Different Programs Make Station Unique

by Warren Bobrow
KUCI Program Director

As you know, KUCI is Orange County's finest alternative. We have to be an alternative for as many people and as many genres of music as possible. This is no easy task. We have to try and satisfy not only the UCI student body, but also the under-represented masses of people outside of the campus who don't have the opportunity to hear their favorite type of music on conventional radio. With all of these different variables taken into consideration, KUCI develops its programming schedule.

KUCI starts its morning with classical music from 6 am to 8:30 am. This gives you something to wake up to that won't be too startling to your senses which aren't quite working to full capacity yet. Immediately following our classical programming comes one hour of public affairs programming. We make our public affairs shows as topical as possible, involving both campus and off-campus happenings. We put them on at a reasonable hour so that you can find out what's going on in the Irvine community without staying up until 4 in the morning.

At 9:30, music takes control again with jazz. KUCI's jazz programming is a viable alternative to the jazz you hear on major L.A. radio stations because we play the artists and the cuts that you won't hear anywhere else. Anyone who enjoys jazz will enjoy alternative forms of the art as presented on KUCI.

At noon, pop/rock takes over Radio Free Orange County. From noon until 3 pm, KUCI presents alternative radio for conventional tastes. In other words, we bring to you good music, by good artists that the major Top 40 or hit radio stations just haven't gotten around to finding yet. Definitely the time to hear the stars of the future.

From 3 pm until midnight is when KUCI's programming really shines for those of you who like truly alternative rock music. This is where we spotlight the new forms of rock and the new artists that are bringing it to you. This includes avant-garde, techno and everything in between, including a spotlight of the local and international punk and heavy-metal scene from 9 pm until midnight.

After midnight, the rules go out the window and KUCI becomes a free-form radio menagerie of anything and everything. Requests generally set the tone for late-night listening.

Needless to say, KUCI's programming isn't the simplest thing in the world, but it's not that tough to understand, either. It is just a matter of bringing you the type of music you want to hear at the same time of the day, seven days a week. After all, it is your requests that set the tone for the music anyway.
Music has always been one of the single most important parts of my life. But I'll be honest: one of the main reasons I became a DJ was to meet people (aka MEN). I've always been fascinated by the DJ-listener mystique. If you listen faithfully to one particular station, the voices of the DJs become so familiar that they sound like old friends. Of course, we memorize their names, and sometimes we fantasize (anyone who says that they have never done this is lying), albeit a bit romantically, about what the man or woman behind the voice must be like—what they must look like. Radio personalities like KROQ's Richard Brand or KMET's Mary Turner are rock stars in their own way, with more little girls and boys in love with them than Duran Duran or the Go-Go's.

Taking the "selling power" of a smooth, sexy voice, and competent technical skill, I began the development of the personality which I project to my radio audience. This woman, who is an extension of myself, is called Gail Pink.

Certainly one of the most rewarding things about being Gail Pink is the relationship I build between myself and my listeners and, of course, taking their phone calls and requests.

People who call in with requests are great, not only because they can give the DJ good musical suggestions, but because each one of them (the boys, especially) are just a little bit curious about who I am. If the caller is a UCI student, he wonders if maybe I am a Social Ecology major or am I in the same biology lab as he, or could I possibly be the cute blonde he was eyeing in the Backlot this afternoon. If the listener is an off-campus fan, he is nine-times-out-of-ten someone who calls every week, and we are probably on a first-name basis like friends who have never met. If this boy is maybe just a bit lonely or if our musical tastes seem remarkably similar; then there's a good chance that this boy has a crush on the girl behind the voice he knows as Gail Pink.

I would be lying if I were to say that I don't try to stir that interest, because I do. Having control of that radio air space for the three-hour block which is your station, and could you dedicate that "to Mary from the One Hundred Club," please?" It feels good to make someone that happy. It's like the saying goes: one good stroke deserves another. I play their request, they call back with another good request, they continue to listen, and Gail Pink has another fan.

Fans do other things besides call me up with song suggestions and chit-chat. Sometimes they want to meet me, they want visual proof that Gail Pink really exists. I never encourage listeners to come up to the station while I'm doing my show. This is for a number of reasons, among them: station security; it interferes with my concentration; and for my own safety. I'll never forget the one occasion that I was alone in the studio at a late hour, only to be visited by three very drunk and very ardent male admirers. I came away from that experience with more than a few gray hairs and a new habit of locking the outer "air-wall" door of the station whenever I was alone in the station at an odd hour from then on.

Unpleasant memories aside, I have met quite a few of KUCI's listeners. More than once I have been at work, when a listener-disguised-as-customer (who has found out through word of mouth that Gail Pink works at ---) will pipe up in a familiar voice, "Are you Gail Pink?" This is sometimes embarrassing, but it is really how I would prefer to meet the unknown "Bud," "Rodney," or "Dave" (all names of fans whom I've met, one of whom I keep running into in gas stations, and, on one occasion, in a traffic jam on the 405). Some fans like to give me something which will endear them to me. Among the gifts I have received from fans: flowers, assorted foods, assorted substances, stocks and, on one occasion, in a traffic jam on the 405, tickets to see my very favorite performer, Peter Gabriel. It seems that I had mentioned how much I wanted to go, but that I had no tickets to the sold-out show. I went to this concert after first meeting this fan on 'neutral ground,' but I never saw him again after the show. It just didn't seem like a good habit to get into. As a matter of fact, I would advise any female DJ against accepting dates or expensive gifts from a male whom you know only as a "fan," even though I've had a lot of nice phone relationships with listeners, I've also had my share of threats, and those should never be taken lightly.

