

least one pharmaceutical company. Except for CBS, every major media corporation had board representation of either an insurance or pharmaceutical company.

While healthcare reform was mentioned thousands of times by the media, single-payer was mentioned in only 164 articles or news segments in the first six months of 2009.

Extra cautions that "correlation is not causation," the study indicates that "corporate media and the insurance and pharmaceutical industries interests are fundamentally aligned."

Charles L. Klotzer

Did Kurt Greenbaum go too far?

On Nov. 13, 2009 Kurt Greenbaum, the director of Social Media for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch who goes by the brand name "STL Social Media Guy," posted a routine question on his blog. The question asked "What's the craziest thing you've ever eaten? And did you like it?" While many users had bizarre foods listed such as rattlesnake, cow tongue and such, Kurt noticed that a user posted an inappropriate message, allegedly the word "pussy." It was immediately deleted but the commenter posted it again.

At this point, Greenbaum found the IP address of the commenter and discovered that it was coming from a local school. He called the school administrators who then located the computer and the person using it at that specific time, and according to the school officials, the individual resigned on the spot.

After hearing that the individual lost his job, on Nov. 16, 2009, Greenbaum posted a blog: "Post a vulgar comment at work, lose your job" in which Greenbaum allegedly bragged about the incident and wanted this issue to be a "lesson" for others online. This blog post reached Twitter and eventually the world within a matter of hours if not minutes. Canadian and European bloggers and newspapers picked up on the story, which eventually outraged

and horrified the Internet community.

Accusations of breaking online privacy rules and demands for an apology flooded Twitter, Facebook, and blogosphere. But Greenbaum remained adamant that he did the right thing by another follow-up post on Nov. 18. In that post, he tried to explain his side of the story and stress that Post does not tolerate profanity or vulgarity. This further fueled the controversy and flooded the page with harsh criticism of the Post and Greenbaum.

By Nov. 20, TrueSlant.com posted a blog "The Internet Hates Kurt Greenbaum." Wikipedia editors allege that Greenbaum acted illegally and broke the Post's privacy rules. And Twitter had hundreds of tweets attacking Greenbaum and the Post. A vigilante web developer purchased the domain name "Kurt-Greenbaum.com" which redirects to "KurtGreenbaumIsaPussy.com." In an interview with RFT, the creator of this website, who wishes to remain anonymous, said his reason for creating the site is "because privacy on the Internet is important." In that interview, this individual gave four purposes to the creation of this website: (1) to prove that Mr. Greenbaum violated privacy rules, (2) encourage public discussion about this topic, (3) show the decline of American newspapers and (4) to prove that Greenbaum's actions were hypocritical because while he tries to be the "Social Media guy," he does not understand that one can't enforce morality rules on the Internet with extreme measures.

Not only Greenbaum has been under attack on the Internet when it comes to this topic, but also the Post and even St. Louis and its culture have been criticized on numerous blogs. Currently, Google search results for "Kurt Greenbaum" yields his website first, followed by numerous anti-Greenbaum blogs.

Farzad Wafapoor

Charter's changes upset some

A few days before Christmas, Charter Communications' cable subscriber Judi Linville turned to Channel 16 to catch up with the Senate debate on health-insurance. Instead Linville found the new NBC Shopping channel. She missed some days of the debate before she went online to find that Charter had moved CSPAN2 to Channel 997 on

the digital tier. By then, the debate was over.

Fortunately for Linville, she could pick up Channel 997. To view 997 or any other digital channel, subscribers must either pay Charter for a digital receiver, rent a digital card, or use a new digital television.

Other viewers looking for Black Jack Mayor Norman McCourt's interviews with other local public officials on News Channel 20, had to know to look on Channel 994, now called the Gateway Television Network. Charter has moved several of the local educational and public access channels to what it calls the Public Affairs Neighborhood. It planned to add one more public affairs station to the mix on January 20—CSPAN3. CSPAN3 features live government events and history and public affairs programs similar to those already offered on CSPAN2's BookTV.

The switch started Nov. 20 when Charter began simulcasting CSPAN2, the Black Jack station, the Higher Education Channel and three educational channels from the Cooperating School Districts in their old slots as well as the new. Charter has gradually dropped the analog signals from their old spots, much to Linville's dismay.

Chon Tomlin, spokesman for Charter, said in an email to SJR: "The channel changes afford Charter the flexibility to improve network capabilities for our customers: A Public Affairs Neighborhood within a dedicated bandwidth of channels, additional High Definition (HD) programming and increased Internet speeds to meet the increasing demand from customers."

Charter did convert one station to digital without changing its location: Spanish-Language Univision stayed at 17. Charter plans to add ION TV (formerly Pax TV) at Channel 78 and three new Christian channels: Jesus Christ TV at 148, Smile of a Child at 149 and the Church Channel at 150. It is moving Trinity Broadcast Network to 151 as it goes digital. Tomlin provided no details about what new HD channels are in the pipeline.

"Although a majority of our customers are already digital customers, our goal is to make this transition as painless as possible for remaining analog customers," Tomlin said. "Charter made customers aware of these new services in newspaper advertisements, character

Correction

The cartoon by Tom Engelhardt, published in the last issue, No. 315, accurately carried a copyright of 2000 by Tom Engelhardt and the cartoon was distributed by Creators Syndicate.