Deadline missed by one day

Application freeze kills bid for University FM station

By Bill Houston and Barry Katz 10-1-76

A long and involved process to obtain an FM license for WOSR resulted in a refusal by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to review the station's application.

The application arrived in Washington, D.C. one day after a June 30 deadline, Nicholas S. Madved, general manager of WOSR, said.

The University's carrier current station must wait until Jan. 3 to reapply for an FM license when a current freeze on applications may be lifted.

Because the FCC has received many requests for licenses, they have a backlog of applications, said David Tau, chief of the AM and FM branch license division for the FCC in Washington, D.C.

To clear up this backlog problem, the FCC placed a freeze on all applications for such licenses effective June 30, Tau said.

MADVED SAID he is dissatisfied with opportunities for students to gain radio experience at Ohio State. "The students don't have a real voice in a radio station," Madved said.

WOSR is applying for a 10-watt educational, non-commercial FM license. The station plans include informing students about campus activities and providing students interested in the media with broadcasting experience.

WOSR's carrier wave operates much the same as cable television. The broadcasts are carried through cables to the dormitories and unions on campus. At each location transmitters reconstruct the signal through the electric power lines. The station can be received on campus at 540 on the AM band.

If the station gets an FM license, it will be able to broadcast to the University area and most of Columbus with its signal, Madved said.

MADVED ESTIMATED the cost of the conversion to FM at $2,500 ($2,000 for the FM transmitter and $500 for antenna modifications).

Richard H. Armitage, vice president for student services and Edward Q. Moulton, vice president for business and administration and secretary of the Board of Trustees, were impressed with a WOSR report written last April, which was filed with the trustees. Armitage and Moulton persuaded the trustees to file for the license.

"The report the students offered to the trustees was one of the most organized we've received from the students in 30 years," Armitage said.

Armitage said he helped set up a new account in the University Development Fund called "Friends of WOSR" to help fund the conversion project.

If the FCC grants an FM license to WOSR, it will then be up to the Board of Trustees to make a final approval for the conversion before the construction begins, Armitage said.

THE WOSR application for a FM license has two parts, a construction license and a broadcast permit.

WOSR first had to file for a construction permit. The permit specified information such as the type and power of transmitter, antenna gain and the exact latitude and longitude of the antenna, said Ron L. Arendall, chief engineer for radio and television at WOSU.

"When and if the application is approved, the trustees have the right to go ahead with the conversion to FM or cancel it," Madved said.

WOSR then has to provide the trustees with an impact statement which will survey the students and find out how an FM station will affect the University, Madved said.
Campaign asks students to support FM station

By Connie Hoblet
10-20-76

The "Support Campus Radio Campaign" seeks student participation in raising money to convert WOSR from a carrier current AM to an educational FM station. WOSR has the "use of a cable connected from the Drake Union studio to small transmitters in each dorm," said Larry Pollak, chairman of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) Campus Committee.

"Students who don't live in dorms have no way to hear WOSR," Pollak said. "The largest university in the country — Ohio State — doesn't have a way to give people interested in radio any real practical experience," he added.

THE ADVANTAGES of having a community access station are many.

Organizations and clubs will have another media to advertise activities, events and projects in the campus community, he said.

In addition, a FM station could report on news and program specifically for a wider campus community, he said.

The three-week campaign will start this week with a major effort to encourage students to check the box marked "Optional Contribution" on their Winter Quarter schedule forms.

USG PASSED a resolution Spring Quarter to give 50 per cent of the money generated from the "check off" to a special fund designed to switch WOSR to an educational FM station, he said.

The second step of the campaign is "to bring in student organizations, college councils, clubs, dorm councils and particularly fraternities and sororities to come up with creative fund raisers from carnivals to movies," Pollak said. The goal is to have each organization raise $100, he added.

The "Support Campus Radio Campaign" will communicate in a WOSR Week sometime this quarter, Pollak said.

SPEAKERS FROM WOSR and USG will go to student organizations, and "encourage students to help with fund raising and to inform them of the progress toward achieving an FM station," he said.

Pollak said a free benefit concert may be held to raise money by featuring advertisements from local merchants.

Pollak said $5,000 to $6,000 is needed to make the conversion. "I'm confident that with the support of students on campus we can raise several thousand dollars from the 'check-off' alone and raise the remainder in time to begin an FM operation by next year," he said.

WOSR changes musical format

By Cindi H. Craft
10-18-76

WOSR, the Ohio State University student-operated campus radio station, is revamping its programming with a switch to a top 40, oldies and new album cuts musical format.

The station, heard in dormitories, employs what program director Jim Schelter, a sophomore from Hamilton, calls "a new contemporary music format."

The recently adopted format consists of a program of 50 per cent top 40 singles, 30 per cent new album cuts and 20 per cent oldies, a complete turn-around from last year's progressive rock repertoire.

WOSR CONSIDERS itself a contemporary station, said Schelter. "We would like to establish a reputation of successfully breaking new music that has chart potential. At the same time, we play the already established singles," he said. "WOSR aired Firefall's 'You Are the Woman' before any of the area AM stations did."

Oldies played are those having a "proven track record," Schelter explained. He cited the ex amples of such easily recognizable artists as the Ohio Players and the Four Seasons." WOSR's programming includes one weekly progressive rock special, aired on Saturdays. General Manager Nick Madved, a senior from Youngstown, explained that a radio station can stay progressive only for so long before it becomes financially disadvantaged. A good example, he said, is locally based WCOL-FM, a progressive rock station recently forced to make a change to a more commercial format.

DISC JOCKEYS will also be affected by the new programming. "We want jocks who can establish an on-air personality, not just someone saying 'You have just heard ... before that you heard ... and before that ...' " said Madved.

The disc jockeys are limited to the controlled format by a standard playlist. Free to choose particular songs, they must follow the type and order pattern on the list.

Schelter claims the switch has improved listener response. Feedback from request line calls is shaping up, he says.
WOSR funded with special events money

By Fred Gaskins
10-25-77

Last Wednesday's decision by the Undergraduate Student Government Assembly to allocate $8,000 for WOSR radio was also a decision to by-pass a special events fund established for registered student groups.

But about $5,000 left in the fund should be enough to handle any requests for 1977-78, according to Jim Trainer, coordinator of the Student Organization Finance Office.

When the League of Student Organizations took over allocations last year, it was on the condition that unallocated money be placed in the special events fund of the Council on Student Affairs, according to LSO executive director Greg Flaig, a senior from Columbus.

LSO finished those allocations last week, giving over $21,000 to more than 50 groups who requested university funds. But when Flaig discovered over $12,000 would be left, he suggested the 12 LSO trustees re-allocate $8,000 for WOSR.

The proposal was approved by both the trustees and the USG Assembly Wednesday. The money now lies waiting for WOSR to receive its FM license before it can be used.

According to Flaig, LSO and USG are trying to get a "different news media on campus and stop people from bleeding the university of money."

He said a campus radio station without more funding is wasting the university's money because it never receives enough to become self-sufficient, just enough to keep going.

With the $8,000, Flaig said, WOSR will go towards self-sufficiency and the university will no longer have to hand out two or three thousand dollars just to keep it alive.

If the station does not receive the FM license, which it will apply for within a few months, the $8,000 will go back to CSA and the special events fund.

The fund was established to finance student events that are not money-making but have wide student interests, according to Trainer. The amount in the special event fund is determined by the CSA allocations subcommittee each spring.

Events for which almost $6,000 has already been allocated include United Black World Week, Homecoming and the Women's Program.
WOSR-AM board OKs exchange of frequencies

By Keith Hazelton

Campus radio, WOSR-AM, advanced one step closer to its own version of "FM" last week at its board of directors meeting.

The board approved the station's trade of its FM 88.7 license application for the rights to broadcast from an already established 10-watt station, WFACE-FM, at 91.5.

The trade must be approved by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) before it can be completed.

The station, which broadcasts on a carrier current through dormitory electrical systems, has sought an FM band spot since 1972.

A series of delays, including a FCC station application freeze in 1976, has prolonged WOSR's approval as a FM non-commercial station.

However, Jefferson Center, owner of the now-defunct WFACE, has offered to switch frequencies with WOSR.

This switch would then limit WOSR to 10 watts, a broadcast range of about two to three miles. Because another FM station in Otterbein also broadcasts on 91.5, WOSR would have to keep its power low to avoid any interference.

Jefferson Center, in turn, would receive the right to apply for a 1,000 watt, commercial FM station at 88.7.

In the last two years, WOSR has received $10,000 from various campus organizations. If WOSR can raise another $1,000 by next year, the OSU Development Fund will donate $2,000.

This money, coupled with the transferred frequency license, would help WOSR become an FM station hopefully no later than Autumn Quarter 1979, according to Kathy Meyers, a junior from Westlake and WOSR general manager.

A new headache for the station's directors will be the transmitter and antenna placement site.

Station personnel planned to put both on top of Lincoln or Morrill towers, close to the Drake Union station studios.

However, Elmer E. Stewart, assistant director of residence and dining halls, said his office did not hear of WOSR's transmitter location plans until last month.

Former General Manager Steve Miller, a senior from Mansfield, said the station received permission for the site from the OSU Board of Trustees in 1976 when the original FM application was being put together.

Stewart said the towers are already crowded with transmitting equipment — some used by OSU Police and the U.S. Treasury Department.

Although there is enough space on top of the towers for WOSR's transmitting equipment, Stewart said the station's signal would interfere with other signals broadcasting from those sites.

Stewart agreed to let WOSR consider other dormitories as possible transmitter and antenna sites.

Miller said the station will look into sites on top of Jones, Taylor or Drackett towers on North Campus.
WOSR moves one step closer to FM license

By Pat Howe
10-3-78

After a complicated struggle to gain access to a frequency, negotiations are now under way to finalize the purchase of a 10-watt FM license for WOSR, said Steve Miller, a senior from Mansfield and FM development director for the student-run AM station.

WOSR AM 540, aired from 8 a.m. to 1 a.m., is presently operating as a "carrier current" station with studios in Drake Union. Carrier current means the station can only be picked up in the resident halls, to which it is carried on underground transmitters.

According to Miller, if everything goes well, WOSR should become an FM station within the year. With a 10-watt frequency, WOSR would be able to transmit a clear signal within a three mile radius, and a fair signal within a 10-mile radius, he said.

