

7 After further inquiry, we discovered that
8 it would indeed be impossible for us to buy
9 what we needed. We did spend our money on
10 advertising locally, in the newspapers, a
11 couple of weekends. And we relied on
12 community calendars to announce our event.

13 I don't believe that we were served well
14 by our commercial TV and radio. Fortunately
15 for us, there was WMNF Community Radio.
16 (Applause.) They held a live on-air event
17 discussion Friday before Labor Day, and we
18 were allowed to attend week. Thank you very
19 much.

20 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

21 Greg Landwirth.

22 (No audible response.)

23 Greg Landwirth.

24 (No audible response.)

25 Clay Colson.

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1 MR. COLSON: Greetings. My name is Clay
2 Colson. I'm a native Floridian, one of the
3 endangered species.

4 I'd like to think I speak for "we the
5 People," when I tell you, the FCC, what your
6 job is. It is to serve the public interests.
7 Media consolidation is not in the public
8 interest. Media consolidation is dangerous to
9 our democratic republic.

10 A working democracy requires independent,
11 unbiased factual reporting of the news. To
12 function properly, a well-informed public is

13 tantamount to our democratic republic. This
14 cannot happen with further media
15 consolidation.

16 I offer as evidence the lead-up to the
17 illegal, immoral invasion and occupation of
18 Iraq, as the corporately consolidated and
19 controlled media acted as cheerleaders for the
20 administration, beating the drums of war.

21 (Applause.)

22 Further evidence is the Downing Street
23 minutes, front-page news around the world,
24 even in Canada and Mexico, but virtually
25 unreported by our corporately consolidated and

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1 controlled media.

2 Then, still, are the stolen presidential
3 elections of 2000 and 2004. Again, front-page
4 news worldwide. There was proper, in-depth
5 investigation done by grand (sic) powers of
6 the BBC of the mechanisms and deception and
7 how it happened. Yet, virtually, no coverage
8 in this country.

9 But if you want the best evidence of how
10 we, the people, have failed -- especially
11 locally -- just go back to your hotel, turn on
12 your TV and watch how the local standard
13 broadcast stations covered this event. And
14 don't forget to pick up the two major papers
15 on your way out of town. They'll speak
16 volumes.

17 No media consolidation. Thank you.

18

(Applause.)

19

MR. SIGALOS: Lillian Dunlap.

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MS. DUNLAP: Hello. Thank you for bringing this meeting here. My name is Lillian Dunlap. I am a journalist, a former professor of journalism, and also currently a media consultant.

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access. And, first of all, I would say that when we don't have diversity of voices in the news, we just don't fail to include a voice, we actually fail to accurately tell our story.

And, in fact, we don't -- we don't even have a story to tell, because it's filled with holes. And I'm concerned about that, as we lead up to 2009 in our move from analogue to digital.

So by 2009 television stations, for example, will have potentially six channels instead of just one. Right. Some will use traditional programming. But there could be as many as four left. And I'm concerned about those four and those being available for minority groups or for small businesses, and so forth.

So my comment is -- and this is what I would like for the Commissioners to do. I've read of that -- this discussion among the Commissioners, about allowing minority groups to lease digital channels or to somehow -- somehow participate in having a digital

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24 channel. And that sounds like a very good
25 idea to me. And I'd like to encourage you to

1 continue to talk about that. And keep us in
2 the loop, if you will, in the loop about how
3 the discussions are going, when such channels
4 might be available and how, at long last, we
5 might really make ourselves eligible for that
6 kind of participation with digital-channel
7 distribution. Thanks.

8 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

9 Leonard Coolidge.

10 (No audible response.)

11 MR. SIGALOS: Nathan Gove.

12 MR. GOVE: Hello. I'm a doctorate
13 student in the field of science studies. And
14 I want to talk about studies which address
15 whether media consolidation serves public
16 interests.

17 We can't trust conclusions just because
18 they have the term "Scientific" stamped on
19 them; who's doing the research, what is being
20 measured and how.

