1 markets across the U.S. Management called a meeting
2 to announce that Chicago was the next target, and in
3 June of this year, the company asked WSNS employees to
4 volunteer to be laid off.
5 Typically, one would think that, in the
6 business of reporting news, reporters with experience
7 in community penetration would mean a great deal in
8 the daily race to ferret out current issues. However,
9 this past July, NBC/Telemundo decided to lay off two
10 WSNS reporters, one being a veteran of 25 years, as
11 well as being the only Puerto Rican on staff. Simply
12 stated, this amounts to a reporting staff reduction of
13 36 percent, and an overall on staff reduction -- on
14 air staff reduction of 21 percent.
15 Consolidation of media ownership has been a
16 disaster on many fronts, and most particularly for the
17 Spanish speaking communities of Chicago. How is the
18 public interest served when local news is increasingly
19 being replaced by recycled stories from other markets?
20 Please consider how your rules affect the
21 minority communities' ability to get fair, accurate,
22 and local news and information. Thank you very much
23 for this chance.
24 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you, Ms. Woelk.
25 (Applause.)

1 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Mr. Chairman.

2 CHAIRMAN MARTIN: Before we open this
3 evening's presentations back up to the public for
4 comment, we've been joined by the Reverend Jesse
5 Jackson. We first -- on behalf of the
6 Commission, and behalf of all of us, we want to thank
7 you for giving us the opportunity to be here, and
8 hosting us. The Reverend has been
9 actually actively involved in this issue for years.
10 He was -- he's been at the Commission lobbying all of
11 the Commissioners on these issues and actively
12 involved in it for several years, and has met with all
13 of us, back to the original decisions back in 2002 and
14 2003.

15 So I'm sure he would appreciate the
16 opportunity to talk to us some about this evening and
17 his views, and we'd welcome him to come up and join
18 us.

19 (Applause.)

20 REVEREND JACKSON: First of all, we really
21 do welcome you here tonight, and glad that you came to
22 this side of town to have such a hearing. That does
23 not happen often. I thank you for consenting to do
24 so. And I was late for this because I was in Jena,
25 Louisiana today. And that was, of course, the right

1 place to be, but unfortunately the two meetings
2 collided.
3 But then Jena raises several basic
4 questions. In this instance it was black radio that
5 alerted the nation, not mainstream television. They
6 were there doing catch up stories, and still trying to
7 figure out what the story is. Far more interested in
8 Paris Hilton and O.J. than the children facing child
9 abuse, and just how pervasive is the system of
10 criminal injustice in our country. It does not grab
11 us.
12 What does it mean to us when of 16,000
13 murders last year, 8,000 were black, in one year,
14 twice more than those lost in Iraq in four years, but
15 does not seem to grab the culture of those who drive
16 the media. Another kind of classic case
17 to us, they finally caught on that Jena is a story
18 with some sensational dimension to it, but all the
19 questions I've been asked all day is about the white
20 kid who was beaten. But there were two fights. And
21 they simply wipe out the fight that triggered the
22 fight.
23 And the first fight was a black kid, Robert
24 Baylor, was at a party. He was beaten, hit over the
25 head with a bottle, but not allowed to make his claim.

1 I mean, he was not given enough citizenship right
2 to -- he knew the people, he identified them, and then
3 the next day he identified one of the guys, who ran to
4 get a shot gun and took it from him. And did not hit
5 him or shoot him, he took it home, and he was accused
6 of stealing his weapon.
7 Upon this -- even after all this, do you
8 think the black kid should have -- black -- white kid
9 should have been kicked? Of course not. Do you think
10 that the white kid -- the black kid that was beaten
11 should have been allowed to file a claim? Of course.
12 But if you just start with the white kid beaten and
13 show his picture with a swollen eye, then you further
14 distort the story about it's all about a white kid who
15 got beat.
16 I'm giving the story line here only because
17 of just simply the lack of any sense of balance and
18 broad view, even in the Jena story. One might not
19 know the kids who did get beat, brought a gun to
20 school with 16 rounds in it. On school property. For
21 that he was given a misdemeanor, $5,000 bond. The
22 black kid was in jail, $130,000 bond, and his shoe was
23 the weapon. And the lack of appreciation
24 of that dynamic distorts how the whole world, you
25 know, sees that story. Clearly we need local radio in