WOSR, which originated in 1969 in Drackett Tower and moved to Drake Union in 1971, has been trying to acquire an FM license since June of 1976, Miller said. However, due to a six-month freeze put on 10-watt stations, WOSR was unable to obtain its FM license at that time, he said.

The programming at the station currently revolves around an album-oriented format.

WOSR's music library holds approximately 5,000 albums. An advantage to WOSR is that its three request lines are always open and almost anything a caller requests will be played, Miller said.

Miller believes WOSR is mainly a learning experience. He feels that while the students who work there receive no salary, they do gain experience on a radio station.

There are 18 disc jockeys currently working at WOSR, Miller said. Each disc jockey is on the air six hours per week, he added.

The station is not funded by the university. Its main source of income comes from its mobile discos at Drake Union's River Den on Thursday nights, Miller said.

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New boss at 'OSR

WOSR's board of directors appointed a new general manager Wednesday for the student-run station.

Christine A. Solie, a sophomore majoring in journalism and communication, will begin her one-year term May 1 and is currently undergoing training for the job.

WOSR's main responsibility, "is to offer an educational experience to students," Solie said.

Solie hopes to work toward improving the quality of WOSR's broadcasts, as well as the quality and quantity of experience that students can get from working there, she said.

Solie began at WOSR Autumn Quarter 1977 working as a disc jockey and now leaves the position of news director to become general manager.

New appointments for all WOSR executive staff positions will be made by May 1, according to Kathy Meyers, the present general manager.

- David R. Leigh
South Campus dorms will pick up WOSR

By Mary Taughert
2-28-79

Students in South Campus dormitories will be able to pick up WOSR radio by the end of Spring Quarter, now that the Office of Residence and Dining Halls has come through to the tune of $7,700 for ten transmitters.

WOSR, a student-run AM station, operates on a carrier-current system and transmits its signals through telephone lines. Ten transmitters are necessary to send the signals to the South Campus dormitories.

South Campus is the only dormitory area unable to receive WOSR. Earlier this quarter, South Campus Student Association (SCSA) voted to fund the transmitters and sought assistance from the Office of Residence and Dining Halls.

Plans to fund the project hinged on approval from the South West and North Committee (SWAN), a student-staff organization which represents all residence halls. SWAN approved the measure in a meeting Feb. 20.

"The Office of Residence and Dining Halls agreed to fund half the project and give SCSA a loan to pay the other half," said SCSA President Richard J. Walker, a senior from Chillicothe. SCSA expects to repay the loan within the next few quarters, he said.

USG President Paul Zock, who attended the SWAN meeting, questioned the purchase of the transmitters. According to Walker, Zock objected to the purchase at an earlier meeting because the transmitters would not be needed if WOSR obtained an FM license and broadcast over the air.

When contacted later, Zock contended he objected to the project only because WOSR would own the transmitters, thus receiving $7,700 of student money.

It's unlikely that WOSR will become an FM station for at least five years, said Kathy Meyers, general manager of WOSR and a senior from Westlake. "The FCC has put a freeze on FM license applications and the Columbus market has no open frequencies available for a high-power station," she said.

In 1977, USG placed $8,800 of student money in Ohio State's development fund to back WOSR when it applied for an FM license. Zock said he now plans to get the money out of the development fund and allocate it to student organizations.
WOSR to add 10 dorms in Fall

By Tim Doulin

Music will be alive in campus dormitories Autumn Quarter through the efforts of WOSR, the campus radio station.

Starting this fall, WOSR will broadcast to 10 South Campus dorms reaching about 10,000 students in 22 dorms.

Operated by 60 student volunteers on the second floor of the Drake Union, WOSR offers a break from disco and top 40 tunes heard on most local stations.

"We are like the old WCOL-FM," said general manager Chris Solie, a junior from Columbus. "We play a blend of old classic rock and innovative new rock."

Although it plays mostly album-oriented rock, WOSR also tries to represent the diverse tastes of its audience. The station plays jazz and country and western, Solie said.

She said the station prides itself in introducing new groups to the campus area.

"We were giving air play to people like Ricky Lee Jones and Dire Straits long before any of the other stations in Columbus," she said.

Last year, the station broadcast home basketball and baseball games and may broadcast hockey games Winter Quarter. Also, the station’s news department provides 10-minute reports each hour from noon to 5 p.m., and public service programming.

Solie said the staff consists mostly of communication majors, but anyone can work for the station if they have the time.

"The work isn’t to be taken lightly. It consumes a lot of time and effort and is completely volunteer," she said.

Solie said students without experience must work one quarter learning the technical aspects of radio before getting a chance to go on the air.

Although operating on a $6,000 budget appropriated from the Undergraduate Student Government and through advertising, WOSR tries to perform on a professional level.

"We are a legitimate and viable medium for college students. We offer valuable working experience to 60 students, and programming for a specific audience — students, which you can’t say for the other Columbus stations."

Unfortunately, WOSR’s short signal range limits the size of its audience. Operating on a carrier current, the signal is transmitted through phone lines to transmitters in dorms. Students can hear the station on 940-AM.

In an attempt to reach a larger audience, the station is exploring the possibility of broadcasting on the FM frequency.

"Becoming an FM station is technically feasible. However, there is more than just the technical aspects to consider," Solie said.

Along with permission from the FCC and the university, the station would need $12,000 to $14,000 to become an FM station, she said.

"Right now our fund toward going FM has only $8,800. The $12,000 would just cover the cost of equipment needed to put us on the air. Then there would be other expenses like moving to a larger studio. So, it’s not something we want to rush into before we are ready," Solie said.

Solie said the station is considering broadcasting to Larkins Hall and the Ohio Union.
WOSR audition leads to ‘big break’

By Christopher E. Sedlock

In autumn of 1977, a five-foot-tall bespectacled freshman called campus radio WOSR-540 AM and requested an audition to be a disc jockey.

Even though he claimed he "didn't know how to cue a record" or "didn't even know what the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) was," Chris Solie said he felt there was "something special" about radio and he wanted broadcast experience.

Five days later, mostly because he "was in the right place at the right time," he went on the air as a disc jockey. "I was, for three quarters, WOSR's most abysmal jock (disc jockey)," she said. "From where I started, there was nowhere to go but up."

Today, Solie, a junior from Columbus, is general manager of WOSR.

WOSR is a student-operated radio station in Drake Union broadcasting by carrier current to residence and dining halls.

Through "persistence and interest," Solie became assistant music director in autumn 1978. It was then she initiated a weekly program on WOSR “You Can Get There From Here."

It featured local events for under $5 that OSU students could reach without a car.

For her efforts, she was one of 12 national recipients of "Better Information Project: Prizes in Education" award from the National Student Education Fund.

Solie progressed to news and sports director in winter 1979 and began her tenure as general manager on May 1, 1979.

According to the staff at WOSR, there has been a "definite improvement" in the station's morale and attitude since Solie took over. "With a good attitude," she said, "people work together — and working together brings improvements."

Solie, a broadcast journalism and communications major, has made a "commitment to service" at WOSR and it has become her life.

Solie and WOSR sought a "commitment" by the university in their request for a $12,000 operating budget for 1979-80 from the Council on Student Affairs (CSA). The amount requested was to be used to purchase equipment for a production studio and also to upgrade present "outdated" equipment.

However, WOSR recently learned from CSA that it had been allocated $4,000 for 1979-80. Solie said WOSR would appeal for more funds. Last year WOSR was allocated $6,000.
Station to extend range

By Jo Hall
4 - 24 - 80

The campus radio station, WOSR, will soon be able to transmit not only to students in dormitories, but to the campus community.

WOSR is waiting for a $1,500 modulator that will allow the station to hook up to Warner QUBE’s equipment and transmit through Qube’s FM service by May 1, WOSR’s general manager Chris Solie said.

WOSR will transmit audio signals to QUBE over two phone lines that will cost about $40 each to install. The station will then pay about $12 monthly phone bills, Solie said.

This direct transmission will be improvement over conventional FM which is sometimes difficult to pick up, she explained.

The FM service is an addition to cable TV equipment. It will carry 28 channels including stations from Cleveland and Chicago.

However, the company is not marketing the service yet, according to QUBE’s manager of marketing communications Estelle Lehring.

QUBE would probably begin selling the service within the next couple of months, Lehring said.

One problem Curt Boster, WOSR’s advertising director, finds difficult to deal with is that they don’t know the actual size of their listening audience.

WOSR cannot afford to have surveys done on their audience. Boster said he sells advertising with their present potential audience of 10,000 to 12,000 students.

Another measurement of listenership is song requests, Boster said. Requests reached 240 during the last week of winter quarter.

QUBE would not release the number of current FM-service subscribers, but Boster said an estimated 10,000 homes with the service would increase their audience potential to 40,000 or 50,000 listeners.

Another major problem is that few people outside of the dormitories have ever heard of WOSR, Boster said.

He often has to explain what WOSR is before he can start selling advertising.

The QUBE hookup “is the cheapest and most efficient way to increase our audience without getting an FM license,” Solie said.

WOSR has been trying to get a license for a long time, but the increasing complexity of FCC regulations demanded professional guidance that WOSR could not afford, she said, adding that they still have not given up the thought of getting an FM license.

WOSR receives funds to expand

By Gail Harrison
4 - 24 - 80

The OSU Development Fund voted this week to give the steering committee of WOSR, $1,750 to purchase new equipment and to upgrade existing equipment as it expands to cable FM.

The donation will help WOSR attain its $14,000 goal, which was proposed to the committee in 1976.

The funds will be used to purchase production equipment to be put in a second studio. WOSR’s present facilities do not include production equipment where WOSR can edit tape, or make advertisements and promotions, Chris Solie, WOSR general manager, said.

The new facilities cost, estimated at $9,100, will also be used to train disc jockeys. Many have not had any formal training and must learn on the air, Solie said.

The original proposal in 1976 was to raise funds to obtain a 10-watt FM license.

At that time, the fund’s steering committee voted to donate $2,000 of undersigned funds if $12,000 of the goal was reached.

In 1977, the League of Student Organizations and the Undergraduate Student Government donated $8,800 to the fund designated for WOSR.

WOSR has since received equipment as gifts from a local radio station, valued at $1,000, which was also added toward its goal.

Since WOSR will be connected with QUBE’s cable system by May 1, the committee voted to give a portion of the promised amount, $1,750, because WOSR had raised more than 75 percent of its goal, said Pat Welsh, development fund director.

