

CHICAGO INDEPENDENT MEDIA GUIDE

2003 Edition



ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This inaugural edition of the Chicago Independent Media Guide (CIMG) was released July 4, 2003 to coincide with the "We, the Media" celebration held that day at the buddY gallery in Wicker Park. The CIMG is a production of the Chicago Local Media Network (CLMN). CLMN is an informal coalition of various independent media and media activist groups, which came together around the "We, the Media" event.

The resources listed in the CIMG were chosen for the following reasons:

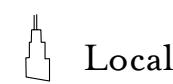
- They are mostly based in the Chicago area
- They are primarily non-profit, non-commercial outlets
- They are primarily left-of-center
- The organizers had some personal familiarity with them
- The organizers liked them.

We're certain we have missed things that are worthy of inclusion, and don't pretend that the guide is exhaustive or complete. Feel free to contribute your ideas for the 2004 edition of the CIMG. Please email: cimediaguide2004@comcast.net

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Everyone at the buddY gallery, especially Jeff and Ed Dylan Clayton, Emily Lonigro, Mitchell Szczepanczyk and Karen Young Eric & Eric at Chicago Comics, Steve Parkes at New Leaf Natural Grocery, Inc., Copycat in Evanston, and all of the generous local advertisers who made this guide possible Our volunteer staff at the "We, the Media" event Vick Speedwell

CIMG KEY TO LISTINGS





Why an Independent Media Guide?

When I think about what a stranglehold the mainstream media has on people's perceptions, and how that limits our opportunities to make a better world, there are two key issues I see. The first is that there is so much of the world that just doesn't exist in the mainstream media. For example, what does the mainstream media tell you about politics? That there's no one worth voting for, and all decisions are made by people you can never influence. They don't tell you about the politicians who are standing up to the corporations, or the battles people are winning against companies and regulatory agencies. To me, there is no better example of the power of mainstream media than the fact that more people voted for an "American Idol" than voted in last year's midterm elections.

The second is that to the vast majority of the public, the world of independent media doesn't exist either. Most people have never explored the left end of the radio dial, the wonders of cable access programming, or the personal rants of a typical zine. Independent media outlets don't have the distribution networks or the marketing budgets to compete for an audience and tell them the other side of the story.

This guide is our first attempt to do something about that. We want the citizens of Chicago to know that there's more to the radio dial than voice-tracked DJ's from California and a bunch of crappy songs dictated from San Antonio. We want

people to know that there is a way to get important news that doesn't make it into the pages of the Chicago Tribune or the New York Times. To convince people that a better world is possible, we have to break the chains of mainstream media around their minds. Please share this guide widely! If you leave a copy on the train or in the doctor's office, you'll be striking a blow for truth and justice.

Support independent media; support the advertisers who made this guide possible. We welcome your feedback and suggestions for future guides; contact us at cma@chicagomediaaction.org.

On this Fourth of July, we remember Tom Paine, whose book *Common Sense* helped keep the ragged Revolutionary army together through the bitter winter of 1776, and was a basis for our Declaration of Independence; and of whom it is said, "He caused the British ministry to curse the day when the written word had been made available to commoners." I hope that someday the powers that be will be trying to suppress our Independent Media Guide, because of how much it has helped to raise a ruckus.

Sincerely,
Karen Young
Chicago Media Action

Radio

WZRD 88.3FM

Northeastern University

100 watts

Northwest side of Chicago; secondary from Evanston to the Loop, Oak Park to Park Ridge

Democracy Now ☎ 🔍

M-F, 7AM-9AM

The Pacifica network's morning news show includes important information both harrowing and uplifting. Recent examples include a report on the first Green Party mayor just elected in New Paltz, NY, and a speech given by Rachel Corrie's mother at Olympia State College on what would have been her daughter's graduation day, had she not been crushed to death by an Israeli bulldozer in the Gaza Strip.

www.zap.to/wizard_wzrd

773-442-4586
5500 N. St. Louis Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625

WLWU 88.7FM 🔊

Loyola University

100 watts

From the Loop to the northern suburbs, from the lake to the Tri-state (294)

WLWU is a community radio station that generally runs news/talk/public service programs in mornings, middays and weekends; alternative music programming in afternoons, nights and overnights.