1 Chicago. One black owned radio station. And it's
2 interesting as we fight in Iraq, we define democracy
3 there as proportionality. You can't have a democratic
4 tyranny where Shiites control everything. Shiites,
5 Kurds, and Sunnis must share in the democracy to make
6 the democracy work.
7 Here we have a kind of democratic tyranny
8 where the majority can wipe out the minority, and that
9 the protection, tax certificate helped some, and that
10 was a breakthrough. The first thing they did was to
11 wipe out -- build up all new stations, because they
12 thought the politics of owning a station would
13 determine voter registration.
14 I would like to say that when you look at
15 CBS, ABC, NBC, CNN, CNBC, FOX, with the exception of
16 Robin in the morning on ABC, there's not a single
17 black or brown show host in the whole nation, not one.
18 CNN has more personalities, FOX virtually none. But
19 there's not a single black hosted show, except Robin
20 in the morning, there's no one else in the news time
21 when you have your Wolf Blitzers and your opinion
22 makers are complete all day, all night, all white,
23 with no sensitivity whatsoever.
24 So there's the issue here of shared
25 ownership, of shared -- of local ownership. But even

1 now we cannot wait forever, as we move into this
2 presidential season, to have only whites who have the
3 authority to determine the agenda, who have the
4 authority to determine the staff, and the priorities,
5 and the research. And because of that insensitivity,
6 we are lucky to be guests of our own shows.
7 I'll say this in closing, the media
8 projects us as a people, blacks and browns, in five
9 deadly ways. Either they're projected as less
10 intelligent than we are, less hard working, less
11 universal, less patriotic, and more violent. The
12 pervasiveness of those images every day affects how we
13 see ourselves and how the world sees us.
14 And so I thank you for being here tonight.
15 We want more local ownership. I suppose a lesson to
16 be drawn is not just more ethnic ownership, but more
17 ethical ownership. I do not know quite how you handle
18 the *Free Press* thing, but when You Tube or BET has a
19 video called a Read a Book, which sounds, on its face
20 value, all right.
21 But when our kids are hitting three million
22 hits on Read a Book, EMF Read a Book. I mean, where
23 does that fit into something called unprotected
24 speech, speech that makes sense. If we can get
25 excited about and find Janet Jackson about

1 Nipplegate --

2 (Applause.)

3 REVEREND JACKSON: -- what about You Tube?

4 I mean, do we have any protections from this

5 invasion? I mean, this is targeted at children. I

6 was in a school and said Read a Book, and the kids

7 start laughing. They're watching the other vulgarity

8 and the vile every day and night. It's on their

9 minds, every other value we espouse that make us a

10 civilized people.

11 I hope that you -- have you seen Read a

12 Book? Have you seen it? Raise your hand -- if you've

13 seen it, raise your hand. If you've seen Read a

14 Book -- wow. I want you guys to get involved in this

15 media movement here, because I hope that when you take

16 your break tonight, read the book and let's discuss

17 where things really are. Thank you very much.

18 (Applause.)

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you, Reverend

20 Jackson.

21 And thank you to all of our panelists.

22 Audience please join me in thanking our panelists.

23 (Applause.)

24 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Now is an opportune

25 time to --

1 VOICE: Hey, hey.

2 [Voices from the audience.]

3 VOICE: He never spoke.

4 VOICE: Lord Cassius D needs to be --

5 MODERATOR SIGALOS: I'm sorry.

6 VOICE: -- talking on the --

7 VOICE: He didn't speak.

8 VOICE: -- microphone please. I think it
9 is very disrespectful for this committee to be up here
10 and say that they are interested in issues when they
11 don't give Lord Cassius D of the Universal Zulu
12 Nation, which is the first entity of hip-hop. I
13 think, as a taxpayer, you owe --

14 MODERATOR SIGALOS: If you could --

15 VOICE: -- the Universal Zulu --

16 MODERATOR SIGALOS: If you could please --

17 VOICE: -- Nation that right.

18 MODERATOR SIGALOS: -- limit our comments
19 to those who have signed up and waited patiently
20 throughout the entire hearing here for their turn at
21 the microphone, it would be appreciated.

22 VOICE: But the Brother's on the panel,
23 man. MODERATOR SIGALOS: Excuse me --

24 VOICE: Let him speak. He's on --

25 MODERATOR SIGALOS: -- at this point --

1 VOICE: -- the panel --

2 [Voices from the audience.]