A s a point of interest, I'd like to add that some guys who want to meet Gail Pink never call again once they do. I think it's mostly because my boyfriend is with me at the time. Or perhaps I intimidate them, or maybe because in-person I just couldn't live up to the mental fantasy they had. Whatever happens, I try not to take it too seriously. I'm on the air because I enjoy it, I have a good time and I like to think I give my listeners a good time. (One of my promotional slogans used to be, "Gail Pink gives good ear"; it's all done in the spirit of fun.)

Some don't care as much about their listeners as others do, but to me they are just as important as the music I play, because playing to an audience of one is not very gratifying, and especially in the case of a student-run station like KUCI, the listeners are our life's blood. We couldn't stay on the air without them. A friendly voice on the request line not only lets you know that you're appreciated, it makes radio all the more fun.

Call the curtain, raise the roof, spirits on smite . . . we love our audience! -Bauhaus

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A Message from the General Manager

Radio Existence Faces Challenges

First of all, welcome to the new quarter at UC Irvine, and thank you for taking the time to read KUCI's Winter '84 Program Guide. I feel that our programming for this quarter is possibly the finest ever at the station, with the inclusion of some very interesting and provocative public affairs shows, two new concert programs, and the new National Lampoon Comedy Hour that will be brought in towards the middle of the quarter.

In past program guides, it has just been accepted practice for the general manager to state unequivocally that all was wonderful at the radio station, not to worry, everything will work itself out. This certainly is not the case at this point. KUCI is at a crossroads; as Woody Allen so eloquently put it, "One side leads to universal misery, the other to total destruction; let us hope we have the wisdom to choose the correct path." It is not as bad as all that, but matters have come to a head at the station, as it were. A station that broadcasts on the same frequency as KUCI, KXXU in Los Angeles, has expressed the desire to move their transmitter to a higher location, which would effectively wipe KUCI's signal off of the air; at 24 watts, KUCI does not have any official standing with the FCC, and as a result KXXU would not have to worry about interfering with KUCI's signal. KUCI must move to another frequency and, more importantly, must move in time to achieve protected Class A status with the FCC. This is going to take both time and money.

More importantly, however, is the fact that at KUCI's current power, no, every community member who should have the right to access to KUCI. This is the problem that really concerns us, since we are committed to bringing high quality alternative programming to the entire UCI and Orange County communities. Access to the station not only means the ability to tune us in, but there certain are many areas of that interest that are not being addressed because of the lack of community involvement with KUCI at this point. View this message, then, as an invitation to become more involved with KUCI. This can be in many areas: engineering, news, public affairs, sports, anything. If you have an interest in a subject that you feel is not being adequately covered, come up to the station, or drop us a note, and tell us. Every UC Irvine student and Orange County community member should view KUCI as a natural public resource, and make use of it.

Check us out in 1984; we are Orange County's finest alternative, KUCI.

Joshua S. Bleier
General Manager, KUCI 88.9 FM
President, UC Radio Network

Music Makes the Difference

A quick glance at the KUCI programming schedule, located elsewhere in this guide, will show you that most of KUCI's daily programming is taken up with music. "Well, la-dee-da," the more cynical of you out there may be thinking. "My favorite mega-watt commercial radio station plays music, too." Well, true... but it's unlikely that they play as wide a variety of music as KUCI does, or allow their airstaff the freedom of musical selection that KUCI offers its personnel.

In the early morning, for instance, one can tune in to 88.9 FM for classical music of all eras. Later in the morning, KUCI plays jazz and jazz-fusion. Then from noon until 6 a.m., KUCI programs what is known in the extremely relative sense as "popular" music—that is, rock 'n' roll, new music, punk/hard-core, mod/ska, dance, reggae, heavy metal, etc., etc., etc. But don't expect to hear the same hits that you've heard on other stations or songs they've heard on the radio. KROQ, in fact, we avoid playing the overly familiar. Why? Well, why not? After all, we can afford to be different. As a non-commercial radio station, KUCI doesn't have to worry about pleasing the sponsors (what sponsors?) by featuring an "agreeable" (read: bland) regimented programming format calculated to hook in more listeners than the competition. Also, unlike commercial radio stations, all dj's at KUCI have complete freedom over what they decide to play during their weekly three-hour shift on the air.

So, we have the priceless opportunity to play songs, artists, even entire musical genres that are overlooked or avoided by commercial radio. (In fact, many people call in to KUCI to request artists or songs they've heard of or read about, but haven't actually been able to hear on the radio.) This makes listening to the music on KUCI an informative experience... oh, and fun too.

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<td>6 a.m.</td>
<td>Back to Basics with Dr. Sioux Harmon</td>
<td>High-Tech Expo</td>
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<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Rock with Phil who helps you keep track of the late-night stars</td>
<td>Back to Basics</td>
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<td>12 noon</td>
<td>Lesley Brooks jazzes up the early week with scintillating sound.</td>
<td>Back to Basics</td>
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<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>The Doug and Greg show: Do you think you hate Mondays? Just listen to us.</td>
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<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>WFMU-classics are hosted by Madame Incognito.</td>
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<td>9 p.m.</td>
<td>Chicago's WFMU-classics are hosted by Madame Incognito.</td>
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