

January 27th, 2002

This merger should never be approved because the Echostar Corporation D/B/A Dish Network engages in racist practices. It is a fact that DirectTV programming's basic package (Select Choice, \$21.99 per month) offers the BET channel while Dish Network makes folks subscribe to at least the TOP 100 to get the BET channel. This was done so that blacks paying the higher price for the TOP 100 will "make up" for Dish's perceived higher chargeback rates for all black customers. DISH Network's own Customer Service Representatives have joked about this situation to their installers for some time at this situation being a planned Dish Network strategy to limit losses.

Here is the Dish network link for the TOP 50 (\$22.99 per month, IF you own your own equipment) programming, showing NO BET:

http://www.dishnetwork.com/content/programming/packages/at_50/index.asp?viewby=1&packid=548&sortby=1

Here is the Dish Network link for the TOP 100 (\$31.99 per month, IF you own your own equipment) programming, showing the inclusion of BET:

http://www.dishnetwork.com/content/programming/packages/at_100/index.asp?viewby=2&packid=1&sortby=1

As Dish Network's own website clearly shows, blacks must subscribe to the higher programming package, just to get BET. When DirectTV's basic package (Select Choice-\$24.99 per month) is available, BET is included.

Every elected official should ask themselves:

Should such a company engaging in such practices be entrusted to operate a monopoly?

Not in this millenium.