21 There's research by the likes of Media
22 General who say that consolidation creates a
23 healthier media. Then there's research by the
24 likes of Free Press and by the Consumer Union,
25 which publishes consumer reports. Their

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1 studies conclude that consolidation is against
2 public interests.

3 I don't know about you, but if I'm
4 evaluating a product, I would trust Consumer
5 Reports more than the product's seller. But
6 let's be fair and look at an example of the
7 research.

8 Media General said that a TV station in a
9 cross-ownership community has more hours of
10 nonentertainment programming. But they
11 weren't looking at news or local content. And
12 they failed to note that in the
13 noncross-ownership markets, a higher number of
14 stations carried the news. Taking this into
15 account, noncross-ownership communities have
16 10 to 25 percent more news.

17 What about the FCC's own research?

18 In 2002 the FCC commissioned studies,
19 which received the 200-page rebuttal from
20 watch dogs. And in 2004 the Courts ruled that
21 the FCC studies were insufficient. I don't
22 know all the reasons why. I am disappointed
23 to hear that the FCC apparently buried a study
24 which demonstrated the benefits of local
25 ownership.

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1 I do know that the FCC did one good piece
2 of research. They opened their mailbox. In
3 2003, 3 million Americans weighed in with the
4 FCC about lifting caps on media ownership; 98
5 percent were against it.

6 Now, it's not the same as a random
7 survey, but it still is solid evidence that
8 Americans were strongly concerned about this

9 and that those who cared enough to write in
10 were overwhelmingly opposed to further media
11 consolidation.

12 In fact, with this evidence, something
13 seems clear. If you still say that relaxed
14 media-ownership rules is in the public
15 interest, then you are saying that Americans
16 don't know what's good for them.

17 And thanks for coming.

18 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

19 Will Fred Sowder, Tom Krumreich, Mary
20 Schoonover, Neil Cosentino, Elly Wencka, Norma
21 Bostock, please go to the nearest mike, and
22 Arlene Engelhardt.

23 MS. ENGELHARDT: First of all, I want to
24 say thank you for being here and thank you for
25 listening to Tampa Bay. We really do

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1 appreciate it.

2 I serve as co-host of a show that
3 represents the under-represented majority of
4 the women in this community, the Women's Show,
5 on WMNF, our community radio station
6 (Applause.) And I also serve on the advisory
7 board of the Women's Studies Department at
8 USF.

9 As such, I urge you to remember the needs
10 of women and minorities as you're considering
11 what is best for media in this country and to
12 look at the statistics that were brought up by
13 Carol Jenkins, President of the Women's Media

14 Center, and carefully look at those statistics
15 and what happens, with consolidation of media,
16 to women and minorities.

17 Freedom of speech is the most important
18 right of people in a democracy. It separates
19 us from totalitarianism and tyranny. Media
20 consolidation threatens localism, diversity
21 and media competition, as well as the strength
22 of our very democracy.

23 If our media are owned by a distant
24 corporation, we can forget about local news
25 and information. Yes, there will be a little

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1 bit of it there, but it'll be the accidents
2 and the glamour stories and not those things
3 that are of real concern to the real people of
4 the community.

5 As Lowry Mays, CEO of Clear Channel said,
6 "we're not in the business of providing news
7 and information. We're simply in the business
8 of selling our customers' products."

9 It is exceedingly important that we have
10 access to a wide diversity of media, a wide
11 range of voice locally, nationally and
12 globally.

13 I urge you to consider that, as you move
14 forward with your deliberations as to what the
15 new rules should be, and to consider the
16 importance of diversity in local media. Thank
17 you. (Applause.

18 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

19 Fred Sowder.

20 MR. SOWDER: Thank you very much
21 Commissioners, Chairman Martin, for this
22 opportunity for public comment.

23 My name is Fred Sowder. I'm a graduate
24 student at the University of Florida in
25 Gainesville.

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1 I've spent over a dozen years in the
2 radio broadcasting industry. I've worked
3 about equal amount of time, both before and
4 after the 1996 Telecom. Act.

