

ARTS AND FEATURES

Latest WXYC cassette features local bands

By Katrina Wittcamp
Staff Writer

While everyone is mourning the temporary closing of the Cat's Cradle, its owner, Frank Heath, and UNC's student-run radio station, WXYC, have tried to satiate Chapel Hill's musical appetite with a tape called Demolisten III.

The tape is the latest in a series of cassette compilations and serves as a reminder of the talent that is coming out of North Carolina.

For 55, Demolisten III cures the novice of those who don't know a thing about the local "buzz-bands" that are rolling off the tongues of the musically hip.

"These are bands that are talked about but under-represented and under-recorded, somewhat of a music scene buzz," said Bob Boster, WXYC station manager. He said the tape was put together to help the bands gain more publicity on a local and national level.

Demolisten III features original songs — unavailable anywhere else — recorded specifically for the project and sampling bands from across the state in their raw form. It helps to define the musical scene of Chapel Hill and the surrounding area, showing its ever-growing variety of sounds.

"We were trying to present a range of different styles," Boster said. "We really go out of our way to support local bands."

Heath said the Demolisten series would not have been possible without the help of WXYC, which donated the money to produce the first collection. All proceeds from the sale of the tape will benefit the radio station.

"Most bands are happy to donate money to the station," Heath said. "WXYC puts out a lot of effort to expose bands."

From Chapel Hill's rockabilly Chicken Wire Gang to the hip-hop funk of Raleigh's Seventh Tribe, Demolisten III is emblematic of what Heath and WXYC have tried to give to the area

music scene — diversity.

"I feel closer to the music of this tape," Heath said. "It captures a lot of what has been going on at the Cat's Cradle and around Raleigh."

Local band members attribute some of the exposure area music groups have gotten to Heath's attempts at finding new sounds.

"Frank (Heath) has helped the guys out a lot," said Ron Morgan, manager of Seventh Tribe. "He sees a group with talent and he's all for it."

Greg Bell, a pianist and singer in the Chicken Wire Gang, said that Chapel Hill was different than other musical havens, where the bands which emerged were of similar natures. The Triangle has produced a wider variety of styles, he said.

"People have to start perceiving Chapel Hill as Chapel Hill and not the next Seattle," Bell said. "Unlike Seattle, which has a signature sound, Chapel Hill does not have a specific sound."

Boster said the reason for this wider selection of music could be attributed to an open atmosphere and to new bands moving in and around the area. "There weren't as many good bands in the Triangle. Now there are a huge number of bands and a wider range of styles."

Bell said Chapel Hill had an environment that was friendly to musicians.

"There is a camaraderie between musicians, writers, ... you name it," he said. "As long as the intentions are good, the community is supportive of creation."

Bell considers Demolisten III to be reflective of the town itself. "No one is making money, no egos are involved, no complaints about the song placement ... Chapel Hill has always been like this. It's a great place for people (who) want to try out new ideas."

Heath said that although the Cat's Cradle had closed, he planned to continue his work with the local music scene. "I've had a birth of creative thought. Demolisten IV is definitely in the works."

View sublime from the edge of Hanging Rock

By Kim Costello
Arts and Features Editor

It's a mile and a half up a steep, rugged trail to get to the top of Hanging Rock. The path begins as asphalt, then tapers down to gravel and eventually turns to nothing but dirt and rock as it narrows and becomes tricky even for the sure-footed.

Climbers stop to catch their breath, resting on the flat rocks that line the woods on the 30-minute hike. They huff and puff the last hundred yards, scaling rocks and hoping their Keds don't slip, sending them the wrong way back down the mountain.

But it's well worth the work to reach the peak, about 2,100 feet above the ground, where visibility stretches for miles across the land below.

Farmland and lush forests are displayed as far as the eye can see, with no trace of the highway recently left behind.

"It's absolutely gorgeous up here," said Jon Abels of Durham, who visited the park for the first time with his wife, Kim. "I've never seen anything quite like it in all the years I've been camping."