Free Speech Radio News ☎ 🔍

M-F, 6PM-6:30PM

Pacifica Radio's afternoon news show

Live from the Heartland ☎ 🔍

W, 9AM-10AM

Wide-ranging discussion live from the Heartland restaurant in Rogers Park

Counterspin ☎ 🔍

W, 10AM-10:30AM

Media news and analysis from FAIR

Abstract Science ☎ 🔊

Th, 10PM-2AM

Independent Music

Labor Express ☎ 🔍

Su, 7PM-8PM

Local labor news and interviews

Something Else ☎ 🔊

Su, 10PM-2AM

Full Service experimental and avant garde music filling station

www.wluw.org

773-508-8080

6525 N. Sheridan Rd.
Chicago, IL 60626

WONC 89.1FM

North Central College

1,500 watts

Aurora/Naperville/Wheaton area

Local Chaos ☎ 🔊

Su, 8PM-10PM

Showcase local ska, punk, metal and rock

www.wonc.org
630-637-8989
30 N. Brainard St.
Naperville, IL 60566

WNUR 89.3FM

Northwestern University
7,200 watts
Lakefront from Highland Park to North Ave.; West to near the Cook/DuPage border

This Is Hell

Sa, 9AM-1PM ♫ ↗ ♪
Political discussion, humor, interviews

www.wnur.org
847-491-7101
1905 Sheridan Rd.
Evanston, IL 60201

WRTE 90.5FM

Mexican Fine Arts Center
73 watts
Pilsen and near west side of Chicago

A youth initiative of the Mexican Fine Arts Center, WRTE trains Hispanic youth in radio broadcasting and features bilingual music and news/talk programming.

Between Two Worlds

TBA
WRTE is collaborating with WBEZ Chicago Public Radio and Casa Central, an organization dedicating to providing social services to youth and families, on a series called "Between Two Worlds." It will focus on the lives of Latino teens in Hermosa Park, Logan Square, Pilsen, Little Village and Humboldt Park.

www.wrte.org
312-455-9455
401 W. 18th St.
Chicago, IL 60608

WDCB 90.9FM

College of DuPage
5,000 watts
DuPage County; secondary Cook County

WDCB is known for its eclectic music programming, primarily jazz, folk and classical.

E-Town

F, 9PM-10PM
Live folk and world music, interviews and celebrations of people making positive change.

www.cod.edu/wdcb/
630-942-3708
425 22nd St.
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

WXRT 93.1FM

Viacom
6,700 watts
Chicago Metro

Sound Opinions

T, 10PM-12AM
Music critics Greg Kot (Chicago Tribune) and Jim DeRogatis (Chicago Sun-Times) share largely uncensored, heartfelt and entertaining opinions, music selections and discussion.

REDLINE RADIO 99.1FM

Redline Radio is an unlicensed station that broadcasts to the city of Chicago.

Chin Scratcher

Th, 6PM-10PM
Bleeps, Whirrs, Dings and Bass with political commentary and music.

info@redlineradio.org
www.redlineradio.org

WCKG 105.9FM

Viacom
4,100 watts
Chicago Metro

Little Steven's Underground Garage

Su, 5PM-7PM
Little Steven Van Zandt, of Sopranos and E-Street Band fame, is what the best DJ's used to be: opinionated and passionate about music. He describes the spirit of garage rock (which on the show includes both current and old music) thusly: "It was not always particularly original and the musicians not always particularly accomplished, and it would receive very little respect as it would usually be found on small independent labels. But God gave the singers a permanent snotty adolescence and infused the entire genre with the essence of what Rock and Roll is all about. Attitude, angst, anger, anxiety, frustration, bravado, guitars, fuzziness, and Farfisa organs. And it was cool."

www.wckg.com
312-240-7900
2 Prudential Plaza
Chicago, IL 60601

WVON 1450AM

WVON is a part-time radio station that airs talk show programs from 10PM-1PM daily.

Willie Dixon Showcase

T & F, 10PM-12PM

www.wvon.com
wvon.com/home.htm
3350 South Kedzie
Chicago, IL 60623
773-247-6200

Music

THRILL JOCKEY

Electronic, Rock, and Jazz

www.thrilljockey.com

ATOMIC MOUSE RECORDINGS

DIY music resource and micro-label; online store

<http://atomicmouserecordings.com/mainsite>

STASISFIELD

Experimental mp3, CD, and CDR label with online art gallery containing works by local and international artists

<http://www.stasisfield.com>



Four easy ways to improve reception of low power FM stations

1. Home listening on a component FM tuner:

Usually these are the most expensive FM receivers you can buy, but they always seem to come with the same crappy wire antenna.

First of all, take one end of the wire and hook it on something so that it is pointing straight up. This will usually improve your reception. If not, consider buying a cheap (<\$10) antenna from Radio Shack. DO NOT get an amplified antenna.