5 After its passage, I had to leave a job
6 in Miami, thank's to such job-eliminating
7 techniques as automation and voice-tracking.
8 A job I once held as a graduate assistant at a
9 University of Florida radio station no longer
10 exists, having been combined into another
11 nonstudent job position.

12 I don't think I'm alone in the
13 experiencing these things. While we -- maybe
14 myself included -- initially thought that the
15 '96 ownership rule changes would open up new
16 opportunities for those who have a real love
17 of the broadcasting business, the result's
18 been largely the opposite, kicking many
19 talented broadcasters to the curb in the
20 process.

21 Many of these people work, as I do now,
22 in jobs completely unassociated from
23 broadcasting in spite of possessing the
24 training and experience in the field that they

283 25

know and love.

1 Personally, I do commend the Commission
2 for your creation of a low-power radio
3 service, as I'm working with a small group of
4 individuals at the Civic Media Center in
5 Gainesville to get 94.7 WGOT-LP up and running
6 to serve the Gainesville community.

7 In this day and age, 24-hour news cycles,
8 a lack of diversity of ownership has made
9 these cycles resemble something closer to a
10 circus clown unibike. Doesn't stop with news,
11 public affairs and talk programming either.
12 The same cookie-cutter music formats impressed
13 upon market after market is the result of
14 another visible track record when it comes to
15 program diversity and localism.

16 The state of broadcasting must change.
17 And relaxing media cross-ownership rules will
18 not eliminate this; in fact, it will have the
19 opposite effect.

20 The ownership rules were relaxed -- as
21 members of the commission you no doubt hear
22 much from organizations, such as the FAB and
23 the NAB. Of course, these organizations
24 represent the license-holding corporations
25 that stand to profit from increased

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1 conglomeration and job-market downsizing.

2 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

3 MR. SOWDER: The American public that
4 owns the airwaves deserves better.

5 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

6 MR. SOWDER: Thank YOU.

7 MR. SIGALOS: Tom Krumreich.

8 (No audible response.)

9 Tom Krumreich.

10 (No audible response.)

11 Mary Schoonover.

12 MS. SCHOONOVER: Good evening. My name
13 is Mary Schoonover. I've been a resident of
14 Pinellas County, Florida, for the past 20
15 years.

16 And I'm currently serving on the City
17 Council of Belleaire Beach. Our town is
18 located on a barrier island in the Gulf of
19 Mexico, just west of Clearwater and Largo.

20 Although we are a community of only about
21 1600 citizens, we've developed a cable TV
22 station which broadcasts public-service
23 announcements, a bulletin board, local and
24 regional events, and more importantly, we
25 broadcast video replays of all city meetings,

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1 candidate interviews and other public
2 information items that might be of interest or
3 affect our residents.

4 So we've got a city channel. What does
5 that have to do with media consolidation?

6 On the surface you might say nothing;
7 however, last Friday the Florida House and
8 Senate passed legislation that kills public
9 access, educational and government TV in

10 Florida. A bill has been sent to the Governor
11 that transfers cable franchising from cities
12 and counties to the state.

13 It allows existing cable franchises to
14 terminate their franchises and eliminates
15 obligations for funding public, educational
16 and government-access channels. It eliminates
17 free services to government buildings and
18 schools and eliminates local authority over
19 consumer issues.

20 This is a pattern. It is no accident
21 that this legislation is being passed at the
22 same time that corporate media is attempting
23 to monopolize our airwaves.

24 Not only do they want the opportunity to
25 buy up multiple outlets in the same geographic

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1 area, but they want the ability to take over
2 and limit the public access, educational and
3 government channels and sell them back to us,
4 the original owners.

