

Unlike members of NAB, I do not have the funds to 'manufacture' a detailed study to obfuscate the dire state of programming available to the public nowadays.

One study submitted summarized that "never before have listeners been offered such diversity." Balderdash.

In the tri-county area of Palm Beach, Martin and Indian River counties, there is not one single album-oriented rock station, no blues stations, no reggae stations and only ONE classic rock format! And that classic rock station has a 300 song playlist.

Now, demographically speaking, those three counties have a population total in excess of 1 million, primarily consisting of upper middle class and wealthy citizens.

The lack of diverse music programming is well known to anyone who resides in this locale and is in the 30 - 50 age range.

But what is worse is how most of the programming is done elsewhere. This clearly manifested itself when Hurricane Irene came through the other day.

There was only ONE AM station that broadcasted continuous live coverage. One FM station would do 5 to 15 minute segments each hour and would resume with their 'adult language, call in' format. Hardly what most individuals would like to sift through to get emergency information. All the other stations allowed their computerized and/or satellite downlinks to provide their same "niche" entertainment. Almost NO LOCAL PROGRAMS attuned to the community needs, even when a crisis arose.

Interference is not the real issue with this entire proceeding. This is big (I mean BIG) business trying to preclude the small entrepreneur, local organizations, schools, churches and hobbyists from offering fresh communications. 300, 500, Top 40 playlists are mundane and inexpensive to create. A sort of "they will listen to what we offer or too bad" attitude is prevalent. The only real competition is in the talk radio, country music and modern dance/pop formats.

However, a large segment is being neglected.

LPFM will give the public real choices in music and community discussion forums. LPFM will also offer small local businesses affordable advertising.