

Hello, my name is Farsheed and I am a musician and college student in a big school (University of Illinois). As a musician, it is getting harder and harder to get my music out to people, especially since the local record shop has closed down and I have no where to sell my independently made CD. Local radio is one of my last hopes to getting my music to the masses.

I've recorded about 2 or 3 CDs in my time, and been in several successful bands here in Illinois as well as in Virginia. I find that the size of my following is directly proportional to how well my music is publicized through local media.

The only stations that seem to play local music here in Champaign, Illinois tend to be public radio stations that have local radio built into their programming blocks. Even the so-called college radio station is pretty commercial, and only do a tiny bit to support local music. They could do a lot more to foster growth and creativity.

Local programming should include everything that relates to local events, news, entertainment, or media. It is anything that directly links to a very specific city or county.

Radio is currently not a free channel for expression, not in the conventional sense. It should be catered towards more regional behavior, where more emphasis is placed on lower tiers of a pyramid style infrastructure. As it stands, a musician on the bottom feels like they will never reach the top, because they don't have enough money to make it to the next tier. Let's be honest, it is less about quality of music as it is about advertising and money-making. If we wish to have a diverse art and music community, we have to abolish all bottle neck channels for music and to encourage pluralism and variety in programming. Listeners will be able to relate more to it, and it will provide more jobs for people, as opposed to robot DJs.

Voice tracking is the worst thing to ever happen to radio. I don't want to hear a fake, or non-live or pseudo-live radio show! This is stifling to the entire nation, not just a local community.

National Playlists are terrible!!!! They are a top down way to control media flow and content to the public. Music and news should be a bottom-up approach, with the relevancy of news starting from a regional base and moving upwards to a national level.

I think LPFM stations is a great idea, and perfect for small owners. It just can't be too expensive.

Thanks for addressing this issue with a public proceeding!