5 As you can see by the testimony offered
6 here today, the Tampa Bay market will not go
7 quietly. We will be carefully monitoring the
8 FCC's deliberations in these matters, and we
9 will hold each of you commissioners
10 responsible for your individual conduct in --

11 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

14 Neil Cosentino.

15 MR. COSENTINO: Good evening. My name is
Page 74

16 Neil Cosentino. I'm a member of Camelot, a
17 Florida public interest think tank. I'm the
18 project manager for a program called Camelot
19 Community Media Network.

20 We propose a transition to a more
21 balanced approach to the licensing of the
22 radio spectrum. We are working towards an
23 actual goal of 50/50 percent ownership;
24 50 percent owned by the public, and 50 percent
25 owned by commercial entities. We do not

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1 believe this is radical. Community should
2 only benefit directly from the expanded
3 ownership of air rights and broadcasting
4 rights.

5 Camelot Florida believes that the most
6 empowering element is community radio.
7 Imagine if it was as easy to obtain
8 broadcasting rights, as it is to get a car
9 registration, why the power of community-based
10 radio would spread across America and make an
11 incredible positive influence on our society.

12 If we -- (Inaudible) -- the FCC's
13 proposal to allow companies to own more radio
14 stations in a given area, there's no doubt
15 that this would be harmful to the interest of
16 our communities. Please vote against that
17 proposal.

18 Low-powered community radio in the nation
19 should be championed so the community's --
20 (Inaudible) -- of one. But one -- (Inaudible)

21 -- to access should be able to get them.

22 We ask you to be the change you want in
23 America. We're asking you to be the change.
24 So please vote for the vitalization
25 of broadband (sic) for the greatest possible

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1 good for the greatest number of citizens.
2 Please empower -- (Inaudible) -- and support
3 community radio.

4 Remember that each of you can be the
5 change you want for America.

6 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

7 MR. COSENTINO: Please start right here.
8 Thank you. (Applause.)

9 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

10 Elly Wencka.

11 (No audible response.)

12 MR. SIGALOS: Elly Wencka.

13 (No audible response.)

14 MR. SIGALOS: Okay. Would the following,
15 starting with Number 63, Lowell Stewart
16 Harris, come down, Anthony Lepore, Jaime
17 D'Soto, Mark Paul Plutho, Delaangela Maryho,
18 Lucille Griggs.

19 Norma Bostock?

20 MS. BOSTOCK: Yes.

21 MR. SIGALOS: Okay.

22 MS. BOSTOCK: The radio waves belong to
23 the people, and they should reflect what we
24 have in common and our diversity. We need to
25 keep regulations that don't allow just a few

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1 corporations to have only their point of views
2 disseminated around the country. We need more
3 local ownership. We need more diversity.
4 with the raises in our country, there should
5 be more media with Black ownership.

6 What is happening in our neighborhoods
7 besides the crime?

8 We need more local broadcasters and more
9 opportunities for local entertainers on our
10 airwaves. Newspaper ownership and electronic
11 media should be separate. We do not want the
12 oligarchy telling us what to think.

13 And how many news media are going to give
14 sufficient time to show this FCC meeting
15 today?

16 I get my news from WMNF community radio
17 or public access or alternative magazines.
18 When I want to catch the lottery numbers, I
19 change from news channel to news channel, and
20 they're all showing the same news.

21 I mean, all they really separate? And
22 then it goes on for 15 minutes. That's your
23 evening news. They love violence of all
24 kinds.

25 What about the people who are addicted,

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1 the gentrification of our neighborhoods?

2 We don't find that in our local news,
3 especially on TV. And I please ask you, as
4 somebody else did, that the TV channels give
5 free access to political candidates and save

6 our democracy.

7 A VOICE: You bet.

8 MS. BOSTOCK: Thank you.

9 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

10 Lowell Stewart Harris.

11 Hello. I'm Lowell Harris, and I teach a
12 large intro to mass comments -- society course
13 at USF, and I'm also a doctoral candidate in
14 communication.

15 I have been watching over the past week
16 to see if any of our news outlets would
17 publicize this hearing. And I was very
18 disappointed.

19 Yesterday, there was columnist talking
20 take about it in one article in the St. Pete
21 Times. And finally today, the Tampa Tribune
22 weighed in on the issue with a very
23 disingenuous editorial.

