

Hi. My name is Jason Lekberg. I am a musician, a consumer, and a concerned citizen. My most recent band experienced a good amount of success and publicity both regionally and world wide. I was very involved with my local clear channel station (WRZX 103.3 Indianapolis), was very active in the local scene both promoting and supporting, and made an effort to raise the public awareness in regard to the reality of the radio they listen to daily. I am currently moving to NYC and plan to do the same there.

My former band, Scumgrief, released 2 albums. We moved 1000+ copies of our first disk and were in line to exceed that number with the second, but disbanded before that could come to fruition. I have written upwards of 150 songs in my 11 year career. Scumgrief's songs were well received locally and had 3 singles from the second album spend 2 weeks in the top 20 of MP3.com. In our 3 year lifespan we played just shy of 300 shows locally and regionally. We were and still are recognized as one of the most influential bands in Indianapolis in this century. We also received world wide publicity regarding our CD release show and its anti-Metallica demonstration. I still receive reports of spins across the country.

My experience with local radio (WRZX 103.3 Indy) has been both rewarding and hellish. I was able to develop mutually beneficial relationships with many of the DJ's including The Big Dumb Show, Adam Ritz, Nikki, Alex B, Nigel, Danno, and others. So much so, that a year after our breakup, we are still mentioned regularly by these DJ's. We were able to have our music played very infrequently, and were able to participate regularly. All this was only possible due to a horrific amount of work on my part and a considerable amount of "thinking outside the box". The Program Manager Scott Jameson, and the music director Mike Young hated us. In fact, they hate all local music. X103 is a textbook clear channel station that believes in the monopolization of the music industry and could care less for actual talent. The DJ's who did help us out, were reprimanded for doing so. We had to create inventive ways to integrate our name and likeness into the format of their show that did not include actual music being played. I have more than once received screaming phone calls from Scott and Mike because I had found another way to get underneath their radar. As soon as they were able to run the independent radio station out of town, they canceled the local music hour on Sunday nights. We have a HUGE local scene full of supportive fans and artists and they refuse to acknowledge it. You can see for yourself here: [www.indianapolismusic.net](http://www.indianapolismusic.net). The station heads here are a perfect example of the darkest side of music. They are monetarily driven and could care less for art. Honestly, I could type for hours about this, but I'm just getting too pissed.

The FCC should most definitely define localistic programming. There needs to be some kind of forced structure since CC has made it evident that it has no concern of the local community. Assuring that those decisions are made at a local level would only give us what we have now. The real problem here is clear channels monopoly and hostile tactics.

Local programming is programming dedicated to locally produced art. That is a broad description and should stay that way.

Participating in food drives and other things that benefit the community outside of the art world are part of the moral duty of a station, NOT part of their localism requirement. Attempting to have that count for the requirement only proves their lack of commitment to the local community.

Payola, addola, whatever you want to call it, if the programming is in anyway affected by things that are economically beneficial, it's wrong. Period. And yes this happens. X103's yearly X Fest includes a "Vendor Village" where a table can be rented for \$500. Scumgrief attempted to rent one and after 2 days of outthinking the managements attempts to not allow it, we were finally harshly told, "these booths are reserved for people who buy ads at our station". That's funny, since our knowledge of the booths came by way of

an add run on the station as an open call. (if you are interested, I would love to discuss this situation in detail. 317-509-0704)

X013's attempt at voice tracking was thwarted by the indianapolis music community. If you want to voice track, fine, but don't tell me amusing stories about getting lost in a city you don't live in and have never been to. I think the practice is unethical, but I cannot say that it is illegal. Just don't be suprised if the musicians make a big enough stink to run it out of town. Like we did.

National playlists are the deffinition of the clear channel monopoly. Don't tell me about the "requests" you got for this song! These playlists completely irradicate any possiblity for any kind of localism. I think that's just common sense.

Low power FM staions are excellent. The issue here should not be if they exist. It should be how to stop CC from using militant tactics to run them out of buisness. buying presents to shows they don't promote, bullying sponsors into non-participation, etc.

I want to especially thank you for giving the public the ability to voice our concerns. The artistic voice of america has been being slowly choked by clear channel. I hope that you will have the diginty and strength to stand up to the monopoly that is currently destroying our heritage, our art. In the event that my thoughts could be of more use due to the limited space here, please feel free to contact me. 317-509-0704 Thank you again, and I look forward to a future that nurtures art. Afterall, art is the measure of a civilization.

jason lekberg