The development fund also will seek funds to attain the rest of WOSR’s goal from area businesses, Welsh said.
WOSR – QUBE union delayed until June

By Gail Harrison
5-7-80

If you haven't been able to pick up WOSR on your QUBE cable FM service, the trouble is not in your set.

WOSR, which had hoped to be connected to QUBE's cable FM service this month, was informed last week that it would not be able to join the service until June.

The campus radio station is still waiting for a needed modulator, but will not be able to join QUBE when it receives it, contrary to the prior plan.

Scott Kurnit, QUBE program director, said QUBE is waiting until it can incorporate all 29 proposed channels into its service. This will include major radio stations from Cleveland and Chicago, three simulcast stations for QUBE programs and five stations produced by QUBE featuring various music formats.

The QUBE cable FM service has been available since QUBE began two years ago, but has never been as "sophisticated" as it soon will be, Kurnit said.

QUBE is planning to actively solicit subscribers for the additional service.

WOSR selects manager

By Gail Harrison
5-20-80

The board of directors of WOSR Wednesday named Mike Ossing, 27, a junior from Columbus, the new general manager of the student radio station for 1980-81.

Ossing replaces Chris Solie, also a junior from Columbus.

Ossing's first duty is to select a central staff to work with him this summer and next year.

He also plans to increase the station's advertising sales, making WOSR more self-sustaining and less dependent upon the university for funds.

WOSR's advertising income last year was less than $4000, Ossing says.

Ossing says the station's staff must get a better idea of the composition of its audience to increase ad sales to local businesses.

Call-in requests are currently the only way WOSR can gauge audience numbers or reactions.

Ossing plans to continue efforts to expand the station's listenership. A wide-scale promotion is planned for next month when WOSR joins QUBE's FM cable service.

Ossing also hopes to improve WOSR's image and convince listeners that a campus radio station can be a professional-quality organization.

While becoming more audience-oriented, WOSR will still retain its educational value, Ossing says. Students working at the station can get practical experience that is not available in the classroom, he says.

WOSR adds FM

By Cindy Forbes
The Lantern
10-30-80

WOSR is getting bigger and better these days.

A week ago, the university's wired radio service connected with Warner Amex Qube's FM Cable Service. The station now broadcasts on the QUBE FM service, 99.9 on the dial, as well as its regular 540 AM signal.

Additionally, the station recently purchased new stereo components totaling $11,000, which will be delivered to WOSR's Drake Union location Saturday.

Steely Dan's "FM" was the first album broadcast on the the new frequency, said Mike Ossing, the station's general manager. He also emphasized the broader audience capability.

The new equipment, Ossing said, includes a stereo control board, two turntables, two cart machines, audio processors and auxiliary hardware.

The equipment now in use, after overhauling, will be placed in a production studio, soon to be formed at WOSR. This will increase the number of programs produced by the station.

The funds for the new purchase, set up in 1976, came from OSU's Development Fund and were to be used when an FM broadcast hookup was made.

When it was discovered that the funds could also be used for the improvement of the station, Ossing said, "We decided to spend it on new equipment to upgrade
Campus station reaches dorm and cable listeners

WOSR offers 'alternative radio in Columbus

By Doug Curran
[12-3-81]

What do Mark "Daddy Wags" Wagner at WLQV, Chris Solie at WNCI, Terry Wilson of WBBY, Dan Morris of WCOL and Herb Howenstine and Marla Crockett at WOSU have in common? They all learned their trade at WOSR, the campus radio station.

"We offer the opportunity for students interested in broadcasting, journalism, engineering, marketing and accounting and communications the only hands-on learning laboratory on campus," said Mike Ossing, a senior from Columbus and WOSR general manager for the past two years.

WOSR is run by a general staff of about 45, with a central staff of 14. Like all radio stations, the general manager and program director head the staff, with the music director, business director, engineer, production director and news director following. Other areas accounted for include sports, public service announcements, sales, promotions, remotes and traffic and continuity.

Ossing explained the major differences between WOSR and "the downtown stations" is that his staff is volunteer and the signal is carried over telephone lines by carrier current while commercial stations rely on radio waves.

WOSU has been an AM station, 540 on the dial, since it started broadcasting. Last fall the station picked up thousands of additional customers through its inclusion on the Warner Amex Qube FM service.

WOSR can only be heard in campus dormitories and commons, where transmitters pick up the signal, and in places that receive Qube cable service. WOSR is located at 99.9 on the cable FM dial.

According to Ossing, the main advantage that WOSR has over the other rock stations in town is their wide playlist, where the disc-jockeys have relative freedom in what they play. "We have the best variety of music in town," Ossing said, because the disc-jockeys aren't afraid to give new artists a listen.

"People get tired of hearing the same songs over and over again. At WOSR we play more than just the one hit off a popular album," Ossing said.

Autumn quarter 81 has been "the best quarter in my three years at the station, in terms of a consistent sound, listenership up, and increased advertising," Ossing said.

WOSR, like all student organizations, is supported in part by the Student Organization Finance Office, Ossing said. With the budget cuts, the station has had university funding cut to around $4500 annually.

None of the workers are paid for their jobs, although many of them often work 40 hours a week at the station.

The station's main expenses have equipment maintenance and the $3600 a year it costs to use Ohio Bell telephone lines to carry the radio signal, are balanc-
ed by advertising revenue and fundraising benefits.

WOSR features progressive rock, jazz and 60s music in its programming. Campus and local news is reported on the half hour from the broadcast studios in the School of Journalism and OSU baseball and hockey games are broadcast live.

For David Heinke, a sophomore from Grandview Heights, being an on-air-personality provides for "future opportunities as a disc jockey."

Dave Watson, a junior from Copley, and Jeff Golon, a graduate student from Conn., are co-music directors and review all the albums received from the record companies. "It's a great way to gain exposure to new bands and all types of music. WOSR is alternative radio in Columbus," Watson said.

WOSR is stationed on the second floor of Drake Union. Staff meetings are held every Sunday at 6:30. Interested students are invited to attend any meetings.
Posters of new wave rock groups cover the walls. Members of a little-known band, playing a one-night stand in Columbus, mill around and pull records from a set of shelves. They talk to each other and to the disc jockey. Anything can and does happen.

It's the place where a radio program called "Ric's" is aired. "Ric's," aired on Wednesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on the university's student radio station, WOSR, is put together in an attempt to create the atmosphere of a party over the air.

"We literally act like we're downtown in a bar talking to people," said Jeff Golan, co-director of the station.

Golan is the show's disc jockey and goes by the air name of Raoul Duke. A 30-year-old graduate student from Southington, Conn., he has been involved with college radio stations for about six years.

The name "Ric's" was taken from Ric's Cafe American in the movie "Casablanca," one of Golan's favorite moves.


"He lives in the fast lane," Golan said. "I think a lot of people fantasize about living in the fast lane and I enjoy the character."

"I took the weirdness of the Raoul Duke character and the atmosphere of a lounge and party house and put them together to come up with the show," Golan said.

Music for the program can be anything that is not mainstream rock and roll, Golan said. This includes dance rock, reggae, new electronic music and rhythm and blues.

"Ric's" began winter quarter. It is patterned after a similar program called "The Magic Kingdom," which Golan worked on in 1981.

The show consists of sets of three to five songs with breaks between the sets for comedy or live interviews.

During the breaks, Golan reads from the back pages of "The Village Voice" about club happenings in New York and "interesting personal ads, offbeat stuff," he said.

He reads advertisements from New York clubs that advertise things like conversation, showers and massages, complimentary drinks and friendly hostesses. He uses the name Ric's instead of those club names. It gives listeners a sense that the club really exists, Golan said.

Sections also are read from old copies of the Boy Scout Handbook and from old Emily Post books of etiquette.

"Ric's" features on-the-air interviews with bands playing at Crazy Mama's on Wednesday nights. The Gun Club, the Fleshtones, the Human Switchboard and Norman Nardini and the Tigers have been interviewed on the program.

The interviews, like other program features, are not structured or planned. Golan does not even know until the day of the show if he will be interviewing a band, because bands give interviews only if they have free time before evening performances.

Usually, Golan chooses music for the program which he thinks deserves to be heard but which commercial rock stations do not play.

He may build a set of songs around a request from a listener, if he likes the request. "It makes my job a lot easier if someone calls in a request for a Brian Eno or a David Byrne record," he said.

Generally, Golan said he discourages requests because people tend to ask for mainstream rock groups.

"It (the show) is a sort of a myth and a legend," he said. "A lot of people have heard of it, but not a lot of people have heard it."

WOSR can be heard in campus dorms at 540 on the AM dial and at 99.9 on the Qube cable FM service.

"Ric's" is expected to last through spring quarter, when Golan may leave OSU and the station.
WOSR to host benefit

10-6-82

WOSR, the student-operated radio station of OSU, will be hosting a benefit concert tonight at Stache's, 2404 N. High St.

The Outlets, a band from Dayton, will be playing a variety of new wave and top 40 dance music to help raise funds for WOSR.

Admission is $2. The doors open at 8 p.m.
WOSR to broadcast OSU hockey

By Tom Rodenhauser
Lantern sports reporter

You're listening to Buckeye hockey on WOSR...

Ohio State hockey fans will again hear these words as WOSR begins broadcasting OSU's hockey games.

Weekend games will be taped and the best one will be aired on Sunday at 11 p.m., said Gary Weiss, sports director of WOSR. A recap of the other game will also be provided, he added.

WOSR is a free-format college radio station run by students and is available to dorm residents on 560 AM and to QUBE stereo subscribers on 99.9 FM.

WOSR did not broadcast the games last year, but had done so in previous years.

OSU Coach Jerry Welsh is thankful that the station is picking up the games. He noted, though, that people may wonder why the games are only now being broadcast.

"This is the first time that the university is paying the broadcast expenses," Weiss said. "Before that, the costs of broadcasting the games were WOSR's responsibility."

Weiss noted that the financial costs as well as a disinterest in hockey last year were two of the main reasons why the games were not broadcast. He said several of the student broadcasters expressed an interest in doing the hockey games this year before the season even started.

"We really want to promote the team," he said, "especially the Bowling Green series (Dec. 2-3)."

For that series, WOSR plans on broadcasting the Friday game live from the OSU Ice Rink. Saturday's game at Bowling Green will be taped and played on Sunday, Weiss said.

