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## WOSR IN THE '70s

*Local radio professional Mike Eiland recounts the early 70's of WOSR.*

Hello! I thought I would add information concerning the history of WOSR. I worked at there from the 1973-1974 school year until early 1977, when I began a part-time job with WTVN AM and FM. WTVN-FM later became LVQ-FM (Q-FM-96) where I am still today.

Everyone starting at WOSR during that time was given a history of the station by the staff. Some of it was written but much of it was told to us. I remember a lot of it.

History has it that WOSR started in Drackett Tower by a couple of students who were brothers in 1971. The station was developed to give students another forum for voicing their opinions. There was a lot going on at OSU at the time (I was still in high school in 1971). The year before, Ohio State joined campuses around the world in protesting the Vietnam War, in particular the April 1970 announcement by President Nixon that the U.S. would bomb Cambodia. Campus rioting resulted and the Kent State shootings the following week didn't help matters.

OSU's situation was unique in that there were riots going on simultaneously for different reasons. Black students had already taken a stand against the university for its lack of support for a proposed Black Studies program (later approved). Black and white students certainly joined forces in protesting the war.

The idea for WOSR was to inform and entertain beyond what local radio was willing to do. Those ideals formed the basis of the station's programming in its early years. WOSR moved to the Drake Union in 1972 with expanded hours and programming as well as a very well-organized staff of students and advisors.

The format was Top 40 during the daytime (Yes! We were the first to play Captain & Tennille's "Love Will Keep Us Together" in 1975, thanks to a nice deal with A&M Records) and an album-rock hybrid after 7:00 p.m. The two formats were separated by an amazingly high-quality program of rock and talk. The creative name for this program was "Rock 'n' Talk," hosted by Mitch Chester during 1973-74. He had a smooth and silky voice---was very articulate and a brilliant student. This was the forum for which students could speak about anything, and the war topped the menu for a time. Student issues regarding academics, race relations and other topics were discussed in a manner that belied the station's college-level status.

I started out doing Campus Radio 54 News and later became an afternoon personality after classes. I eventually became WOSR's