

Submitted the Fairbanks Daily News Miner:

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To the Editor ,

Well, of course its happened. Most folks wont even notice a change, but the FCC just eroded your first amendment privileges to expect any kind of freedom of the press from newspapers. They can now be owned by the TV and radio corporate giants which already control too much. How do they suffer by not owning ALL the media in a given town? So why give them the option to own it all? I thought the free market, freedom itself was a matter of competing voices, competing ideas, diverse thinking. But I actually expected some thinking. I see now that was a big part of the problem. Disappointment is a daily weight on my freethinking American morale lately.

TV news is pretty much tabloid news: no depth, no probing inquiry, no dialog or debate. Shallow and quick. Newspapers already tend in the same direction. How will this be better for anybody? Everything will now descend to plain vanilla pulp writing, superficialities of the day, and placation of the political party in power.

Frank Zappa was a veritable soothsayer. He once had this to say about a particularly vapid type of journalism: rock journalism. Most (rock) journalism is people who can't write interviewing people who can't talk for people who can't read. Now were going to see much more of just that sort of mind-numbing pablum from all our media. It is corporate profits and greedy power which are driving the train. Looks like Bush administration assaults on public education, social justice, and freedom are all coming to fruition.

Theres a very good reason freedom of the press is a big part of the very first amendment to the Constitution. Our founders thought it was crucially important. I'll bet 80% of Americans don't, even now, know this happened. There's no outrage, because they're not even paying attention.

Sleep on, America. You're giving away your greatness and your freedom to corporate greed.

Rich Seifert