyle and Mike

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16 Olivera, who actually serves on the board here  
17 at the Children's Cancer Center.

18 And I know that they're very busy people,  
19 and I know that they have a lot of other  
20 things to do, but I wanted to put kind of a  
21 happy slant on it and a better slant on it and  
22 show you what they do.

23 The media tends to just advertise and  
24 show the bad side of our athletes and what's  
25 going on with media. And I'm here to say that

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1 there's a very nice side to them, as well,  
2 that we are a local charity and we depend very  
3 heavily on local support from the free local  
4 radio. Thank you.

5 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

6 Jamie Ewing.

7 MS. EWING: Good evening everyone. My  
8 names id a Jamie Ewing. I am from ACORN, the  
9 Association of Community Organizers for Reform  
10 Now.

11 We are one of the groups that WMNF Radio  
12 was talking about, the door-knockers. I am a  
13 member and a chairperson at ACORN, so I feel  
14 that I can speak on this issue and represent  
15 many, many other people in our community.

16 We do not want these big conglomerates to  
17 come in and be able tell us what we can see,  
18 what we can hear or what we can read. What  
19 they will be doing is not only getting richer  
20 off of us, but they will be forming a

21 dictatorship.

22 They will dictate to us what we see, what  
23 we hear and what we read. We want to hear  
24 what is going on in our local communities. It  
25 is important to us that live here to know what

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1 is happening in our own communities. I don't  
2 care what's going on in Chicago, Illinois. It  
3 does not affect my life here in Tampa.

4 We do not want these people to be able to  
5 come in and take over our lives. And that is  
6 virtually what they will be doing. Thank you.

7 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

8 Would the following people please come to  
9 the microphone. Dr. Don Thompson, David  
10 Beaton, Lawrence Rossini, Arlene Sweeting,  
11 Sarah Kell, David Carr and Ellen Lasher.

12 Ben Winthrop.

13 A VOICE: -- what number?

14 MR. SIGALOS: I called just to Number 45.  
15 That's the last number. And I'm trying to  
16 time it. It's 7:15 now. We're trying to take  
17 our break at 7:30. Hopefully, I've done it  
18 about right. But that last name, Ellen  
19 Lasher, was Number 45.

20 Mr. Winthrop.

21 MR. WINTHROP: I'm cool.

22 MR. SIGALOS: Yeah.

23 MR. WINTHROP: All right. Good.

24 So, yeah, I'm Ben. And I just really  
25 want to say, what part of "Monopolies Are A Bad

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1 Idea" do you people not seem to get anymore?

2 (Applause.)

3 I mean, really, okay. Like, look, I play  
4 the Parker's Brothers, a little board game,  
5 for awhile, until when I was about eight years  
6 old. And I had a lot of fun with it. It was  
7 a great game. All right. If you want to take  
8 that same concept and apply it to our media  
9 market just strikes me as idiotic. And I  
10 really can't think of a worse way to go.

11 Let me ask you a question. All right.  
12 How many people know that they have  
13 foreclosed -- there've been foreclosed homes  
14 in America; it's risen by 300,000 homes in  
15 year (sic)?

16 All right. We've got four people. Come  
17 on. Now, there's been numerous -- there --  
18 there have been press conferences on this.  
19 There has been quite a lot to talk about this  
20 issue. There's been studies reported and  
21 everything else. And all of this stuff has  
22 been sent to local media markets.

23 And we've got four people in here who  
24 knows that, who knows what's going on with  
25 that, four people who know the number of homes

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1 being foreclosed on. Those are homes in our  
2 neighborhoods.

3 we've got people right now who are -- you  
4 know, they're just losing everything, you got  
5 the elderly, first-time home buyers, young

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6 families, couples -- everything -- losing  
7 everything. And, still, it's not really being  
8 report on that much.

9 And I ask, will these four people know  
10 what's going on with the home mortgage prices  
11 and other finance crises that are facing  
12 America today if we have further media  
13 consolidation.

14 And, I'm sorry, but -- (Inaudible) --  
15 Monopoly board game, I general speak in --  
16 yeah, I just talk trash to everybody around  
17 me. And I'm pretty sure that's what the rest  
18 of them will do, too. Thanks a lot.

19 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

20 Dr. Don Thompson.

21 DR. THOMPSON: I'm Dr. Don Thompson. I'm  
22 also a retired United Methodist minister and  
23 graduate of Dickinson College in Harrisburg  
24 area, where I learned critical thinking.

25 And my friend Dick told me the story of

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1 the minnow that was eaten by a fish, and the  
2 fish was eaten by the barracuda. And that's  
3 what's happening with media conglomerates.  
4 They're the barracudas that are eating up our  
5 valuable local sources, like WMNF and WSLR in  
6 Sarasota.

7 And we also have the Knight-Ridder  
8 information from our local newspaper in  
9 Bradenton, the Bradenton Harold. So these  
10 kinds of things that we're not getting in the  
11 media that's -- (Inaudible) -- itself and

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12 having its hench-people write about it so  
13 much, are not telling us the truth.

14 They didn't tell us about how Katherine  
15 Harris, the secretary of state, manipulated  
16 the 2000 election by deleting 90,000 voters  
17 from the rolls because they had names similar  
18 to felons in their record. We learned that  
19 from WMNF and WSLR and Frank Powells  
20 (Phonetic), who happened to be an  
21 investigative reporter in the Manchester  
22 Guardian in order to survive a document with  
23 that kind of truth (sic.)

24 I also have been -- well, I listen to --  
25 (Inaudible) -- when it starts. And we found

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1 that no invasion of Panama, not all of the  
2 South American newspapers, condemned the  
3 invasion of Panama, except the international  
4 Miami Harold. That should tell you something  
5 about conglomerate newspaper, video, TV,  
6 radio, how it operate. We need the  
7 enlightenment that has had -- (Inaudible)  
8 through '54. And I think --

9 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

10 DR. THOMPSON: -- do not allow the  
11 conglomerates to continue on their --

12 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

13 David Beaton.

14 MR. BEATON: Hello, Honorable  
15 Commissioners. I, David Beaton, come to you  
16 today as the current chair of WSLR an LP-FM