They don't improve reception. Also avoid satellite dish or circular shaped antennas. The best performer will be a telescoping antenna or an antenna shaped like a bow tie. If it still doesn't work, consider buying a roof mount antenna. Radio Shack sells a directional model for \$15. Mounting hardware will set you back another \$20 to \$40. If all else fails, you could move.

2. Home listening on a boombox tuner:

The antennas on these are usually fixed telescoping antennas, so you can't replace them. Prepare to do some experimenting. First, set the boombox near a window that faces the location of the transmitter. Starting with the antenna pointing straight up, move it around a little bit. If you've got two antennas, angle them 90 degrees apart from each other and rotate that way. I've also heard of

people having good luck using aluminum foil creations wrapped around the antenna... just mess with it until it works.

3. Listening in a car: Make sure you've got a decent antenna on your car. The kind that's almost three feet long and telescopes out. You don't want a little "whip" antenna. Those are only good for picking up powerful commercial stations. Aside from that, there's really nothing you can do to improve reception except drive around.

4. Walkman? Good luck. The antennas in these things are the headphone cords. Try to keep the cord straight and away from your body.

5. Anything else? Yes... If you got about \$30 to spend, you could purchase a "weather radio." The best models are made by GE. These little devils are small, portable, and notoriously good receptors. The higher end models also come with external antenna jacks. The reason these radios receive FM signals so well is because they're mono. FM is always strongest on mono receivers. In fact, if you own one of the few receivers that can switch to mono, try that too.

by Slacker

Print

THE BAFFLER

"The Baffler was our attempt to restore a sense of outrage and urgency to the literature of the Left and simultaneously to unmask the pretensions of the lifestyle liberals."

www.thebaffler.com
P.O. Box 378293
Chicago, IL 60637

CHICAGO JAZZ MAGAZINE

Bi-monthly, Covering Chicago's Jazz scene

www.chicagojazz.com
P.O. Box 737
Park Ridge, IL 60068

CHICAGO FREE PRESS

"A Common Voice for a Diverse Community"
"Local, national and international news, weekly health coverage, business and technology reports, news and lifestyle commentary, sports, community events, calendar, community news and resources, and vibrant photography. Provocative, in-depth feature stories, theater, film and book reviews, a comprehensive automotive page, cutting-edge lifestyle features, celebrity and community profiles, and HomeStyle. Restaurant features, a weekly nightlife photo essay, music column, "On-The-Town" style column, bar listings, special events calendar, an expansive personals section, and adult services/phone ads."

www.chicagofreepress.com
3714 N. Broadway
Chicago, IL 60613
773-325-0005

CHICAGO READER

"Published since 1971, the *Chicago Reader* is widely recognized as one of the leading alternative weeklies in the U.S. It specializes in features rather than news, with emphasis on urban issues and politics, arts and culture, and literary journalism that seeks to capture the spirit of contemporary city life. It has won numerous journalistic awards and honors, both local and national, and is well-known as a showcase for Chicago's most talented writers, critics, photographers, and illustrators."

"The *Reader* is also well-known for its indispensable guides to Chicago theater, film, arts, and music, and for an extensive classified advertising section that focuses on the needs of young urban adults."

www.chicagoreader.com
11 E. Illinois
Chicago, IL 60611
312-828-0350

CONSCIOUS CHOICE

Monthly, Good source of local info about how to use your consumer power to make a better world, finding healthy restaurants and other green businesses. A recent news story focused on Governor Blagojevich's environmental appointments.

www.consciouschoice.com
920 N. Franklin, Suite 202
Chicago, IL 60610
312-440-4373

EVANSTON ROUNDTABLE

Weekly small town newspaper.

www.evanstonroundtable.com
847-867-7749

F-NEWS

Publication of the School of the Art Institute. *F* is a monthly newsmagazine open to submission from anyone in the school community.

www.artic.edu/webspaces/fnews

GAY CHICAGO MAGAZINE

www.gaychicagomag.com
3115 N. Broadway
Chicago, IL 60613
773-327-7271

GRAVITY

Quarterly magazine from Columbia College

<http://gravity.colum.edu>
312-344-8555

HASTA CUANDO

Bilingual Spanish/English paper based in Pilsen. Anarcho-punk edge with many mexican punkers.

ILLINOIS ENTERTAINER

www.illinoisentertainer.com
124 W. Polk St., Suite 103
Chicago, IL 60605
312-922-9333

IN THESE TIMES

Biweekly, Independent progressive news and views. Featured in the April issue:
Photo from Code Pink demonstration in which female symbol appeared larger than Washington Monument; get your question answered by author Kurt Vonnegut.

www.inthesetimes.com

2040 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, IL 60647
773-772-0100

LUMPEN MAGAZINE

"Lumpen Media Group was founded in 1990 to create distribution outlets for independent and underground entertainment, news and opinion."