3 VOICE: Excuse me.

4 MODERATOR SIGALOS: I'm not -- I'm sorry,

5 I don't know who this panelist is.

6 (Pause.)

7 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Sir, if you could go

8 ahead please.

9 CASSIUS D: Speech, speech, speech. I'm

10 Lord Cassius D --

11 (Applause.)

12 CASSIUS D: -- of the Universal Federation

13 of Hip-hop, mighty Universal Zulu Nation,

14 International Hip-hop artist, and teacher.

15 I just want to be very quick -- this is to

16 the Commissioners -- the people are tired of dumbed

17 down radio.

18 (Applause and cheering.)

19 CASSIUS D: We are tired of our babies

20 listening to what they call the drive home from 2:00

21 to 7:00 with this ridiculous music that's being

22 played. We want a variety of music. With all the

23 music that's been made over the time, these only seven

24 to twelve songs, is this the only thing that radio can

25 play?

1 (Applause.)

2 CASSIUS D: We want a variety. For every
3 negative song -- see we know we're up against big
4 corporations and media consolidation, but when every
5 song is negative, we want to hear something positive.
6 The people are tired. We are tired.

7 (Applause and cheering.)

8 CASSIUS D: Our children are suffering in
9 the streets from bad programming, dumbed down images,
10 images that portray us as animals and different
11 things, and we are buying into this because this is
12 being fed through the airwaves, and our children are
13 in trouble. This has become a public health issue.

14 (Applause and cheering.)

15 CASSIUS D: Now if you're listening to me,
16 if I have your ears, Commissioners, if I have your
17 ears, I speak for those 33 plus children that died
18 last year during the school year, and all those that
19 are going to fail. If I have your ear, the
20 Commissioner that's in charge of youth programming and
21 education, if I have your ear, the people want a
22 variety.

23 We don't need big consolidation, we don't
24 need same old programming over and over again, the
25 same songs played over and over and over and over

1 again. We want to hear more variety. We want to hear
2 local artists on the radio. Don't they have a
3 platform too?
4 (Applause.)
5 CASSIUS D: We can't create anything for
6 our children if you never give us the airwaves to make
7 anything. We need some things right now for our
8 children. This is tearing us apart. We can sit up
9 here all night and go through this. This is smoke and
10 mirrors. We want some action.
11 (Applause.)
12 CASSIUS D: You were put into office and we
13 want some action. We want to hear some positive
14 things on the radio, we want to hear diversity. You
15 push for diversity in this country, and we want
16 diversity on the radio now. If you -- if I have your
17 ear, the children are dying. You wonder why America
18 has a problem like it has in the streets. Look what
19 we're listening to, look what we're watching, look
20 what we look like.
21 (Applause and cheering.)
22 CASSIUS D: Let's be real. If you can come
23 and help the American people get a diversity, more
24 music on the radio, for every negative we want a
25 positive. If you're going to play slop hop, play some

1 hip-hop. (Applause.)

2 CASSIUS D: This goes for country and
3 western, this goes for blues, this goes for all
4 musical genres. The legendary Afrika Bambaataa, who
5 gave you hip-hop culture says that music is for all
6 people. It is the universal language. But if you
7 poison the music, you've poisoned the universe.

8 (Applause.)

9 CASSIUS D: Now if I have your ears, just
10 for my small little window of having your ears today,
11 this goes for all the people, you have the power to
12 make change. You must pressure radio stations now to
13 give you a variety. We want a variety.

14 Please, when you leave here and you go back
15 to your quarters, think of this voice, think of those
16 children that fell, think of all the children in
17 America that's locked up and have died because of bad
18 programming, bad choices, or bad songs, and bad words,
19 and bad images. Think about that, and please help us,
20 give us, we demand it as the people, a variety. Thank
21 you for hearing me.

22 (Applause and cheering.)

