I'm glad satellite TV is helping to bring the companies into check. I understand they provide a service and as such they should be able to decide what services to provide. However, the manipulation on the individual consumer is unfair as pricing goes up on an annual basis but THEY decide what I should have and when to pay more for less. I pay over $100 a month for Cable TV channels (subtract a bit for Internet access), approximately 6 of which I want/use. Basic cable is the biggest scam. I am REQUIRED to pay for "BASIC" cable (which consists mostly channels I would never watch (ie local access, Spanish language, Asian language, 24 hour sales, and misc garbage channels JUST so I can have access to an option to pay more for the 6 or so channels I ACTUALLY use, ie "extended" cable.

PLEASE consider requiring basic cable to include a "basic" format (or redefine what "basic" consists of) that is somewhat universal--local access, news, science, comedy, history, etc. It would most likely stimulate people to actually purchase more channels that would benefit from the sales. I don't know a single person who buys crap off the sales channel or watches the Spanish or Asian television channels. I would like to pay for what I use!

The campaigns we saw at Christmas time regarding the blackout of Fox due to contracting, pricing, or whatever the controversy was, only reduces my confidence in the communications companies and my inclination to go satellite.