Seven students, working in threeman teams, will take turns broadcasting the games, Weiss said. All the games broadcast will also have a pregame show featuring an interview with Welsh. The student broadcasters used last week's Miami series as practice games, Weiss said.
Students air hockey on WOSR

By Kelly Stieg 8-2-84
Lantern staff writer

WOSR has added a new attraction to its agenda this year, one that announcers hope will gain listeners and supporters.

To widen the nearly nonexistent sports department in the campus radio station, WOSR has added coverage of the home hockey games, said Matt Lepe, game announcer.

Lepe, along with Gary Weiss, another WOSR announcer, started the coverage in November when the season began. "The idea began because of the need for the coverage of other sports besides football and basketball," Lepe said.

The station will broadcast both games this weekend beginning at 7:25 p.m.

Jonathan Zissman, also with WOSR sports, will assist with production and announcing.

Lepe said the station has plans to continue the coverage next year.
"We were really just breaking the ice this year to see what the listener reaction would be," he said.

So far listener response seems to be good, Lepe said, but the average listener of the hockey games isn’t the usual WOSR patron.
Dilemma for college radio:

Shortage of funds for improvements hurts radio station

By Ken Torsky
Lantern staff writer

If a radio station's broadcasts can't be picked up, it's safe to say they're in big trouble.

That problem, among others, is causing headaches for WOSR, Ohio State's progressive radio station.

WOSR is normally supposed to reach OSU students in all campus dorms on 940 AM, and also through cable on Warner Amex QUBE at 99.9 FM.

Unfortunately, only South Campus dorms are currently equipped with transmitters for WOSR, and the station is having trouble financing transmitters for North campus and Morrill and Lincoln towers.

"We're in a bind," said Ron Toy, WOSR program director. "Everybody here wants to be a real radio station, but nobody wants to step forward and give us money."

Toy said one way of solving the dorm transmitter problem would be for WOSR to put up an FM transmitter, but it would be very difficult to get enough money to set it up, and there might not be an available frequency for a new FM station in Columbus.

"Unless someone gives us $40,000 to $60,000, it isn't likely," he said.

Toy added he feels WOSR isn't being recognized by Ohio State.

"The university can only have one campus radio station, and that is WOSU," he said.

"We don't have the clout WOSU does," said Mike Masset, WOSR general manager. "The fact that we are student-run hurts us."

Toy said WOSR's equipment is also a problem.

"The journalism school and Derby Hall have better equipment than we do," he said. "That's hindering us from our potential."

"Everything we have is 15 years outdated," Masset said.

Bob Rodda, assistant dean of student life, said WOSR has received what they have requested in the past.

"In the last two years they've gotten every penny they've asked for," he said. "And to date, they haven't asked for transmitters."

Rodda said funding for transmitters would depend on WOSR's justifications, the overall expense and other factors.

"It isn't impossible and it isn't automatic," Rodda said.

"The only thing we do get from the university that other organizations don't get is that the WOSR budget isn't cut every year," Masset said. "I think that has saved this station. If the cuts had happened we never would have made it."

But Masset said the money WOSR gets is still "a drop in the bucket of what we need."

"It's a vicious circle," Masset said. "We can't make capital improvements until we get money, and we can't get money until we make capital improvements."

Masset added that a lack of leadership continuity at the station is also a problem, because of yearly staff changes.

Toy said he hopes WOSR's 15th anniversary party on May 17, at Drake Union, can signal a turnaround for the station.

"Through that, people will find out what WOSR is," he said.
Be different but stay in business

College playlists hold progressive, alternative music

By Ken Torisky
Lantern staff writer

Diversity is the name of the game in college radio.

While money is the bottom line at commercial radio stations, playing the music students want to hear is the only criteria at most college stations.

"The purpose of a college station is to be different from everybody else," said Ron Toy, program director for OSU progressive radio station WOSR.

WOSR disc jockey Packy Malley said, "Our format is progressive and alternative at the same time." Malley, a junior from Fairview Park, has a classic rock and reggae show on Wednesdays on WOSR.

"We have an overall format," Toy said. "We let the jocks play what they want to play."

Malley said the WOSR disc jockeys avoid Top 40 music.

"We provide music that you usually don't listen to," he said, "to an audience that's really tuned in to the music that you're playing."

Malley said he likes to try to get people involved in campus activities by plugging local bands and ODUA functions.

"I like to promote the good local bands and give them air time," he said.

Case Western Reserve University's WRUW-FM has a definite place in the Cleveland market, said D.J. Mark Penacho.

"We have 3 percent of the total radio market, the largest of any college in Cleveland," he said. "That's a substantial number of people."

But unlike WOSR, whose audience is predominately college students, Penacho said most of WRUW's listeners come from Greater Cleveland, and not the Case Western campus.

"We're not really campus-oriented," he said. "We provide alternatives that many people don't care for. Not everybody wants to listen to alternative entertainment."

Penacho said WRUW's format includes jazz, heavy metal, show tunes, country and even Cajun music.

"You name it - if it's not Top 40, we have it," he said.

Although nearby colleges such as Cleveland State, John Carroll University, Oberlin College, and Baldwin-Wallace College all have similar formats, Penacho stressed that relations are very good.

"We sponsor shows together," he said. "We complement each other, not compete against each other."

Penacho added that area college stations sponsor about six shows a month featuring alternative acts.

Ohio University's ACRN-FM is one of the few Ohio college stations that are self-supporting.

"We're commercial, so we play more recognizable rock 'n' roll," said T.J. Jennings, disc jockey for ACRN.

Jennings said being self-supporting has many problems, but has great advantages.

"It's a more practical look at radio if you're working in radio sometime down the road," he said. "And it makes us look good."

The University of Michigan's WCBN-FM has a "90 percent experimental" free-form format and no playlist, said D.J. Cecile Cloutier.

"We play any type of music that the D.J. wants to play," she said.

KIUI-FM at the University of Iowa has mainstream rock, jazz, hardcore, and one thing very few progressive college stations have - public affairs programming.

Among the shows at KIUI are movie reviews, art shows, band interviews, and live call-in shows concerning social issues.

"We've had a very good response to the call-in show," said D.J. Benny Pope. "We don't have a delay, so we have a lot of people who call in and say rude things."

Northwestern University's WNUR-FM can boast that it has a large transmitting radius - 50 miles.

"It reaches from Evanston well into Chicago," D.J. Tim Charnon said.

Charnon added that WNUR sponsors not only local bands, but nationally- and internationally-known bands as well.
WOSR wired for campus laughter

By Dmitri Petroff
Lantern staff writer

WOSR radio is offering remote comedy and jazz performances every Tuesday in the Ohio Union, said Raymond Chick, a station disc jockey.

Chick, a senior from Washington D.C. who is in charge of one of WOSR's remote shows, said his show will feature Ohio State student comedians and live bands as its main fare.

Chick said that in the future the shows will be broadcast live on the station.

Chick attempted his first campus comedy show last Easter. He said that about 100 people showed up for the show.

At the show, Chick, who’s stage name is “Funnybone,” challenged members of the audience to come up to the microphone and tell their funniest joke. He said the winner won two tickets to see comedian Steven Wright.

Tuesday’s contest winner will receive two tickets to see Billy Crystal, Chick said.

Chick gives prizes to everyone who attempts to tell a joke. At the Easter show, he gave out “bunny grass,” baskets and even some sponges when the prize fare ran thin.

He said that he got the idea for his campus jazz and comedy show from listening to the radio in Washington, where one station offers a similar midnight session of jokes and jazz.

The comedians scheduled for his Tuesday show are OSU students Doug Ankerman, “Danso,” Lisa Phillips, Amy Eddings and Franklin University’s Ken Walker.

Mike Wogan, the winner of the best joke contest winter quarter, will also perform.

Chick’s jazz and comedy show, called The Comic Shop, will last from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. The jazz part of his show will feature the band Dr. Bombay, a jazz-fusion group comprised of Ohio State students.

Jerry Riles, a junior from Chicago, will spin records during the other remote WOSR session.

Riles’ show, called House Music, will start at 4 p.m. and last until 6 p.m.

Riles, the “Magic Man,” said house music is a Chicago blend of soul and funk with an upbeat tempo.

He said he will offer house music cuts from groups such as J.M. Silk, Fresh and Jesse Saunders.
WOSR staffed by the

By David Jones
Dispatch Radio TV Critic

The two small rooms housing WOSR are about as slickly designed as the station itself. Ohio State University's cable rock-radio station is based in a pair of dim, dormitory-style adjoined cubicles in the center of Drake Union on the OSU campus.

The cinder block of the front room is painted a sick bright blue, topped by acoustic ceiling tiles that look as if they were broken in during the Big Band era. The carpet isn't carpet anymore but a brown film of burlap back ing with underlining linoleum peaking through in spots. The walls are papered with posters and leaflets scrawled with the names of obscure bands. The names are familiar only to those who have a deep interest in modern music - Painful Discharge, Great Plains, Dark Arts, Scrawl - and certainly not to those who subsist on what's offered on Columbus' commercial music stations.

Squatting in the windowless studio, looking through the station's album collection - actual cardboard-covered albums, not cassettes or compact discs - are WOSR's self-styled guerrilla leaders, two suburban looking kids, one wearing a leather jacket spray-painted with the label, CULTURAL TERRORIST.

ONE IS station manager Dave Bowers, 21. The other, with the jacket, is music director Craig Koon, also 21, a former astronomy major, who recently transferred to history of science.

Spinning on a turntable in the background is a song by a group called the Smiths who are half of college radio's current underground royalty, along with the Georgia garage band, REM.

The aim of Koon, Bowers and their volunteer staff of 40 or so is to provide OSU students and listeners to Qube radio (99.9 FM) and dorm resident listeners to 540 AM with a diversity of rock, reggae and assorted other stuff. And to generally rebel against the broadcast status quo.

"We're not people who run around screaming, 'Kill the state! Overthrow the establishment,'" says Koon. "We're just saying, 'In addition to your lives, here's what other people do.'"

"Most commercial music is sheer Wonder Bread and Gerber food," says Bowers. "A lot of people like music to just flow over them. We like music that grabs you by the throat and says, 'Listen!'"

"The music people hear on the air now is just a small portion of many different sounds. We could expose so many new genres, sounds, bands. We could be a viable force."

COLLEGE RADIO, run mostly by volunteer students, increasingly is becoming a force in the record industry. The big record companies have realized that money is to be made from less-well-known bands favored by students jaded by ever-less-adventurous Top 40 playlists. Now, college stations are becoming more influential in shaping the tastes of young listeners.