23 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

24 As we transition to the public comment
25 period, there are a few members of the audience who we

1 had signed up to speak but couldn't do it at the
2 panels. And I'd like to recognize those individuals
3 now, if you'd go to those aisle microphones please.
4 And that would be Assad Jafre, Youth
5 Coordinator, Inner City Muslim Action Network; Victor
6 Josey, retired publisher, Community Newspaper
7 Association; Salim Muwakkil, Senior Editor, *In These*
8 *Times*; Don Jackson, Chairman and CEO of Central City
9 Productions; and Tony Gray, President of Gray
10 Communications.
11 Assad Jofre, please. Two minutes.
12 MR. JOFRE: As we all know, media has an
13 immense effect on society, now more than ever. This
14 effect, like Lord Cassius D said, is even greater on
15 the youth population. In fact, our children are
16 constantly bombarded with sounds and images on a daily
17 basis that dictate how they live, act, and treat each
18 other.
19 Beyond the limited scope of music that if
20 forced upon us, we are also only given news that is
21 considered important only to the media giants. This
22 means that, once again, our world perspective, and
23 especially that of the youth, is completely skewed and
24 unreal. The lack of diversity in music and the biased
25 news that we are given is causing us to lose our

1 children, figuratively and literally, and completely
2 robbing us of all of our culture.
3 Now we're not only here to criticize the
4 current situation, but we'd rather talk about real
5 solutions. We already know that young people are
6 passionate enough to use the Internet to take the
7 media into their own hands. We have very, very
8 limited resources, but we're still using Facebook, You
9 Tube, MySpace, and blogs.
10 However, these are nowhere near enough and
11 we need ownership over all types of media outlets, as
12 we know that they're still the primary source of
13 information and entertainment.
14 It's of utmost importance that the FCC
15 support media ownership by those who are true
16 community leaders and stand for the people's interest.
17 This is a direct solution to making sure that what is
18 broadcast over the airwaves and watched on television
19 is a true reflection of community values, art,
20 identity, and culture.
21 We will not continue to fail our future
22 generations if we are able to assume the
23 responsibility for what has become their primary form
24 of education. They're not learning it in the public
25 schools, they're learning through the media outlets.

1 We keep talking about accountability, and we see that
2 the media giants as well as our government is only
3 accountable to the almighty dollar.
4 My time is coming to an end. But I need to
5 know that the FCC will assure us that independent
6 media is made a priority and there are plenty of us
7 with the skills, knowledge, and passion to take this
8 into our own hands and we will be accountable to the
9 people. Thank you.
10 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.
11 (Applause and cheering.)
12 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Victor Josey. Victor
13 Josey?
14 (No response.)
15 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Salim Muwakkil.
16 MR. MUWAKKIL: Good evening, Commissioners,
17 and I really thank you for coming to the south side
18 and making this hearing accessible to many people who
19 are deeply affected by what the FCC does, and the way
20 it regulates the airwaves.
21 In the early '90s, two young boys were
22 arrested for the murder of a young girl named Ryan
23 Harris. The two prepubescent boys were accused of
24 murdering and sexually assaulting this young girl. It
25 seemed absurd to me that two preteens were charged

1 with rape, especially when semen sources -- semen
2 traces were left on the young girl's body. But the
3 mainstream media found no problem with the arrest.
4 In fact, much of their coverage focused on
5 the incredible wanton nature of this act. It fit
6 perfectly with the reigning conventional wisdom at the
7 time that America's inner cities were producing a
8 unique generation of super predators who lacked
9 scruples, morals, or any redeeming characteristic
10 whatsoever. There was little disbelief in the
11 mainstream that two preteen black boys could commit
12 such an outrage.
13 But the black press refused to believe it.
14 The *Chicago Defender* was openly skeptical of the
15 charges, and radio station WVON, the only black owned
16 radio station in this market of more than one million
17 African-Americans, was incredulous that such charges
18 could be levied against two young brothers.
19 The station produced program after program
20 featuring top level legal minds and community
21 activists who argued convincingly that the police were
22 premature in figuring these two youngsters. After a
23 while, those arguments convinced investigators to dig
24 deeper, and eventually the police dropped the charges
25 against these young boys and apprehended a suspect

1 whose DNA matched the sperm that was left on the dead
2 body.
3 That seemed obvious. But with the
4 mainstream media in charge, it wasn't an obvious
5 conclusion. Without WVON, justice may have been done,
6 but it's --
7 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.
8 MR. MUWAKKIL: -- but it's little doubt
9 that the radio station raised questions that would not
10 have been heard without the amplification of Black
11 talk radio. Thank you.
12 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.
13 (Applause.)
14 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Don Jackson.
15 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Commissioners. I
16 come as an independent television programming producer
17 of 37 years. We produce local and national
18 programming.
19 I'd like to testify about two serious
20 conditions that now exist in the television broadcast
21 industry that are discriminatory and puts independent
22 producers, as myself, at an unfair disadvantage to
23 compete with network owned production companies. The
24 first condition is the monopoly of the network owned
25 programming and production companies, which was

1 brought about by the consolidation of the media.