"*Lumpen* magazine remains focused in providing critical cultural and political information to our readers. We still believe that the "freedom of the press belongs to those who own one." As we witness the further consolidation of media outlets, the mechanization of the war of terror, and the ascendancy of friendly fascism worldwide, we remain committed in providing distribution outlets for independent views to those seeking a radical and independent media."

www.lumpen.com/magazine
1542 N. Milwaukee Ave., 2nd floor
Chicago IL 60622
773.837.0145

MOUTHTOMOUTH

"We are independent, conversational, and at times irreverent—the art world has a sense of humor, and we think we should, too. We are not full of glossy images or slick design, because we believe interesting, readable editorial content is its own reward. And we are distributing the magazine for free—in galleries and nearby businesses throughout town—because we immediately want to reach as broad an audience as possible."

<http://mouthtomouthmag.com>
P.O. Box 180078
Chicago, IL 60618-0078

NEWCITY

www.newcitychicago.com
770 N Halsted, Suite 306
Chicago, IL 60622
312-243-8786

PUNK PLANET

Bimonthly, Well-designed, well-written, passionate discussion of music, politics, and other topics. Jul/Aug issue features Jello Biafra interviewing Greg Palast, and solid and entertaining information about drinking and sex.

www.punkplanet.com
4229 N. Honore
Chicago, IL 60613
773-248-7172

ROCTOBER COMICS AND MUSIC MAGAZINE

For more than ten years *Roctober Magazine* has presented in depth, well researched profiles of some of the most dynamic, unjustly obscure figures in music history. The magazine also features thousands of indie reviews a year and showcases the work of some of the most unique underground cartoonists in the world.

www.roctober.com
1507 E. 53rd St. #617
Chicago, IL 60615
editor@roctober.com

STOPSMILING MAGAZINE

"Described as 'The magazine for high-minded low-lives,' *Stop Smiling* continues to push the envelope of gonzo journalism ala *National Lampoon*, *Spy*, or *Oui*."

www.stopsmilingonline.com

UR CHICAGO

www.urchicago.com
655 W. Irving Park Rd. #209
Chicago, IL 60613
773-529-5100

WAR AGAINST THE IDIOTS

Liam Idiot spends his time traveling, often by freight, and writes of his adventures and moments from his life.

WINDY CITY TIMES

"The Voice of Chicago's Gay, Lesbian, Bi and Trans community since 1985."

www.windyctytimes.com
1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D
Chicago, IL 60657
773-871-7610

LOCAL ZINES

Alternator
Americant
Bleach
Bomb Time for Bonzo
Caboose
Death by Puppies
Floataction Device
Galactic Zoo
Porcelino
Retail WhoreVenus
Worse Than Queer

Most of the preceding publications can be found in our favorite bookstores: Quimby's, Chicago Comics and Bookworks.

Please visit them. Tell them the Chicago Independent Media Guide sent you.

Television

CHICAGO ACCESS NETWORK TELEVISION (CAN TV)

Available on Comcast and RCN cable systems in Chicago

CAN-TV provides a public space where Chicagoans can discuss local issues and celebrate local talent and initiatives. They often tape events held by Community Partners (community groups). Great past shows happened upon include an improv comedy show and an author reading from her novel at the Cultural Center. CAN-TV is also an especially good source of local information during election cycles.

CAN TV19

Neighborhood news and community views. Community Partners Events until noon.

CAN TV21

Live call-in programs weeknights. Chicago Public Schools, other educational shows.

CAN TV36

Religious and spiritual programming.

CAN TV27

Nonprofit community services bulletin board. Neighborhood news and features from the The Illinois Labor History Society, Chicago Reporter, the Community Media Workshop, and Tom Tomorrow's comic strip "This Modern World."

CAN TV42

Local events, jobs, educational activities, nonprofit resources, and daily program information 24 hours a day on this interactive community bulletin board.

EVANSTON COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTER

Evanston's cable access. Free intro class on studio video equipment on the 1st Monday of every month for Evanston residents.

Channel 6

Public Access

Channel 16

Government Access, City of Evanston

Channel 19

Educational Access

www.ectv.com

FREE SPEECH TV

Dish Satellite Network #9415 (24 hours)

Seizing the power of television to expand social consciousness, FSTV fuels the movement for progressive social, economic, and political transformation. FSTV broadcasts independently-produced documentaries dealing with social, political, cultural, and environmental issues; commissions and produces original programming; develops programming partnerships and collaborations with social justice organizations; provides special live broadcasts from remote locations; and maintains an adjunct Web site that hosts one of the Internet's largest collection of progressive audio and video content.