But not in Columbus. It's generally agreed by all involved with WOSR that the only way the station will have an impact on central Ohio's radio scene is if it can secure an FM broadcast license. That's why Koon has spearheaded the arduous process of applying to the Federal Communications Commission for a license to broadcast at low wattage on the educational segment of the FM dial (below 91 megahertz).
freedom fighters

OSU student Packy Malley mans the studio at WOSR

"This is the second largest university in the country and we don't even have our own station," says Bowers. "There are dinky little towns out there in the middle of nowhere that have a broadcast FM station. I think a school of 50,000 students needs a station.

"There's a big audience out there for progressive music that's underestimated. We would certainly be something new and different and definitely adventurous compared to what's going on around here."

Three previous attempts to go to an FM broadcast since WOSR was created in 1975 have been met with swift termination. Koon says this time he has hired a professional consulting engineer to do a survey for WOSR, part of the FCC requirement for application.

THE COMPLETE study states the station's case for an FM frequency. What type of music is planned, transmitter height, radiated power from station center and other pertinent specifications.

Currently, no educational FM spot is open, but the FCC could change that any time. Last spring, WOSR missed applying for a commercial FM spot because its study wasn't prepared. Koon wants to be ready.

"The people we talked to in the spring at the FCC and other places advised us that other groups would put together thousand-dollar engineering studies and they would have blown us out of the water."

Assuming an FM spot opens, WOSR still will have to secure in the neighborhood of $50,000 to $75,000 in funds from the university coffers to run a broadcast station. Koon has been in touch with OSU President Edward Jennings about the matter. Jennings is cautious but interested.

"I want to make sure our people take the proposal seriously," says Jennings. "But as far as backing it, I'll have to know a lot more. We'll see later on."

For the time being, the volunteer WOSR jocks toil on Qube cable radio and hope someone is out there listening. One is Packy Malley, 21, an economics/liberal arts major who hosts a reggae show from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays.

"THIS STATION is a joke un-
of radio

til we get FM," he says, grinning at the squalid surroundings. "I usually get about two calls per show. No one listens to this station. There just aren't that many students with cable radio."

Malley prepares the next cut, laying a Jimmy Cliff album on the No. 2 turntable and turning the corresponding volume knob on WOSR’s antique control board. The sound is choppy as wiring shorts. Malley taps the knob just so and The Harder They Come finally clearly escapes from the ceiling-mounted speaker.

Just then two lights blink on the WOSR request line. Malley answers and is incredulous when he hangs up. "I got calls from two girls who want to hear Black Uhuru. This is great."

Two more requests minutes later have Malley smiling as he does a segue and station ID. "That’s UB40 and since it’s Twofer Tuesday, I don’t see why we should stop. Let’s do Looking Down at My Reflection. This is WOSR, the leader in progressive radio."

Malley is from Fairview Park, a western suburb of Cleveland. He has promoted 14 outdoor concerts at Mirror Lake for WOSR and is working on one for next spring on the Olentangy River, with help from big-name corporate sponsors.

HE SPEAKS of the prevalence of college radio in northeast Ohio. "You go up to Cleveland, it’s great. You can get about five college stations jammed up on one end of the dial."

Malley, who plans to join the Peace Corps after graduation, is facing no less a challenge in helping to expose Columbus to reggae music. Why does he spend three hours weekly in a dingy cubicle as the calendar closes in on finals week? Like the other WOSR jocks, he loves the music.

"I’ve been doing this since January 15," he says. "And I’ve loved every show. It’s a lot of fun."

Koon speaks of the bands WOSR plays and draws an unintentional analogy. "Some of the big-arena bands the other stations play get more money than they have any comprehension of what to do with. The bands we’re interested in — I’ve seen some of these bands live on people’s floors, living on pizza and beer because they believe in their music so strongly that they just have to do it."

Not very nutritious. But a bit tastier than Wonder Bread.
Concerts to liven spring

By Katy Delaney
Lantern staff writer

WOSR kicks off its Spring Concert series Saturday at the Mirror Lake Amphitheater with the Richard P. Boals Rhythm and Blues Band, and The Beetkeepers.

The series continues for 10 weeks with two bands playing at each concert featuring a wide selection of bands for all musical tastes. Styles will include rhythm and blues, jazz, rockabilly, reggae and acoustic rock.

Most of the bands are from Columbus but some come from Cleveland, Athens and Kent.

One band from Athens, the Saffarians, plays music that they call “vine-swingin’” psychedelic safari jungle music.

A second show on Sunday will include Irie, and upcoming weeks will bring bands such as the Object, Harvest, the Columbus Jets, T.C. and the Cats, Eurogression, the Swimmers, First Light, The Black Hole Jokers and many more.

This is the second spring concert series in addition to a series held last fall. It gives people a chance to see local bands, take a break from the bar scene and enjoy spring weather, said Packy Malley, WOSR disc jockey and coordinator of the series.

Malley, who will emcee the shows, financed the show through local merchants on High Street.

“This year we’ve got more shows and twice as many bands. It’s a hot event. I had some bands just call and ask when I could schedule them,” he said.

All shows are free and are from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m.
Concert series canceled

By Molly McKeown

The last two rock concerts in the WOSR Free Spring Concert Series at Mirror Lake, scheduled for May 23 and June 6, have been canceled by the OSU Student Organizations Activities Office because of open-container law violations and damage to the Browning Amphitheater.

Robert G. Rodda, director of the Student Organizations Activities Office, said the concerts had become "increasingly out of control."

Rodda decided to cancel the series after receiving repeated complaints from OSU police and maintenance workers about people drinking and littering during the concerts.

Rodda said he and Packy Malley, a senior from Fairview Heights and organizer of the concerts, had a written agreement detailing concert conditions — before a 10-week permit was issued for the series.

The conditions stated that Malley and his co-workers at WOSR radio were responsible for keeping people from drinking alcohol at the concerts and for cleaning the Mirror Lake area after each concert.

"What it comes down to is that he (Malley) didn't abide by our agreement," Rodda said.

Malley said he did abide by the agreement.

"I assured them that we'd pick up trash after every concert, and I made a point of doing that," Malley said.

He said there were usually people drinking beer at the concerts.

"It normally looked very controlled," Malley said. "We usually just walked around to make sure it was under control, and I only had one incident in all those concerts that you might call disruptive — when some guys from a visiting fraternity were throwing ice," he said.

Capt. John R. Hartsock, OSU police manager in charge of special events, said problems with open containers and drug use at the concerts increased as the concert series progressed and crowds grew.

"We had officers checking on it periodically during the early part of the series," Hartsock said. "It started off that there were a few bottles here and there, but nothing of any major proportions.

"But at the last one or two concerts there were so many violations that the watch commander advised the officers not to take action, because he didn't have enough people on duty should the crowd decide to contest that," he said.

Ermal C. Smith, superintendent of

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landscape maintenance, said there was a problem with litter and damage to the amphitheater after the rock concerts.

"I bugged scheduling (the Office of Scheduling) and Bob Rodda until they decided to stop it," Smith said.

Smith believes the problem is largely that the amphitheater was not built for such concerts.

"The crowds were too big really to be accommodated by the theater, and then there wasn't any provision being made for police protection and medical emergency assistance," Smith said.

Another problem was a lack of rest room facilities, he said.

"Everyone was using the shrubs and flowers. Of course, if everyone brings a case of beer, you know they've got to go somewhere," Smith said.

Smith said the students did a "pretty good job" of cleaning up, but that small pieces of trash left behind, such as beer tabs and caps, kept maintenance workers busy for hours after the concerts.

Loren Lazarony, the guitarist for Club 99, a band which played a concert May 16 at the amphitheater, said he is sorry to hear that the series has been canceled.

"I saw the open containers and stuff, but I thought the concerts were really good in other ways," Lazarony said. "There was always a crowd and people really enjoyed it."

Jeff Haldeman, guitarist and vocalist for The Safarians, a band who's concert was canceled last weekend, said he understood the university's decision.

"When Packy made the deal with the university, he said there would be no drinking," Haldeman said. "I went to the last concert and there really was a lot of drinking.

"I think that steps could have been taken to change things though, and the concerts were really good for OSU," he said.

Rodda said he "wouldn't rule out" the possibility of resuming the series, if the problems could be solved.

"I think we could (resume the series) if we were able to deal with the concerns that people have and talk about different strategies for clean-up, and if WOSR, or whoever might be the sponsor, could be very sure they have the mechanisms in place to abide by university rules," Rodda said.

Malley said he is trying to arrange to have the concert series moved to the Riverfront Amphitheater, located between Town and Broad streets downtown, on the west bank of the Scioto River.
WOSR
to try for
FM band

By Jennifer Morrison
Lantern staff writer

A WOSR disc jockey sits in the Drake Union studio, plays a few
songs, and wonders if anyone is
listening.

That situation may change if a
WOSR staff proposal and petition
convinces the university to let the
station request an FM frequency
from the Federal Communications
Commission.

"I know there are people listen-
ing, because I do get a few
requests," WOSR disc jockey Dave
Catzman said. "But if we get to
go FM, we'll have tons of listen-
ers."

WOSR is available to Morrill
Tower, Drake Tower and Baker
Hall, and to cable subscribers
through Warner Amex Cube.

The process of getting permi-
sion and installing the new equip-
ment could take as long as two
years, said Dave Bowers, WOSR's
general manager and program
director.

In the meantime, Bowers said
he plans to work on getting the
carrier's current lines installed in
all the dorms.

Bowers also plans to increase

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Continued from Page One

the station's visibility on campus and improve its image. "We need to get into all the dorms, and we especially need to reach the freshmen and sophomores as they come in," he said.

Lack of awareness about the station is demonstrated by students like Tim Ringo, who lived in Dracket for two years but never listened to WOSR. Ringo said he wasn't even sure what type of music the station featured.

According to Bowers, the station's format is very unrestricted. The disc jockeys play rock, pop, punk, blues, jazz, reggae and just about anything else requested.

While the format may have to be tightened to meet FCC regulations, the proposed FM station format will remain essentially the same, but with increased coverage. Bowers said.

If the FCC allows WOSR to install a 100 watt transmitter, the station could cover most of the university area, Grandview and parts of Clintonville, Bowers said. The station would also reach Upper Arlington, where many of the Qube customers live, he added.