2 This consolidation has resulted in

3 independent production companies like ours facing the

4 enormous problems in getting our shows on the air,

5 having our shows air in post-midnight time periods,

6 lower ratings because of bad time periods, and

7 finally, a loss in advertising revenues because of

8 poor ratings.

9 One example of the impact of consolidation

10 was a result -- it resulted several years ago here in

11 Chicago in one of shows called *Know Your Heritage*, a

12 quiz show which was taken off the air because the

13 station was given a mandate from their parent company

14 that they had to air one of the network owned weekly

15 shows, which was called *At The Movies*, which their

16 parent had acquired. As a result, we had to find a

17 new station outlet, which charged us for the time

18 period to air our weekly series. This leads me

19 to the second serious condition effecting us as

20 independent producers, and that is programming time by

21 purchases, where more and more broadcasters are

22 requiring that you need to buy -- for you to get your

23 programs on the air, you need to buy the programs.

24 Such a stipulation puts an unfair hardship on us,

25 because we can't afford to pay for the production of

1 our shows and at the same time pay the broadcasters
2 to air our shows.
3 I would like to recommend that the FCC make
4 a similar ruling that they made for children's
5 programming, to air independent programming, a certain
6 amount of programming per week, and also to limit the
7 number of hours a week that broadcasters can accept
8 paid programming. Thank you.
9 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.
10 (Applause.)
11 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Tony Gray?
12 (No response.)
13 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Okay. It's time to
14 continue with the public comments. Before the -- in
15 the earlier public comment period, we listened to
16 approximately 34 people, and we have many, many more
17 to go.
18 At this point in time would Mark Brodsky,
19 Mary Class, Jennifer Lizak, Kristin Marks, Mica
20 Alaniz, Paul McKinley, Yolton Harbin, Jann Honore,
21 Jerry Stermer, and Mark Denzer please come forward?
22 One last reminder, please, please limit
23 your comments to two minutes.
24 Mark Brodsky.
25 VOICE: Could you tell us what number

1 you're on?

2 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thirty-five.

3 MR. BRODSKY: My name is Mark Brodsky, and
4 I'm speaking to you as a consumer of media, an over 50
5 consumer of media. We grew up in the '60s and '70s,
6 we lived through fear of nuclear war, and the loss of
7 three great leaders. We saw our country struggle with
8 its conscience and morality, 10,000 nuclear warheads
9 pointed our way, we're told, we saw bigotry and hope
10 and the downfall of a corrupt administration.

11 We experienced this with the help of a
12 friend, the broadcast news media. We felt good about
13 our country because the media kept our leaders honest,
14 and provided the public oversight necessary for a
15 thriving democracy. We were not afraid. At the time,
16 the news media was non-profit, a public service
17 resource provided by the greater -- for the greater
18 good and mandated by regulation, and enforced by you,
19 the FCC.

20 Fast forward to 2007. We have discarded
21 the Fairness Doctrine, and allowed further media mega-
22 mergers. News is a profit center, profit trumps
23 content, target demographics have replaced the greater
24 good, investigative reporting is rare. Political
25 assets replaces diversity of thought and vigilance.

1 There is war and dissent, but we don't see it. There
2 is still bigotry and we have a lot more and lot more
3 kinds.
4 Opinions replace fact, and there's a lot of
5 excuses for being me, and not a lot on how we should
6 live peacefully together. We have lost habeas corpus
7 and privacy, and we are afraid. We are very afraid.
8 The media of the '60s would have fought for
9 Americans' democracy and maintain their charter as
10 guardians of democracy. The media of this decade has
11 turned their back on democracy. And now they're the
12 ATM of the chosen few. Thank you. (Applause.)
13 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Mary Glass.
14 (No response.)
15 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Jennifer Lizak?
16 MS. LIZAK: Good evening, and thank you for
17 the opportunity to speak. My name is Jennifer Lizak.
18 I'm a life long Chicagoan, and I'm a Board member of
19 the Chicago Independent Radio Project, a non-profit --
20 that means I'm not getting paid to be here --
21 community group that seeks to bring a new low power FM
22 radio station to Chicago.
23 The issue of media ownership is important
24 to me, because the needs of the people of Chicago are
25 not being met currently. I do not want any further