Democracy Now

M-F, 6AM, 6PM, 11PM Central

C-Span 1 & 2

(continued)

Comcast offers C-Span 1 only; RCN also offers C-Span 2. Check cable listings. Streaming video also available on the web at www.c-span.org.

C-Span has been called "what public television SHOULD be." Political junkies find it most addictive. C-Span tapes all manner of events and shows them without editing. Recent shows include: the "Take Back America" Progressive Conference, the House International Relations Committee on Weapons of Mass Destruction, and FBI Director Robert Mueller addressing the ACLU.

WTTW Channel 11

NOW with Bill Moyers

Sun, 11AM

Moyers has long been one of the best journalists in television. He was one of the first voices on TV to address the media ownership issue, and this show regularly takes on the biggest corporate interests, as well as highlighting interesting cultural and community developments. While WTTW refuses to run the show in prime time, it is available on Sunday morning.

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Free Range Meats
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Health & Beauty
Cleaning Products
Pet Supplies
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Fair Trade Coffee
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newleaf
NATURAL GROCERY INC

1261 W. Loyola Ave. Chicago, IL
773.743.0400



Why an Independent Media Guide?

I got involved in independent media by accident. I happened to watch my hometown's public access channel one evening and I found the premiere episode of a news magazine series called "Days Of Our Lives" (not "Lives"). The very first feature story which aired on DOOL discussed the increasing concentration of media ownership and how it affected news content.

The show resonated with me; that story resonated with me. How come I had never heard of this before? Where had this been all of my life? I later learned that if people knew about things like corporate influence of the news, they might not like those things and work to do something about it. That's the power wielded by independent media—media which isn't beholden to for-profit interests, and which, I think, is one reason why such

media is vital to popular struggles and to the future of society.

Many are the stories of people who, while channel surfing or web surfing or browsing, happened to chance upon that TV show or radio show or magazine or book or web site that gets them involved in improving the world. But the dice are currently loaded in favor of finding for-profit mammoth media interests which do the exact opposite. This, I think, is the primary motivation for independent media and for this guide to Chicago's independent media: to improve the odds, for producers of these outlets, for users of these outlets, for all of us.

Mitchell Szczepanczyk
Chicago Media ActionChicago
Independent Media Center



If you would like to be considered for a listing in the

2004 Independent Media Guide

or would like to recommend a media resource, let us know:

chimediaguide2004@comcast.net
or call 1-866-260-7198

Radio
is my Bomb



RedLine Radio 99.1FM
Independent Community Radio in Roger's Park

Redline Radio is a Low-Power FM station that can be heard between the hours of 6pm and 12am most nights of the week on Chicago's far north side. For more information go to redlineradio.org on the internet or email: info@redlineradio.org We are always looking for people who feel they have something to say or just want to play some tunes.



Indymedia is a collective of independent media organizations and journalists offering grassroots non-corporate coverage of global and local justice campaigns, activism, and progressive, anti-authoritarian issues.

The Chicago Independent Media Center is one of more than one hundred Independent Media Centers across the globe. It is part of a network of collectively run grassroots media outlets committed to using radical democratic media production and distribution to advance social and economic justice.

The CIMC is not owned or funded by corporate sponsors or advertisers and our site does not accept advertising. The site is designed to promote alternative views that counter the corporate media's distortions. We cover the efforts of groups and individuals to liberate humanity from political repression, predatory corporate policies, and oppression based on class, race, gender, ethnicity or sexual identity.

The Chicago Indymedia Newswire is an open publishing system where those who post are responsible for the views and facts contained in their posts.

Publish your news at www.chicago.indymedia.org.

CMA

CHICAGO MEDIA ACTION

Chicago Media Action (CMA) monitors and analyzes media in the Chicago area in order to expose the economic and political interests which control them. We work to democratically empower and organize the public to challenge corporate control of major media, and to create their own media.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

Media Ownership

We were key organizers of the April 2 Midwest Forum on Media Ownership, and continue to organize around this issue.

Coalition Building

CMA has worked with peace and justice groups, including participation in the Chicago Peace & Justice Teach-In in May 2003, and plans to expand collaborations with other community groups.

Public Television

We are working to put the "public" back in public television, including organizing support for Public Forums on community issues, and advocating for "NOW with Bill Moyers."

Independent Media

We have appeared on CAN-TV (public access), and are developing a radio show on WLWU 88.7FM. We are also developing an independent film series.

Chicago Media Action
www.chicagomediaaction.org
P.O. Box 14140
Chicago, IL 60614
866-260-7198
cma@chicagomediaaction.org