24 Debate on media-ownership rules ignore
25 realities of digital age, and they, as usual,

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1 refer to labeling -- resorted to labeling and
2 mislabeling when they said -- and I quote --
3 "The FCC decided to lift the cross-ownership
4 rule on newspaper-television ownership four
5 years ago. But an appellate judge sent it
6 back.

7 Then congressional democrats and union
8 organizers hysterically began beating the
9 drums to keep the old paradigm. Today's
10 hearings are meant to inform the process. Our
11 motive in writing today was to inform you,

12 too."

13 Inform us? At the last minute?

14 We found nothing other than this, today,
15 from the Tampa Tribune. I'll bet that if the
16 public were really informed today, they would
17 fill the rafters of this spacious hall
18 (Applause.) Instead, what we have are two
19 papers acting in their own best interests, not
20 ours.

21 However I am very optimistic, based on
22 what I heard from your opening statements,
23 that we finally have the right FCC
24 Commissioners in this group to make the right
25 and the best decisions on our behalf to end

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1 this malignancy that has been created by a
2 very divisive partisanship. Thank you.

3 MR. SIGALOS: Anthony Lepore.

4 MR. LEPORE: Commissioners, I am here
5 this evening on a matter germane to tonight's
6 discussion but unrelated to this market. I'm
7 here on behalf of the Independent Small
8 Broadcasters of the Island of Puerto Rico and
9 the Puerto Rico Radio Broadcasters
10 Association.

11 I'd like to ask that in the course of
12 this review you correct an error in the prior
13 ownership rule revising the definition of
14 "Market" as it applies to Puerto Rico.

15 In the 2003 order you defined the
16 relevant market in Puerto Rico, the same way

17 that Arbitron did, as being the entire island;
18 however, Arbitron neglected to use the OMB's
19 definition, which is the metropolitan
20 statistical area, of which there are three
21 upon the island, and rather island used the
22 overall island as a market definition. We
23 would like, on behalf of the independent
24 broadcasters on the island, that this
25 deficiency be corrected in the current

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1 proceeding and use either the OMB's
2 definition, there, to wit, make the relevant
3 market, the three metropolitan statistical
4 areas on the island or choose whatever
5 definition you decide to apply in the
6 nonarbitrated -- nonArbitron-rated markets.

7 And in that manner you will help promote
8 the success and the independence of the
9 independently broadcasters in Puerto Rico.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

12 Jaime Soto.

13 MR. SOTO: Hello. My name is Dr. Jaime
14 Soto. I'm executive vice president of
15 programming for Uno Radio Group in San Juan,
16 Puerto Rico. Thanks for the opportunity.

17 We are a small local family-owned company
18 founded by my father, Jesus Soto, in 1973,
19 through a lot of hard work by him, my brothers
20 and myself and about 489 employees that we
21 have today.

22 We serve communities in all of Puerto
Page 80

23 Rico. We donate our time to local and
24 national charities, my little -- for --
25 (Inaudible.)

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1 Last year we created a foundation in
2 memory of my brother who was a broadcaster
3 dedicated to his people and his community. He
4 died in a car accident two years ago.

5 The foundation gives scholarships to
6 talented students in economical needs in the
7 areas of communication, music and arts. This
8 is one of the many ways that we impact our
9 local communities.

10 Distinguished Commissioners, allow us to
11 expand our business so as to serve different
12 communities throughout Puerto Rico in a more
13 effective and powerful way. We bring
14 resources of larger stations to smaller
15 communities on island, and we strive on
16 localism.

17 Remember, Puerto Rico, because of its
18 topographical conditions, no single station
19 covers the whole island. So we need networks
20 of at least three stations to cover it.

21 We urge the Commissioners to look at the
22 specific case of Puerto Rico so that small
23 companies like ours compete more effectively
24 with American technologies, like iPod,
25 Internet and against the big national media

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1 companies that have already established

2

operation on the island;

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MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

4

MR. SOTO: Thank you.

