

# Senators resist media consolidation plan

Todd J. Gillman

The Dallas Morning News

WASHINGTON (KRT) — A Federal Communication Commission plan to relax media ownership rules came under fire Tuesday at a Senate hearing, with lawmakers from both parties complaining that the FCC is moving too quickly and would allow too much consolidation.

"I see it doing the companies lots of good. It's more revenue, more profits, more control," said Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J. But he said, "What possible good can come if we get down to five companies controlling broadcast?"

Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, echoed the concerns, saying, "This is really the last barrier. It's the last bulwark against open, unfettered ownership."

No FCC officials testified, but chairman Michael Powell has said the changes are long overdue. He has scheduled a June 2 vote on the plan, citing a congressional mandate to review ownership rules every two years, and federal court rulings that say current restrictions lack sufficient legal basis.

Consumer groups and other critics say there are already too few me-

dia companies. FCC members didn't see the proposal until staff submitted it late Monday. On Tuesday, the two Democratic commissioners asked Powell, a Republican, to delay a vote for 30 days. Nearly 100 House Democrats have signed a letter seeking a delay, as well.

Through a spokesman, Powell declined to comment.

The FCC proposal would let a single company own TV stations that reach 45 percent of the national audience, up from 35 percent. It also would make it easier for companies to own two or more TV stations in a single market,

and to own a newspaper and TV station in the same market.

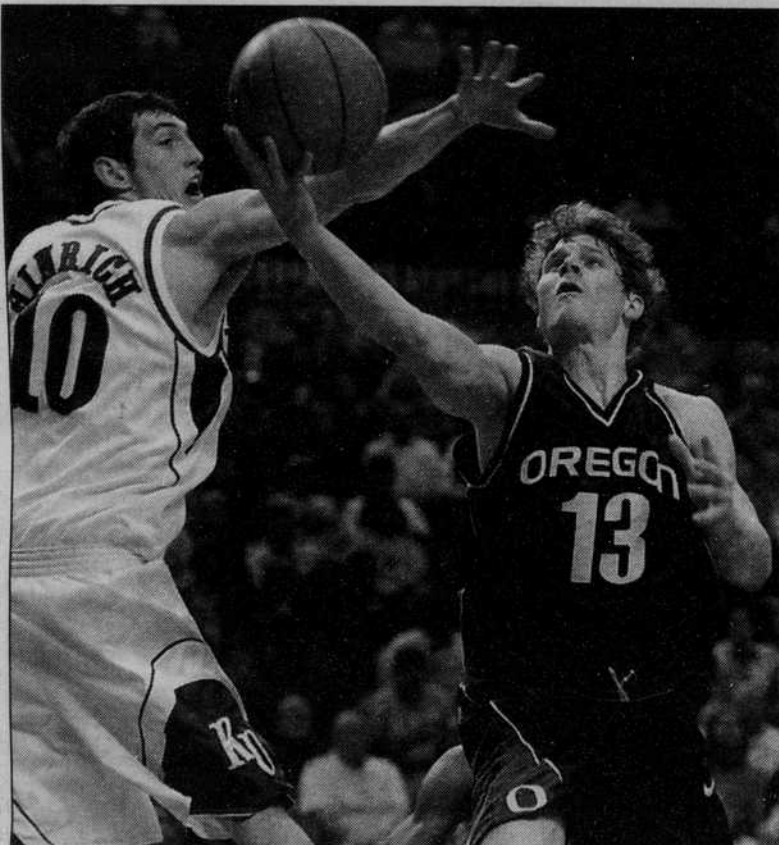
The Newspaper Association of America and big media companies such as Tribune Co. and Gannett Inc. want to repeal the "cross-ownership" rule.

Dallas is one of 40 "grandfathered" markets, with a newspaper and TV station under common ownership; Belo Corp. owns both The Dallas Morning News and WFAA (Channel 8). Belo executives support relaxed ownership rules.

Senators heard from two publishers with vastly different views on the

issue. The NAA's immediate past president, William Dean Singleton, vice chairman and CEO of MediaNews Group, which publishes the Denver Post and 49 other papers, called the cross-ownership ban "archaic." But Frank Blethen, whose family publishes The Seattle Times and five other papers, warned that lifting the ban would result in more absentee owners driven by profit rather than public service.

© 2003, The Dallas Morning News. Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.



Emerald

Luke Ridnour is the second player ever to be named Pac-10 regular season player of the year and Pac-10 Tournament MVP for the same season.

## Ridnour

continued from page 1

with the Williams & Connolly, LLP law firm based in Washington, D.C., and will be represented by lawyers Lon Babby and Jim Tanner. The law firm also represents NBA stars Tim Duncan, Grant Hill and Shane Battier, and WNBA star Chamique Holdsclaw.

"We're just really excited about the opportunity he has," Ridnour's mother, Muriel Ridnour said in a phone interview Tuesday. "We feel he has a bright future ahead of him."

Ridnour, who grew up in Blaine, Wash., has six weeks to work out for teams prior to the June 26 NBA Draft. He had until June 19 to withdraw from the draft without signing an agent to retain his college eligibility.

"I prayed a lot, and it felt like the right time to make this decision," Ridnour said. "I think the Lord has a plan for me, and this is part of it. It's time for me to do this."

Ridnour is the second player ever to be named Pac-10 regular season player of the year and Pac-10 Tournament MVP for the same season. He also earned an honorable mention All-American from The Associated Press.