1 media consolidation. Instead, I would ask that you
2 make room for more independent voices, especially
3 those of women, by prioritizing new low power FM radio
4 stations over translators transmitting distant
5 broadcasts with no local programming.
6 I volunteer with Loyola College radio
7 station WLUW, where I host a weekly two hour show
8 called the *Women on Women Music Program.* We provide
9 information on local women's groups, feminist issues,
10 and play solely female musicians from all genres of
11 music. And our show has been very successful for many
12 years. New artists, the community groups we interview
13 on air, and our listeners all tell us how much they
14 appreciate our show as a place for their issues and
15 their music.
16 While we enjoy the success, it's
17 unfortunate that we are the only two hours a week that
18 Chicagoans can be assured of hearing women musicians.
19 Sadly women are still under-represented in the music
20 industry and on the airwaves. Even the most legendary
21 women in Chicago music history, Mavis Staples, Patti
22 Smith, Coco Taylor, are rarely heard on our airwaves,
23 in their own city.
24 Worse, women own only 6 percent of
25 commercial radio stations worldwide. This is

1 appalling. We're 50 percent of the population. As a
2 result, my issues are not being represented. Women's
3 music is not being heard, women's news is not being
4 heard, women are not being heard.
5 I ask you to please rectify this injustice
6 and stop any further consolidation. The FCC's own
7 studies have shown the feasibility of low power FM
8 radio stations in Chicago and other major cities as
9 one solution to the problem of media consolidation. I
10 ask you to please take the next step and make new low
11 power FM radio stations in Chicago a priority over
12 non-local translators, and please help our voices be
13 heard.
14 My co-worker, Eric, was going to speak to
15 gay issues. He's number --
16 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.
17 MS. LIZAK: -- 136. He's not going to get
18 to speak, but I have his --
19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.
20 MS. LIZAK: -- speech, and I'd be happy to
21 give it to you, if anybody wants to read it.
22 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.
23 (Applause.)
24 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Mica Alaniz.
25 MS. MARKS: It's not -- I think I'm next.

1 VOICE: No, it's Kristin.

2 MS. MARKS: Yes. Kristin Marks.

3 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Kristin Marks.

4 MS. MARKS: Yes.

5 MODERATOR SIGALOS: I'm sorry.

6 MS. MARKS: That's okay.

7 (Pause.)

8 MS. MARKS: All right. Good evening,
9 Commissioners. I'm here also to talk to you about the
10 importance of low power FM radio. The question we're
11 all here to answer tonight is, Are the media serving
12 my community? And my answer, frankly, as a Chicagoan,
13 is no. 2007 has been an absolutely devastating year
14 for me media-wise. My favorite magazine, and my
15 favorite newspaper, and my favorite radio station are
16 all basically going away this year.

17 A very highly regarded locally independent
18 magazine has stopped production due to financial
19 reasons. Our locally produced weekly free paper, *The*
20 *Reader*, has been bought out and production is going to
21 be outsourced, and syndicated journalism will be
22 favored over the unique and relevant writing it now
23 contains.

24 Further, this past July it was announced
25 that one of the last true independent radio stations

1 here in the Chicagoland area, WLUW, a thriving
2 community of extremely diverse music lovers,
3 activists, and members of dozens of different ethnic,
4 cultural, and political backgrounds was being
5 essentially repossessed.
6 This is a station where over 200
7 volunteers, such as myself, gave our time and hard
8 work to support programming we loved, and truly, truly
9 represented our neighborhood. This is suffocating us
10 here in Chicago.
11 Where are the outlets for interesting
12 music, local issues, different voices, different
13 opinions? With every dying outlet, another voice goes
14 unheard. Where is Chicago on the airwaves? Certainly
15 not in the corporate radio filling the dial right now.
16 Consolidation has hit us, and it's hit us hard. I
17 don't find my community in the same 40 songs played
18 over and over again, and 16 minutes of commercials on
19 the hour. Where did the members of my community go?
20 It's time to give the voice back to the
21 people, play albums because they're good, and air
22 people because they want to be heard. This is why
23 it's absolutely crucial that a voice be given back to
24 our community. Chicago is full of interesting,
25 creative, diverse, intelligent people, and it's time