5

MR. SIGALOS: Mark Paul Klutho.

6

(No audible response.)

7

MR. SIGALOS: Delaangela Maryho.

8

(No audible response.)

9

MR. SIGALOS: Lucille Griggs.

10

Lucille, before you begin, I'm going to

11

read a few names to come down to the

12

microphone. I'm going to read a few more

13

names this time. Please pay attention.

14

Patrick Flannigan, Barry Shalinsky, Bill

15

Stokes, Jamie Johnston, Steve Brown, Arlene

16

Haigh, Adrien Helm, Edward Helm, Bill Diaz.

17

Thank you.

18

Lucille Griggs.

19

MS. GRIGGS: Thank you.

20

Thank you, Commissioners, for coming to

21

Tampa for listening to our comments.

22

I'm a second-generation native of Tampa,

23

and I have seen this area change so much. And

24

as it's grown and changed, it has become

25

increasingly more difficult to find

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substantial information on local issues; and

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this is in spite of the fact that I am

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fortunate enough to have daily access to both

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the Tribune and The Times, to cable television

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and broadband Internet access.

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That's a lot more access to information

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than so many people have. And, yet, when I

8 want the deeper story, the investigative
9 report, the analysis of an issue, I'm still
10 searching.

11 I have to wait until Friday, when La
12 Gaceta comes out. I have to make sure that
13 I'm in my car around lunchtime, so I can
14 listen to public affairs programs on WMNF. I
15 have to search out the schedules for the local
16 candidate debates on our public educational
17 and government access channels.

18 Commissioners, as you're here in Tampa,
19 take a look beyond Media General, take a look
20 at our locally-owned, locally-controlled and
21 noncommercial media outlets. You're going to
22 find that that is where the public is engaged
23 -- (Applause) -- and that is where our
24 community is being served.

25 Please make sure that your rules promote

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1 localism, diversity, independence and
2 noncommercialism. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

5 Patrick Flanagan.

6 MR. FLANAGAN: My name is Patrick
7 Flanagan. I'm a student at the University of
8 Florida. And I've got a two-hour trip back to
9 Gainesville after this, so I can take my last
10 final tomorrow morning.

11 But this is an issue, I think, that is
12 worth the trip. As a believer in a free

13 market, I prefer the deregulation, including
14 allowing consolidation of media. We live in a
15 digital and new media sources are emerging
16 everywhere you look.

17 I get my media from all over the place,
18 the Alligator newspaper in Gainesville,
19 sometimes the Gainesville Sun, the New York
20 Times Electronic Newsletter and several blogs.
21 I get my music from the Internet. My parents
22 subscribe to satellite radio. And my dad
23 reads the Trib', the Times, The Wall Street
24 Journal and Cafe Hayek online.

25 Newspapers and TV news don't just compete

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1 with each other, they compete with a wide
2 range of news sources. The advent of digital
3 signals will allow even more consumer demands
4 to be met by innovative entrepreneurs. That's
5 the -- that's the beauty of capitalism. Thank
6 you.

7 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

8 Barry Shalinsky.

9 MR. SHALINSKY: I oppose the
10 consolidation of media ownership. Eight On
11 Your Side does well with exposing petty
12 rip-off schemes and consumer reports and
13 charitable events. But it's sadly lacking in
14 any kind of in-depth analysis of real news in
15 our community.

16 In fact, you can turn on any of the
17 mainstream television stations, and they will
18 all give commentary from the same professor at

19 USF as their "political expert."

20 Prior to living in the Tampa area, I've
21 lived in several places around the country,
22 and I've observed what's happened with local
23 media.

24 In a town in Kansas, where I lived, there
25 was a local radio station that had local news,

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1 farm reports, city commissioners would come on
2 every week to talk about what was going on.
3 well, they sold out to a "regional"
4 conglomerate. And within six months all of
5 that went away.