"We support him 100 percent," Muriel Ridnour said. "We know he'll be successful."

The 6-foot-2-inch junior ranked second in the Pac-10 last season with 19.7 points per game and led the league with 6.6 assists per game.

"I hope the fans realize how much I appreciate the way they supported the team whether we were good or bad," Ridnour said. "Playing at (McArthur Court), I had the greatest time of my life."

Ridnour set Oregon and Pac-10 records with 62 consecutive free throws made during his junior season. He also set a school record with 218 assists during the season and tied another record with 63 steals.

On the Oregon career lists, Ridnour ranks ninth in scoring with 1,399 points, second in steals with 150, third in assists with 500 and third in three-point shots with 203.

"With coach (Ernie) Kent's help, I've been able to get an idea of where I might be chosen in the draft," Ridnour said. "You never know for sure, but I feel pretty good that I'll go somewhere in the first round."

Ridnour and teammate Luke Jackson announced their plans for the NBA Draft on April 18, with Ridnour

declaring himself eligible and Jackson deciding to stay for his senior season.

The duo led Oregon to a fifth-place finish in the regular season before winning the Pac-10 Tournament. It was the first time a team other than UCLA or Arizona had won the tournament in its six-year history.

Ridnour is the second Duck to leave early for the NBA. Terrell Brandon left after his junior season, during which he was named the Pac-10's Player of the Year, in 1991. Brandon was chosen 11th overall by the Cleveland Cavaliers. He recently finished his fourth season with the Minnesota Timberwolves and his 11th season in the NBA.

Williams & Connolly, LLP currently represents 14 NBA players, 12 WNBA players and one NFL player.

"They represent some quality guys with good character who have had a lot of success in their careers," Ridnour said. "I felt comfortable choosing them."

Ridnour was named Pac-10 Freshman of the Year after the 2000-01 season, the first Duck to earn the award. He started all 96 Oregon games in his college career.

Contact the sports reporter at [mindirice@dailyemerald.com](mailto:mindirice@dailyemerald.com).

## Privacy

continued from page 1

U.S. legislators with the intention of safeguarding the country from terrorism by arming the federal government with expanded police powers. However, since it was first adopted, the act has been the target of concerned civil rights activists, including here at the University, where some feel that students' privacy is at stake.

Bo Adan, a member of the Concerned Faculty for Peace and Justice, said the USA PATRIOT Act gives federal agencies the authority to snoop in places they used to not have access to. Library check-out lists, e-mail correspondence and student financial aid records are just a few of students' formerly protected, private information.

The Concerned Faculty for Peace and Justice's motion won't be able to prevent the University from sharing data with federal agencies, but it will require the administration to let the University know if and when federal agents have pawed through student information.

Gordon Lafer, another member of the Concerned Faculty for Peace and Justice, said he and his colleagues feel it is necessary to pass the motion in order to protect students. Lafer said the USA PATRIOT Act stomps all over the civil liberties that the federal government once took such pains to protect. He added

that he fears federal agents using the PATRIOT Act have the ability to target college students and other American citizens for surveillance because of their political views.

"This is un-American and shouldn't be happening," Lafer said.

Adan said he doesn't think the University administration has yet

*"I think the idea of the University as a sanctuary for ideas and opinions is shared by administrators...the PATRIOT Act didn't come from Johnson Hall."*

*Gordon Lafer  
Concerned Faculty for Peace and Justice member*

been approached by federal agents seeking information. But he pointed out that this doesn't mean it won't happen in the future, or that people shouldn't be upset about the state of civil liberties in America.

"The administration at the University of Oregon and at universities across the country are being pressured to comply with provisions in the USA PATRIOT Act, and we feel that it is inappropriate for federal agencies to be making these requests in the first place," Adan said.

Lafer said if the motion passes at today's Faculty Senate meeting, he doesn't think the University administration will object to reporting on whether federal agents have tried to access student information.

"I think the idea of the University as a sanctuary for ideas and opinions is shared by administrators... the PATRIOT Act didn't come from Johnson Hall," Lafer said.

Contact the senior news reporter at [jenniferbear@dailyemerald.com](mailto:jenniferbear@dailyemerald.com).

North Campus  
579 E. Broadway  
686-1166



South Campus  
2870 E. Willamette  
686-1600

## STUDENT ID SPECIALS

• Show Your Student ID • Order by Number

- |   |  |                |
|---|--|----------------|
| 1 | <b>X-LARGE 1-TOPPING</b><br>The Big New Yorker                   | <b>\$9.99</b>  |
| 2 | <b>MEDIUM 3-TOPPING</b><br>Pan, Thin 'N Crispy or Hand Tossed    | <b>\$9.99</b>  |
| 3 | <b>STICKS 'N WINGS</b><br>10 Breadsticks, 12 Wings               | <b>\$9.99</b>  |
| 4 | <b>X-LARGE 3-TOPPING</b><br>The Big New Yorker                   | <b>\$11.99</b> |
| 5 | <b>2 MEDIUM 1-TOPPINGS</b><br>Pan, Thin 'N Crispy or Hand Tossed | <b>\$11.99</b> |
| 6 | <b>STICKS 'N WINGS</b><br>10 Breadsticks, 24 Wings               | <b>\$11.99</b> |

**FREE 2-Liter of Soda with Any Above Order!**  
Delivery charges may apply