There is also the possibility that WOSR would be allowed to broadcast at 350 watts, a strength that Bowers calls average for a college radio station. With 350 watts of power, the station could reach all of Columbus, Bowers said.

Despite the overlap of coverage areas, Bowers said the new station would not compete with established stations in Columbus.

"First, our format is radically different from the other stations in the area and second we'll be non-commercial, so we won't be competing for their advertising dollars," Bowers said.

Catzman agreed and predicted that the new station will draw a different crowd.

"We're only going to get people who are interested in new and different music," Catzman said.

"If they are already addicted to pop, they'll keep listening to those other stations."

Ohio State is lagging behind other universities in the area of college radio, Bowers said. Cleveland has four strong college stations, Cincinnati has two and even Springfield, where Wittenberg University is located, has a good station, he added.

"There's no excuse for a big campus like Ohio State not to have a good station," Ringo said.

"Ohio State needs something progressive like this and it's a good way to promote new bands."

The FM proposal will be presented to a university advisory board in August, Bowers said. If approved, the station will commission an engineering firm to search for an available frequency and to determine the best strength and location for a transmitter.

Once a frequency has been found, the station must request permission from the FCC to begin broadcasting on that frequency. The station must then go back to the advisory board and request funds for equipment, Bowers explained.

"There's been talk about doing this for years, and we're finally moving ahead with it. But all it would take is for there not to be a frequency available and the whole process would come to an end," Bowers said.
Sounds of WOSR to return to dorms

By MARIA AVERION
Lantern staff writer

When dorm residents return from Christmas break, they can tune into the sounds of WOSR, 540-AM, and receive a clear, uninterrupted broadcast for the first time since 1985. The station, with help from the university, will take the first steps towards a comeback next week, when a survey of all the faulty transmitters and equipment will be conducted. The survey results will assist the station managers in deciding what equipment to replace.

"All of the equipment should have been replaced years ago," said David Bowers, general manager of WOSR.

The station should be back on the air in the dorms by the beginning of winter quarter when transmitters are working again, Bowers said. After everything on AM is in full swing, the station will start on projects to improve FM.

Even with the dorm transmitters deteriorating, the station continued to receive requests, comments and other types of feedback from campus listeners. Bowers said most of the on-campus listeners who could still tune in to WOSR were students who lived in south campus dorms and the Olentangy area. There are also a few places around campus where students who work on campus can occasionally tune in, Bowers said.

A majority of WOSR listeners are high school students or graduates in the Worthington and Upper Arlington areas, said Craig Koon, music director of WOSR.

"I have letters from all around the world that are full of wholesome praise for the station," Koon said. "I wish the people around this town who think we are just a punk music station could listen to what they are missing."

The station is well-respected within the industry for its open format, professionalism, and talent for taking the right chances, Koon said. In regards to the open format, Koon simply tells each disc jockey, "There are 3,000 records in the studio. Go play whatever you want." Koon added that if a DJ wanted to play their little brother banging on pots and pans, it would be OK as long as a downtown station has not been playing him also.

The station, which is operated by an independent student organization, has been limited to a Qube cable hook-up since 1981 because of deteriorating transmitters. The station has been hooked up to Qube on 99.9 FM for 11 years.

The radio station, established in 1971 when a carrier current was hooked up to several dorm electrical systems, plays a diverse selection of music not heard on the major Columbus stations. The only restriction that the station has in its format is that the disc jockeys cannot play "top 40" music, so the playlist for WOSR includes more variety than these larger stations.
Radio

By TERI SHALL
Oasis staff writer

By the end of Spring Quarter, WOSR, the student-run alternative music radio station of Ohio State, hopes to electrify 22 out of 25 Ohio State dormitories with its music, said Dave Bowers, the station’s general manager.

Bowers said currently eight of the 22 dorms are waiting for OSU electricians to wire the buildings for the radio transmitters, enabling students to pick up WOSR on their radios in their dorm rooms.

Lincoln and Morrill Towers will be the next to receive WOSR’s signal through their electrical system. The transmitters should be operating after spring break, Bowers said.

Other residence halls awaiting transmitters or wiring include Mack, West Baker, and Bradley-Seibert-Patterson Complex on South Campus; and Haverfield, Nosker, Blackburn, Houck, Halloran, on North Campus.

The new 30-watt transmitters can provide a building as large as Drackett Tower with a strong, clear signal, Bowers said.

The 10-year old, 20-watt former transmitters gave off poor sound quality because they were not that powerful, he said.

The radio station is waiting to get the money the university granted before it can buy the transmitters, Bowers said. The university supports about three-quarters of the station’s operating costs. WOSR takes the rest out in loans.

Eventually, the station will have to depend solely on advertising since the university will grant it less money each year, he said.

To get the AM station in the residence halls, students must tune to 540 or 550 on the AM dial. The two frequencies are used to avoid jamming the air waves, Bowers said.

Because the station cannot afford an FM transmitter, off-campus residents wishing to hear WOSR must have the Warner Cable system radio hook-up. Warner Cable charges $3 for cable radio connection, but you must get a cable television subscription as well. If you have cable radio, WOSR is found at 99.9 on the FM dial.

WOSR is a station run by student volunteers.

“We are the only alternative station to commercial radio in Columbus,” Bowers said.

“We have a policy that if you can hear it on another radio station, (our DJs) cannot play it on WOSR,” he said.

“That policy actually isn’t that limiting because (all the Columbus commercial stations) play the same thing, the same songs over and over,” Bowers said.

WOSR’s format ranges from jazz to pop to industrial hard-core, he said.

“We try to give exposure to bands that wouldn’t get it on other stations,” Bowers said. The station focuses on innovative music and not on bands that are “businessmen with guitars,” Bowers said.

The music industry today exists to make money, he said. The industry turns out conservative music that the masses will buy. Major record labels are not willing to take risks on newer sounding bands without a big audience.

WOSR has a smaller audience than all the commercial radio stations, but “it’s not a miniscule minority,” Bowers said.

There are a minority of OSU students interested in less popular music, Bowers said.

“But just because they are a minority does not mean they don’t have a right to have their own radio station,” he said.
Petition to move WOSR started

By Stacey Donovan
Lantern campus reporter

A petition has been started to get the WOSR radio station moved from Drake Union to the Journalism Building in hopes of a more convenient location and increased student involvement.

Sean Demaree, president of the Radio and Television News Directors Association (RTNDA), said the petition was started at the Welcome Week Fair last Tuesday. He collected 100 signatures that day.

WOSR is a student-run radio station which transmits on the AM frequency, students now working for the station do not receive course credit.

Moving the station to the Journalism Building would mean that students working for the station would receive credit, Demaree said.

"I would like for it to be a vehicle for the students," he said.

However, Zach Bodish, general manager of the station, said he is against the move.

"It is not going to get moved to the Journalism Building," he said.

Bodish said he was never formally told about the petition and heard about it through word of mouth.

He said the radio station will be moving to the Ohio Union over Christmas break, and will be broadcasting from there starting winter quarter.

"I am in the dark to any journalism plans," Bodish said. "However, our plans to move to the Ohio Union have been out in the open since last spring quarter."

Walter Bunge, director of the School of Journalism, said the petition has been discussed, but it will need to be discussed further.

See WOSR: page 2
with the Student Activities Board.

Bunge said he is in favor of the petition as long as the Journalism building has the space for the station and enough financial support to make it a good station.

Demaree said students working at the station now would be allowed to keep their positions if the move is made.

If the station is moved to the Journalism Building, the format would be a little different, Demaree said. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. the station would have news programs, call-in shows or sports programs, he said.

The remaining time disc jockeys would be able to play music, Demaree said.

"WOSR has been accused of playing music that students don't want to hear," Maureen McClarnon, program director of WOSR, said.

She said the radio station plays alternative music, which includes folk, jazz, blues and other music that is not usually heard on Columbus radio stations.

McClarnon is afraid the music and the people involved in the station would change if the move takes place.

"I wouldn't want to see the station as something departmentally run," she said. "The spirit of the organization is important.

"The thought that the station would have to answer to someone else who does not understand our philosophy, and is not that familiar with the station is not something our members want," Bodish said.

He said the station is independent now and that they want to stay.

"We are a student-run organization and student organizations cannot be pirated away by a department unless that organization is willing to have this happen," Bodish said.
WOSR: College Radio at Ohio State
WOSR offers alternative music

By Keith A. Benjamin
Oasis reporter

You might have never heard it before, but Ohio State does have its own student-operated radio station. WOSR, Ohio State Radio, is an alternative radio station currently based at the Drake Union.

"We are both a radio station and a club at Ohio State," said Zach Bodish, general manager of WOSR. "It means that we are student organized and student run. Everyone that works here is a student except for the advisor."

The club meets every Sunday at 7 p.m. in the Drake Union to discuss station problems, fundraising and programming. Bodish said students who are interested in becoming members of WOSR are welcome to join.

An aspiring disc jockey must first intern at the station for one quarter during a DJ's show before scheduling their own show said Bodish. This enables the DJ's to learn how to queue-up records, run the board, fill out logs and make play lists.

Bodish said WOSR considers itself an alternative music station, playing mostly music not heard on any of Columbus' radio stations. He said its collection of records is in the thousands, and is always growing.

"The main focus of WOSR is to play bands that aren't recognized by commercial radio," said Matt Chinn, a WOSR DJ.

Chinn, a junior from Worthington majoring in journalism, said the station plays a wide variety of music ranging from blues, reggae, hardcore, jazz, folk, new wave and dance music. He said the music choices however, are ultimately left to the individual DJ's.

Chinn said listeners can expect to hear bands such as the Godfathers, Death of Samantha, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, This Mortal Coil and Iggy Pop, to name a few. He said local bands such as Scrawl, the Royal Crescent Mob, the Evolution Control Committee and Ootsuybagutchai are also played at WOSR.

Some of the shows that the DJ's put on this quarter feature heavy metal, underground, and progressive rock music. Chinn often has a dance/industrial music show which features bands such as Skinny Puppy, Xynox, Nitrous Ebb and Click Click.

"What you hear on commercial radio, we do not want to play," said Anne Rogers, a radio broadcast major from Cleveland Heights, who has been a DJ at WOSR for the past six quarters. "What we play you can not hear on commercial radio...and that is our purpose."