6 In conclusion, I just want to say that we
7 need more diversity, more opportunities,
8 low-power FM and more opportunity for people
9 to know what's going on and to create their
10 own news and create their own culture.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

13 Bill Stokes.

14 MR. STOKES: My name is Bill Stokes, and
15 I'm a member of the Alliance for a Liveable
16 Pinellas, which is a coalition conservation
17 groups representing 15,000 members.

18 The present media industry in America is
19 broken. You all have an opportunity to leave
20 a legacy to your descendents of either
21 reforming it or maintaining the status quo of
22 espousing principles that are detrimental to a
23 free press and thus democracy.

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24 This is a nonpartisan issue that affects
25 all Americans. Localism is in danger, when it

1 comes to media coverage. There are many
2 examples of the lack of critical information
3 in covering the frequent hurricanes that are
4 not uncommon to Florida. Oftentimes, TV is
5 vulnerable and/or inoperable and not as
6 capable of issuing up-to-the minute warnings
7 as radio.

8 When the spectrum is panned (sic) on
9 radio for local advisories, preprogrammed,
10 canned, homogenized national play lists are on
11 the air devoid of essential local safety
12 alerts.

13 All media presently is in a race to the
14 bottom to dispense vulgarity, sensationalism,
15 celebrity-worship, blatant, excessive
16 consumerism, biased reporting slanted toward
17 ownership views, scant of any local reporting,
18 narrowing the demographic to only the 18- to
19 34-year-old and a pathetic lack of any
20 semblance of an open, diverse, intelligent,
21 community-responsive and competitive media
22 environment.

23 Is this the exchange you feel is
24 fulfilling the obligation to broadcast in the
25 public interest for the use of the public

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1 airwaves?

2 Yes, the airwaves are part of the public
3 commons (sic), and they are being abused.

4 This degradation must come to an end.

5 If the FCC continues to relax the
6 oversight on corporate media, it will result
7 in a serious deterioration of the free press,
8 which is one of the most important components
9 of democracy. Thank you.

10 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

11 Jamie Johnston.

12 (No audible response.)

13 MR. SIGALOS: Steve -- Steven Brown.

14 MR. BROWN: Most of my points have been
15 covered. But I'm for rolling back not simply
16 stopping media consolidation.

17 But beyond the question of who owns how
18 many stations and what other media outlets and
19 cross-ownership. It is a question of the
20 content that beats (sic) down into almost all
21 the broadcast media from a half-dozen major
22 corporations.

23 Someone here said that he feels he's
24 getting dumber for every minute he watches
25 television. I would say that in addition to

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1 the influence, the negative influence of
2 politics of our mass media, it is also
3 bleeding the people who are going to become
4 our next voters; in fact, they are creating
5 by-the-media consumers (sic.)

6 And if the current FCC wishes to maintain
7 this republic as a democracy, rather than an
8 autocracy, it needs to reverse the pattern of

9 media ownership.

10 *Please lessen the influence of*
11 advertising on the commercial media,
12 especially the death grip on political speech,
13 and do what you can to promote the creation
14 and maintenance of a variety of public
15 broadcast networks, not simply one anemic and
16 politically- and commercially-constrained PBS
17 or NPR (sic.)

18 It's a shame and a scandal that it is
19 through the -- (Inaudible) -- of the cable
20 television organizations that we have C-Span
21 doing what should be done in the name of the
22 public and for the benefit of the public and
23 to have to settle for scraps from the passing
24 carriages of the network princes (sic.) Thank
25 you.

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1 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

2 Arlene Haigh.

3 MS. HAIGH: My name is Arlene Haigh. I'm
4 God-fearing, a capitalist and a proud American
5 citizen.

6 Ten years ago I reported for a small
7 newspaper owned by a media conglomerate.
8 Naively, I thought that a part-time position
9 meant part-time, not part-time pay -- close to
10 minimum wage -- for a full-time workload.
11 Without a trust fund, this career path was not
12 an option.

13 Did I mention that was 10 years ago?

14 Instead, I am pooling my skills with the