

To the FCC Commissioners

Gentlemen and Ladies:

Forgive me if I wax bombastic, but I hold great fear for the future. You hold in your hands a plea for common sense and humanity, please peruse it wisely and with open minds.

Time Warner seeks to curtail the usefulness and open forum aspect of the internet by playing lord high censor over what can and cannot be communicated via its bandwidth. This cannot be allowed. Are we to lose our first amendment rights because a corporation wishes to take them away. They may be entitled, but you are members of the government, sworn to uphold the constitution and as such you have a moral obligation to either stop this merger, which is and of itself a tragedy of monolithic proportions, or to stop these two corporations from monopolizing not only bandwidth and high-speed internet access, but human thought and rational discourse. They have no reason to do this aside from their own patriarchal ideology that says that the masses must be protected and I know how to protect them best. They could not be held liable for information accessed or posted by their users and their policy of making such suspensions unreviewable is criminal. Instead of the disclaimer below:

TIME WARNER COMMUNICATIONS SHALL HAVE THE SOLE AND UNREVIEWABLE RIGHT TO DETERMINE WHETHER CONTENT VIOLATES THESE STANDARDS.

They should place this disclaimer on their access contract

TIME WARNER COMMUNICATIONS SHALL TAKE NO RESPONSIBILITY, EITHER LEGAL OR FINANCIAL, FOR DATA RETRIEVED OR POSTED USING OUR SERVICE.

Only then can they be seen as reasonable people and not corporate demagogues pushing Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd to all who buy their service. They seek to control information. And if they claim that their service is voluntary, remember that, in this age of rapid computerization, in ten years, having no computer with internet access, will be ten times worse than having no car.

The "standards" are such that absolutely anything I post could be considered to violate them. Even if I do not violate these standards, if I purchase "unlimited access" as soon as I try to use it, I am either speed-capped or terminated. The acceptable use policy states:

IF TIME WARNER DETERMINES THAT THE SUBSCRIBER HAS FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE SERVICE'S STANDARDS OF CONDUCT OR LIMITS ON BANDWIDTH UTILIZATION, TIME WARNER MAY SUSPEND SUBSCRIBER'S ACCOUNT.

This is villainy out right, to sell a product with no intention of allowing its use? Criminal!

AOL is an internet company predicated upon the idea that if you make a product lousy enough so that even the most simple minded of primates can use it, then it can sell it to everyone and make a billion or twenty. This is shoddy workmanship, their services are disastrous and laughable, and they already control far too much of the internet communications network as we speak.

Time Warner, second only to ATT, the remnants of MA-Bell, has the largest telecommunications network in American and possibly the world. Would you approve this merger of titans, whose only goal is to control the internet and with it the age of information that it ushers in, just as the country strikes down another monopoly in the corporation of Lord Gates almighty? Have we learned nothing from the past? The Mega Corporations of science-fiction lore are thankfully not present, but if you allow this merger, how

long will it be before AOL-Time Warner- Turner becomes the first? If MCI-Sprint was a mistake, how can AOL Time Warner be less of one?

Members of the commission, Lawyers and corporations, I humbly beseech you, do not allow this tragedy. Do all that is within your power, with all the resources at your disposal, to strike down this ill-omened union and let freedom reign. Or if you will not ban this corporate matrimony, then force a social contract upon the newly created titan of communications, forcing it to treat the consumers with the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the constitution.

The world is becoming a computer playground and these corporations know it. They seek control over it, to become the lords and masters of the kingdom of Cyber-space. Do not let them succeed.