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Tuesday, September 19

## A requiem for the future of rock 'n' roll

BY HOWARD MCEWEN

The message on its Web site started with two words that said it all: "This sucks." I knew right away what it meant.

WOXY.com announced that it was going to cease operations - and I let it happen.

I didn't tell all my friends about WOXY.com. I didn't join their listener program. I didn't drop off sandwiches for the staff. All I did was listen to some really great bands I would never have heard of and probably won't hear anymore.

It does suck. It sucks worse than most of Cincinnati radio, which is saying something.

I listen to radio two times: in my cubicle when I'm doing something boring and need something with a backbeat to keep my heartbeat going; and in the car.

My building - like many - somehow repels radio waves. FM waves can bounce through the vast emptiness of space and be picked up by aliens of the planet Tralfamadore, but for some reason they can't make it through three inches of brick.

That's where WOXY rescued me. I could listen to bands like Belle and Sebastian or Death Cab for Cutie or even some old Cure while doing mind-numbing work - and I loved it. Now, I'll get nothing.

I don't know of another place online with such an extensive playlist ... and DJs who don't babble on about nothing! WOXY.com's DJs added to the songs. They gave a nice introduction, pointed out some nice facts, maybe gave the band's influences or a personal experience with the band, then they shut the hell up and pressed play.

WOXY would also post shows on the Web site. Many bands coming through town or making a point to come to town would do a nice set for WOXY, who would then post it for downloading.



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This made my 30-minute commute bearable. In the mornings in Cincinnati there's nothing to listen to. Jim Scott is a narcoleptic's nightmare - unless NPR hasn't killed him with boredom already. The other AM stations are politics, and who needs that at 7 a.m.? 92.5 offers Bob and Tom's parade of fart jokes. 97.3 offers Rover's parade of penis jokes. WEBN offers a parade of fart and penis jokes. Other stations give you saccharine tripe: some babbling broad and a sycophantic eunuch discussing Hollywood's latest romance, Hollywood's latest divorce, Hollywood's latest illegitimate child. Nothing of interest or worth.

The drive home is no better. Very limited playlists interrupting interminable commercials. In the name of Buddy Holly, how much Led Zeppelin can 92.5 and WEBN play? I've actually caught them playing the same song at the same time!

I didn't have to listen to a bit of radio crap. I'd have the iPod full of WOXY.com shows.

WOXY.com gave me a lot - I didn't help it a bit. Now it's gone. I let it happen.

*Howard McEwen, CFA, is the author of The Pure Investor and almost never blogs about investments at [thepureinvestor.blogspot.com](http://thepureinvestor.blogspot.com).*

*posted by Susan Forman on 9/19/2006*

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