

On October 3, 2025, WCSB Cleveland unceremoniously changed its programming from student-lead, community-driven innovations to a new format under Ideastream Public Media called “JazzNEO”; fulfilling a now realized jazz-dream of the Fowlers and their Ideastream cohorts to be the white-knights of jazz in the Northeast, Ohio community....as the expense (of course) of the students and community members who had operated and programmed on the 89.3 FM signal for 49 years. Cleveland State’s partnership agreement is said to enhance the student experience and provide pre-professional opportunities in broadcasting and other Ideastream sectors, but it is time to ask ourselves the important questions:

**WHY DID THEY PARTNER
WITH NO INPUT OR
CONSIDERATION FOR THE
STUDENT ORGANIZATION?**

**WHAT DID BOTH SIDES GAIN
FROM THIS EXTREME CUT TO
FREE EXPRESSION AT A STATE
INSTITUTION?**

WHO TO CONTACT

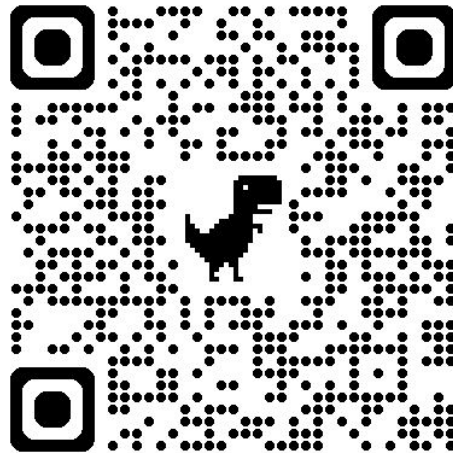
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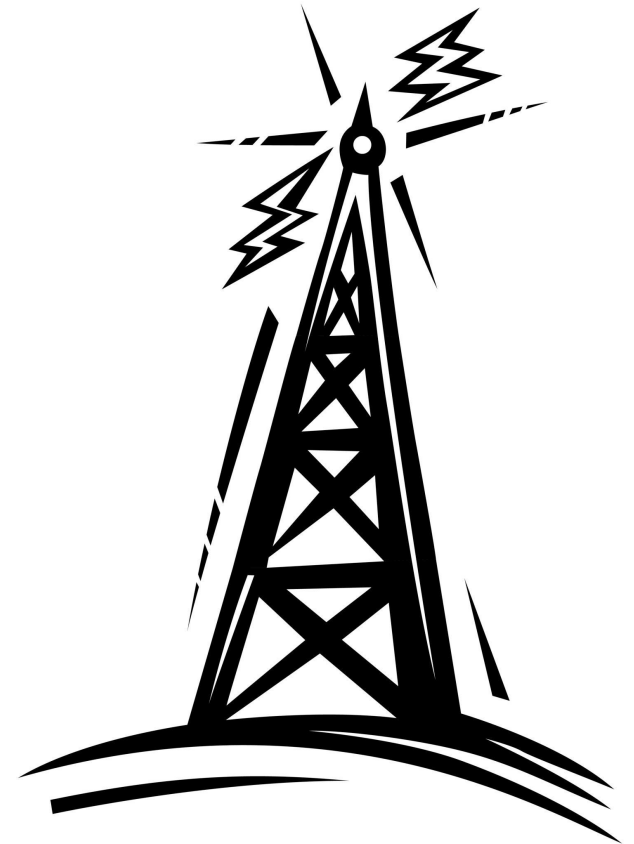
STAY IN TOUCH



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THE COLLEGE RADIO CONDITION



The radio dial is a source of energy, spun to source frequencies from all over a specific radius, projecting voices syndicated around the globe and voices you won't hear from 10 miles away. The radio dial instructs you to look beyond its limits. *Move left* it says, urging you to the outer edges of its frontier: the wild west end of a circular knob. You push forward, to hear what's been calling out to you from 91, to 90, to 89, to 88 to nothing....

WCSB CLEVELAND 89.3 FM sat at the far end of the FM meter as a refuge for the musical misfits, the avant-garde guardians, and the nontraditional neophytes looking for a laboratory of new ways of projecting your voice through the medium of radio...but that reality is no more. 89.3 is now formatted, controlled, domesticated to the liberal upper-middle class's liking. But before talking further about our community's current condition, I'd like to talk about the limitations of the radio medium...

Radio communication demonstrates its limitations in numeric form, each searchable channel distinguished by its frequency and call letters. Each channel crafted for an audience. Each audience just as limited. These limitations are felt in the most extreme way in Northeast, Ohio: there is no more space on the radio dial. The dial has become an institution, a victim of history and capitalism that changes hands to the tune of millions and is gobbled up by the corporate presences with the ability to play that game.

The charm of terrestrial radio lies in its limitation, but it's also the greatest risk to its community outlets. Limits lead to scarcity, scarcity to demand, demand to domination. 89.3 has been dominated, just like other stations in the sake of cultural and societal capitol that extends further than its signal's ~30 mile radius ever could.

The laboratory of cool turned into the stale station with a mission to turn big money into community....

and operate in the pursuit of financial gains from a specific untapped community. Ideastream and others look no further than these two variables, but they ran into radio's limitation very quickly: they already had space on the dial and SO DID EVERYONE ELSE! Though, through PSOs with WKSU, WCSB, they have set a precedent for their form of cultural domination, their form of community with no room other voices and opinions to flourish unless its under their wing.

Unfortunately, this behavior is exacerbated by universities who think radio is dead with streaming as its future and institutions who wish to gain communal clout without the community's opinion.

WE have the chance, **NOW**, to educate ourselves and advocate for our radio stations and **WE MUST RAISE OUR VOICES TOGETHER** before corporations like Ideastream kill college radio and our chance at community!