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TV/radio critic

Top 40 format may put WLOL at top of the heap

Some of us who grew up in the '60s have felt a gnawing sense of loss for almost a decade when we listen to Top 40 radio. It has been almost impossible to turn on a radio, AM or FM, and hear the newest and catchiest songs.

On the AM band, where the Beatles, the Supremes and Roy Orbison used to reign, you can hear plenty of news, weather and sports. The music has nearly vanished. On FM, the blandest megaplatinum hits from the past 10 years are recycled endlessly on "adult contemporary" stations, and the FM album rock stations make sure we're saturated with the wailings of Styx, Rush and Journey.

The Twin Cities are blessed with good specialty stations — WWTC-AM caters wonderfully to the oldies rock crowd, KTWN-FM offers a pleasing array of contemporary jazz, KSJN preserves the classics, and WDGY, KJJO and KTCR provide the latest country-western hits.

But what happened to good old Top 40? Who's taking chances with new singles? Who's bridging the gap between album rock and adult contemporary, those two bastard children of '60s rock?

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