WOSR is not a broadcast station like those heard on the usual AM and FM bands. It is a wired system which is fed through each residence hall and is then fed to a transmitter, which is also located in every hall. It can be heard on 640 AM in the dorms with working transmitters, and on 99.9 FM with a Qube stereo cable hook-up.

One of the major problems WOSR is facing is most of its transmitters are not working, and some have not worked for several years, said Bodish.

A current list of working transmitters at WOSR reported that only four of them were working, said Bodish. This means that WOSR is presently heard by those in just four of the 26 residence halls at Ohio State, and by listeners who have Warner Cable's stereo service, he said.

For those who can tune into the shows, WOSR airs from 9 a.m. - midnight Monday through Saturday, and from noon - midnight on Sundays.

Bodish said they are planning to go into the residence halls to see which transmitters are working and which ones need repair. A problem is obtaining the money to have them repaired.

The station has recently instituted a $10 per-quarter fee for every member to cover some of the costs and expenses of operating the radio station. Rogers said the station has had numerous financial problems, including stolen and broken equipment.

Rogers said the station has lost a lot of money because of burglaries and mismanagement of funds. She said by the end of spring quarter 1989, the station had run-up a debt of $9,000.

Present management is in the process of rebuilding WOSR and getting it back on its feet again. Rogers said the station recently received $6,000 from the university to pay off most of its debt, and is on its way to recovery.

Some of the projects WOSR is working on to raise money for repairs and to upgrade equipment are Thursday Night Comedy Shows at the Drake Union, and sponsoring various concerts throughout the Columbus and campus area.

"We are showing initiative and trying to turn around our situation," said Rogers. "We are doing these benefits for ourselves, we are paying dues, and we are getting out of debt, and that has changed from five years ago."

WOSR along with Moxy Productions is sponsoring two upcoming shows this month. The first will feature The Hardons, a hardcore band from Australia, on Nov. 9 at the Travel Agency. The second will feature No Means No, a progressive rock band from Vancouver, which will perform at Stache's on Nov. 13.
The Plight Of WOSR:

Faced with broken transmitters, little money and a small audience that can actually tune into the station, WOSR struggles to play the alternative music of college radio at Ohio State.

Any student at Ohio State can become a DJ after interning at WOSR for one quarter, said Bodish. Each DJ has the ultimate decision as to what music they will play during their show.

WOSR moving to Ohio Union

By Keith A. Benjamin
Ohio State reporter

With renewed energy and a growing and more interested audience, WOSR will be moving next quarter from its home in the Drake Union to a larger studio in the Ohio Union.

Chuck Fairbanks, staff advisor for WOSR, said the reason for the move is two-fold.

"One of the reasons for the move is that they are out of space, and there is no more space available in the Drake Union," Fairbanks said. "One of the other reasons that they need to move is that they wanted to locate the studio a little closer to the central part of campus so that there would be more traffic in the area."

Fairbanks said WOSR's current studio in the Drake Union is too removed from people, which has helped provoke a lot of crime over the past few years. Fairbanks estimated the loss of equipment stolen over the last five years to be between $5,000 and $6,000.

Another major problem is that most of WOSR's transmitters are not working in the residence halls. Journalism School Director Walter K. Bunge said the station, which is a student organization, needs to seek additional funding from student government to get the transmitters repaired.

"This problem is that half or more of their transmitters are not even wired up, running or doing anything," said Bunge. "So there is no audience, or a very small audience, and this is a big problem."

Over the past few years there has been speculation as to whether the station would become a part of the School of Journalism. Many members of WOSR do not want the university to take over the station because they feel they will lose control of the operations of the station.

"WOSR will not be a part of the journalism department," said Zach Bodish, general manager of WOSR. "We will remain a student organization. We do not want anyone else to have control over the radio station, and we are not being selfish because we welcome anyone to work for WOSR."

Bunge said he feels that the organization has a legitimate question, which would have to be worked out carefully, regarding how much control students would actually have if the radio station were part of the school.

The only reason the School of Journalism even considered operating WOSR was because radio/broadcasting students use the station to broadcast news five times a day, Bunge said. Students use the studio in the journalism building and send the newscast via wire feed to WOSR. The newscasts offer valuable experience to students in news writing and radio broadcasting.

Before the station can even become a part of the school, details such as funding would have to be worked out, Bunge said. He said the school does not have enough money in its budget to support a radio station.

"I would not be interested in having it over here unless there were some funds available to support its operation," Bunge said. "It has got to have transmitters in every dorm, and that costs a lot of money."

One of the biggest complaints heard from students and members of WOSR is that Ohio State does not have its own student broadcast radio station. Bodish said. Many other universities in Ohio, like Kent State and Case Western Reserve University, which are smaller than Ohio State, have their own student broadcast stations.

Ohio State does own the licensees to three stations in the Columbus area, WOSU AM and FM and WOSU-TV, but that is the extent to their financial involvement, Fairbanks said. WOSU does not often allow students to broadcast on the air, and offers very few internships, Bodish said.

One of the reasons WOSR is not an over-the-air broadcast station is funding. Fairbanks estimated that it would cost over $60,000 to convert WOSR into a broadcast station. The costs would include getting a transmitter, new operations board equipment and an engineering firm survey.

Even if WOSR had the funding necessary, the Federal Communications Commission might be reluctant to issue another license to the university because they already own three in the Columbus area, Fairbanks said.

Bodish, a senior from Marion majoring in communications, said he is in the process of writing and preparing letters to send out to various corporations around the Columbus area to attract some corporate sponsors.

As WOSR continues its climb from near extinction and crime, the staff seems hopeful about its future and will continue to strive for the day when they actually become an over-the-air broadcast station.
Concert offers cure for those sick of love

Now that Valentine’s Day is over, we can all return to our less than romantic selves. If you’re still a little upset that you had to put up a facade in the first place, then Ohio State’s radio station, WOSR FM, may be able to help you remove the sting of Cupid’s nasty arrow.

The second annual “Hate Your Mate” concert, which will be held at Stache’s Sunday, is a Valentine’s Day antidote, Kara L. Putinsky, WOSR promotions director, said.

Putinsky, a junior from Westerville majoring in fine art, said she and others at the station came up with the show’s name last year after reflecting on how people act during Valentine’s Day.

“People get so disgusting this time of year,” Putinsky said.

“The concert is for people who are sick of all the sugary sweetness of Valentine’s Day,” she said.

Putinsky said the show will give those who are not so pleased with Cupid’s archery skills a chance to let loose and check out the alternative college sounds of the Underprivileged, the hard rock flare of Nosferatu and Bleed Evil, and the rock funk sounds of Lizard 99, from Oxford.

The selection of the four bands reflects the diversity of the station and its support of local music, she said.

The show is following a tradition it set last year by having two metal bands, a band from out of town and the return of the Underprivileged, Putinsky said.

“The Underprivileged have played both years; they have become the house band of ‘Hate Your Mate’,” she said.

Bassist for the Underprivileged, Terrance K. Manion, a freshman from Worthington majoring in English, said he likes playing the annual event and is especially looking forward to playing with Nosferatu at this year’s show.

Putinsky said she likes to use out of town bands such as Lizard 99 in her shows because she thinks they need the exposure. It also gives bands from Columbus a chance to meet outside talent and possibly get gigs though them.

Jim Antonio, lead singer of Lizard 99, said it is hard for bands to get gigs outside their hometown.

“We get a lot of doors slammed in our faces because we’re form out of town,” Antonio said.

“The process of getting gigs in other towns is long. You have to go to the town, get names, phone numbers and addresses of the places you could play,” Antonio said. “Then you give the owners a tape that they usually don’t listen to so you have to keep calling and bugging them.”

Antonio said this show is different because WOSR invited them to play.

Tickets for the show are $4 and can be purchased at Stache’s on Sunday. The show will begin at 9:00 p.m., starting with the Underprivileged, followed by Bleed Evil, Lizard 99 and Nosferatu.
WOSR plans move

Move to increase student awareness

Campus radio station WOSR plans to move from Drake Union to the Ohio Union later this month, and station managers said they hope the change of location will help the station gain a bigger audience.

"We probably have an audience of 600 at the moment," said Zach Bodish, general manager of the station. "That's not terribly many... We hope this move will put us more into the student mainstream and make us more readily available to students."

One way the station will make itself more available to students is by broadcasting throughout the union.

"When we move into the union, students will be able to hear us in the food areas and hallways," said Todd Baker, program director for WOSR. "Because there's so many people in the union, this is the best way we can get our signal out." The director of Ohio Union, however, said the deal to broadcast the station in the union has not been finalized.

DIRECTOR DAVID MUCCI said he has discussed the possibility of broadcasting WOSR in the union but nothing is final yet. However, he said the public address system in the union, which has been broken for years, is being fixed.

"It's been several years since there's been any music there," he said. "There's a huge void that cries out for the WOSR sound. We're anxious to get it into the lobbies."

Currently, WOSR is only available to students living in the dormitories and people living off-campus who receive cable radio. The station does not broadcast over the airwaves, but instead sends its signal through the dormitories' electrical systems or through cable.

MUSIC

TRACY TABACZYSKI

"The station is for students," Baker said. "It's a shame more can't hear us, especially considering we're one of the largest colleges in the country. Students should be able to hear their own radio station."

THE STATION PLAYS alternative music. "We play everything you can't hear anywhere else in Columbus," Baker said. "There's a broad emphasis. We play reggae, rap and metal – anything from Metallica to Jimmy Buffett."

Another way the WOSR staff said they hope to gain visibility for the station is by broadcasting concerts held in the union.

"We hope to do a variety of shows, some simulcasts from the ballrooms and taverns," Bodish said. "There's a few concerts in planning, but I can't comment on it."

The move to Ohio Union may be beneficial in other ways as well. WOSR staff members say the new location may help the station retain more of its disc jockeys.

"WE'VE LOST A lot of DJs in the past, just because they didn't want to walk all the way out to Drake Union, especially at night," Bodish said. "Ohio Union is an easier walk."

Staff members say they hope to begin the move within the next two weeks.

"The change should be positive for them," Mucci said. "It puts them back in the student mainstream. I don't know how seriously people take their hall play music, so I'm not sure of the impact (broadcasting) will have. But hopefully it will help WOSR to support and enhance their programs."
Off the air

Disc-jockey Scott Lawski (left) and general manager Zach Bodish alphabetize albums during WOSR's move from Drake Union to Ohio Union. The radio station, which specializes in alternative music, has a collection of more than 7,000 albums and will be back on the air Sept. 24.
WOSR barely alive, seeking funds

By Janet Tebben
Lantern staff writer

Plagued by funding and equipment problems that kept it off the air for the summer, campus radio station WOSR will hold a fundraiser tonight — beginning a plea for help from student government groups to keep the alternative music station afloat.

