LAW AND POLICY OF THE MEDIA

Homework Assignment #1

In a 2-3 page essay (500-600 word), analyze a current event of media policy. Select an event from the recent news. Use one of the conceptual frameworks that we have discussed so far (e.g., communications, economics, or law) to frame and structure your arguments.

Hints:

1. You can pick any event from media law and policy that was in the news since our course started (even if the policy debate started sooner). Stick to a recent article in the news media (or on the web). You do not have to go back and do research on the history and genesis of a case.

2. Pick a conceptual framework of your choice from the ones we have covered so far: policy analysis (you would look at stakeholders, the process of agenda setting, policy options, implementation, depending on the case); communications (the public interest approach presented by Napoli in ch. 4); political economy of communications (you would look at the organization of an industry, power relations, etc.); economics (you would primarily be interested in the consequences of policy choices for efficiency in a segment of the communications industry or society at large); law (First Amendment analysis).

3. Your short essay can be driven by the facts presented in the article that you use and the conceptual framework.

Deadline: September 30, 2003 (October 7, 2003 for the discussion leaders on September 30).