The station, when running, is only available to students living in the residence halls and if the halls have a transmitter. Those who get cable radio can also pick up the station, but statistics are not available on how many reside in halls and cable listeners receive the station because WOSR has not been on the air this quarter.

WOSR is funded by the Student Organizations and Activities Office, a division of Student Life. Diane Beal, an administration associate in the office said the purpose of the office is to help student organizations get started, but funds to the groups are cut year by year according to a guideline in the allocations subcommittee.

Beal explained that the money allocated by the committee is not intended to purchase equipment, and since WOSR has been around for a number of years, they are eligible for the cuts. She added that an organization can appeal the amount of funds it receives.

Todd Baker, programming director of WOSR and a senior from Columbus majoring in communications, said in the past WOSR had funds to install transmitters in the residence halls, but since funding was cut the managers of the station would be looking for funding from student government groups such as USG, the Residence Halls Advisory Council and individual hall governments.

The president of USG, Mike Clark a senior from New Jersey majoring in engineering, said his organization has not been contacted about funding for WOSR, and no formal proposal has been made to offer funds to the station.

“We’re here to help student organizations, but we can’t keep track of all of them. They would have to come to us,” Clark said.

Ron Spencer, a senior from Belpre majoring in accounting and finance and the president of the Residence Halls Advisory Council said his organization has not heard from WOSR directly either.

Aside from their money worries, WOSR has brought three established local bands to play a benefit at the Ohio Union West Ballroom tonight. The bands will be a preview of the local music that will be played on WOSR.

Watershed, the Epicurians, and the Noble Savages are donating their time to the radio station for the show, and all money made at the fundraiser will go to WOSR’s general fund.

“We’ve done benefits before for WOSR, and it (the station) deserves a lot better. If everyone was aware of how little it would take to get it going it could be a great resource,” said Colin Gavel, a member of Watershed.

The benefit will be held tonight in the Ohio Union West Ballroom. Admission is $3.
WOSR's woes: Money, audience size, money, new competition
and money

Zach Bodish still remembers the programming philosophy of WOSR's former music director.
You can play a tape of your little brother banging on tin cans with chicken bones and screaming at the top of his lungs as long as no other radio station in Columbus was playing it.

Surprisingly, no other radio station in Columbus was playing such music as WOSR, the student-run radio station, at least same degree. Bodish, now the station's general manager, has been at WOSR for five years and hasn't strayed much from that philosophy.

WOSR is one of 400 clubs listed in the university's Student Organizations and Activities Office, and for a $10 fee, interested students may sign up to become members. After a one-quarter internship, students may become disc jockeys and host their own shows.

Listening to the station is a little more complex; however, than broadcasting on FM. The music is piped out to the normal via telephone lines to transmitters located in the basements. Students can get the station at 540 AM.

It sounds simple; however, only one transmitter works. Students in Baker Hall, the sprawling south campus dormitory, are the only ones who can hear it the way it was meant to be. Outside of campus dormitories, Warner Cable subscribers can pay a

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little extra for cable radio where the station is barely audible at 99.9 FM.

Nearly $1,200 is necessary to fix each of the transmitters. Bodish says. For 1990-91 WOSR received a paltry $74 in funds from the university. He says they asked for $17,000 in what he calls a "shoo for Mars, hit the moon" request. Bodish says he doesn't know just how many people are listening, but he knows there are some out there. A quick check of the station's request log shows they average two requests per day.

"Oh, that was my friend Mary who called," an on-air deejay says to Bodish.

I know we've listeners," Bodish persists. "I just wouldn't want to hazard a guess because the number appears to be so small," he says.

To get on the air in a more normal fashion, the station would need a license with the Federal Communications Commission. The university already owns licenses for WOSU-AM and FM and WOSU-TV. The likelihood of a fourth is nil, university officials say.

In an attempt for more recognition and more space, WOSR last summer moved from its cramped Drake Union orbit to the more centrally located Ohio Union: "Although we are in the basement of the Ohio Union, we are much more visible than being on the second floor of the Drake Union," Bodish says. The move kept the station off the air last summer and part of fall quarter.

Through the years (WOSR started in 1968 as a project for electrical engineering students), there has been a demand for the type of alternative music the station has played since dropping its Top-40 format in 1977. Last August, though, the emergence of WWCD-FM 101.1, highly publicized, eagerly anticipated commercial station that has what's hot on the college charts, seems to have extinguished some of the demand for an alternative radio station at Ohio State.

"They definitely have eaten a bit into our market," Bodish says. "Although the station is not under FCC regulations, Bodish nonetheless instructs the DJs or so deejays each quarter to keep a clamp on the four-letter words. He won't, however, discourage playing 2 Live Crew, the controversial rap band. The station also delves into jazz, reggae, heavy metal and an assortment of rap music."

The bottom line isn't being an out-of-control, Rambo-type radio station. "Aside from attempting to expose people to music it's a very useful educational tool," he says. "The students can gain so much valuable experience here."

Despite the nagging problems, with the lack of money on the top of the list, Bodish says he thinks the station will carry on after he graduates sometime "in the near future."
Fans of tiny OSU radio station hope for resurrection

By Tim Doulin
Dispatch Higher Education Reporter

While many student-run radio stations flourished on college campuses across the country during the 1980s, the one at Ohio State University was dying a slow death.

Mounting debts, taken support from the university and few listeners finally led WOSR to sign off the air last summer.

Some of the students who ran the station cling to the hope that the journalism school might resurrect it, but that could be wishful thinking.

Broadcasting from the Ohio Union, WOSR was heard by a handful of listeners who had cable radio or lived in dormitories equipped with transmitters. It was a carrier-current station, with the signal sent through telephones lines to the transmitters on an AM frequency.

The station provided a forum for aspiring disc jockeys and on-air experience for broadcast news majors. It also was a place for students to have a say.

"It is good to have a student voice other than the student newspaper, and that is what a student-run radio station is," said Matt Majesky, former disc jockey and music director.

Many smaller college campuses in Ohio have student-run radio stations. The University of Michigan has two. With about 53,000 students on the Columbus campus, OSU seemed to offer a ready-made audience for the alternative music the station played.

The university is "discovering the opportunity to serve students and those outside campus who would be interested in that kind of station," said John McCauley, general manager of the station at the time it went under.

"I think there is an audience out there that isn't being served — the 18- to 25-year-old college student who is somewhat left of center... who would like to hear something other than Madonna and Bon Jovi five times an hour." The station tried to accommodate its limited audience with music that wouldn't typically air on commercial Columbus stations.

WOSR, formed as a student organization, received little money from the university. State support for the university has been cut in recent years, and OSU already owns two radio stations, WOSU-AM (880) and WOSU-FM (89.7), as well as a television station, WOSU (Channel 34).

Broadcast students have little opportunity to get on-air experience on the two university-owned radio stations because they are operat-
Ed primarily as businesses, not as learning laboratories for broadcast students. WOSR provided that chance, allowing students to deliver news reports.

"If they (OSU) could give us an open-air transmitter and support us with licensing fees, we could make serious contributions," McCluskey said.

One of the downfalls of WOSR was that the station never secured an FM broadcast license, which would have allowed it to reach a larger audience. Since its inception in 1975, the station approached the Federal Communications Commission several times about broadcasting at low wattage.

McCluskey said OSU was ideal for a 10-watt station, but FCC regulations changed a few years ago. "Now the minimum is 100-watt. That is more difficult and more expensive," he said.

Added expense was not something the station could handle. WOSR had a debt of about $11,000 when it went off the air, McCluskey said. The station operated on a budget of $3,000 a year, with most of the money coming by any means possible.

"We held benefit gigs, contests. We would get people to sign up for credit cards. We sold advertising. Anything," McCluskey said.

Some professors in OSU's journalism school have said they are interested in getting the radio station going again. However, Pamela Shoemaker, director of the school, said she hasn't been approached formally about taking over the station. She indicated that the timing may not be right.

"We got hit heavily with the budget cuts, and taking on a new program like a radio station probably is not fiscally possible," Shoemaker said.

The school does need to find a way to get students on-air experience, Shoemaker said. "Students receive internships that can provide on-air experience, but I would like to see that experience available within the curriculum."
Student-run radio considered for campus

By H.J. Chiu
Lantern staff writer

About 20 people gathered Tuesday at the Ohio Union to discuss the possibility of establishing a new campus radio station; currently Ohio State has no student-run radio station.

"All ideas are open and can be discussed," said Torsten Moeller, a graduate student in computer information science systems who organized the group.

He said most Columbus radio stations do not provide enough alternative music, and he hopes a new radio station will offer a variety of music, including ethnic and non-mainstream music.

In addition, Moeller would like to include hourly news briefs in his programming.

"It will be great to have a campus radio station," he said.

"And somebody has to start it."

Ohio State had a campus radio station, WOSR, which was registered as a student organization, but signed off the air last summer because of debts and lack of financial support.

WOSR used an AM frequency, and broadcast from Drake Union. It was later moved to the Ohio Union in 1990. The station was only available to people who had cable radio or residents who lived in dormitories equipped with transmitters.

The equipment of WOSR is now stored in the broadcast engineer's office in the Journalism Building; the equipment needs to be maintained and examined, said James Harless, associate professor of journalism.

The station provided a place for disc jockeys and broadcast journalism students to acquire on-air experience. It also served as a voice for students.

WOSR encountered many problems, one of which stemmed from its lack of a FCC license. Currently, Ohio State owns three licenses for radio WOSU-AM and FM, and a television station, WOSU.

Former WOSR DJ Mark Gunderson, who attended the meeting, said when the station was running, it was discussed if the station would become a part of the School of Journalism. Many members of WOSR did not want the station to be taken over by the university because they thought it would lose its independence.

Harless said the School of Journalism is considering providing a radio station for students, but no formal action has been initiated.

"We are not sure exactly what will happen," he said. "But the intention is there."

Gunderson said there is a need for a new radio station in Columbus to provide alternative music, too. Many non-mainstream musicians and good local bands do not get enough airtime.

He said CD 101, the first progressive radio station in Columbus set up two years ago, lost its alternative focus.