The wind whistles sharply because of the high altitude, and most who have made the trip welcome the cool breeze. No guardrails obscure the view or keep visitors from dangling their feet off the edge, so it can make even those without a fear of heights somewhat apprehensive.

"I keep telling (Jon) to move away from the side," Kim Abels said. "The view is spectacular, but I'm still not very comfortable being close to the edge."

The peak of Hanging Rock is the main attraction and namesake of Hanging Rock State Park, located in Danbury, about 30 minutes north of Winston-Salem. Created in 1936 and constructed largely by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the park may be one of the most well-preserved secrets of North Carolina.

Places to catch a quiet moment of solitude abound throughout the park, home to 18 miles of trails, a large lake



for swimming and canoeing and 73 campsites. No matter how many people are spread throughout the park, it rarely feels crowded.

One of the best ways to enjoy being alone is to spend time exploring the trails that meander through the forest and lead to less seen natural attractions.

Each is ranked somewhere between easy and difficult, so the experienced hiker may choose to take a detour far off the beaten path.

Perhaps the most difficult trail — and thus most the deserted — leads to Cook's Walk, a staggering cliff of rock more than 400 feet in height and two miles long. The hike to reach the stone wall stretches across four miles of paths, and few people have what it takes to go the distance.

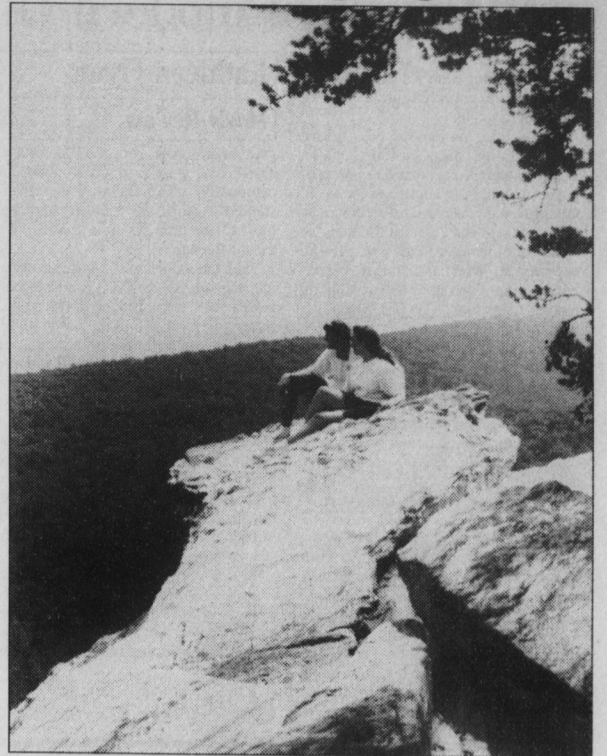
However, the less strenuous trails in the park can be just as satisfying. Many arrive at flowing waterfalls suitable for wading and splashing. The cold mountain springs will refresh weary visitors after a long day outdoors in the summer heat.

But the biggest thrill is on top of Hanging Rock itself, with its raw beauty and pristine feel. The time spent reaching it is short compared to the reward it brings.

At a time when it seems that overdevelopment has overtaken the state, the countryside that visitors overlook probably looks much like it did when the first hikers reached the peak so long ago.

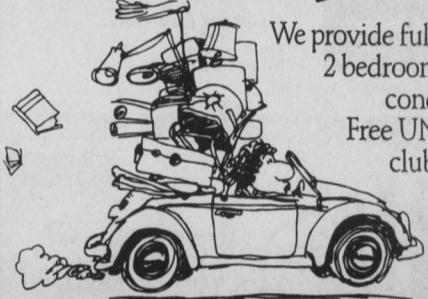
"It's amazing to think that this has been here for years and years and it's still changing," said Marianne Jackson from High Point. "I hope it will be around for my kids to enjoy."

To get to Hanging Rock State Park, take Interstate 40 west to Winston-Salem. Exit at U.S. 52 going north to N.C. 8. Head north towards Danbury and follow the signs to the park.



Jon and Kim Abels of Durham spend a quiet moment together at Hanging Rock

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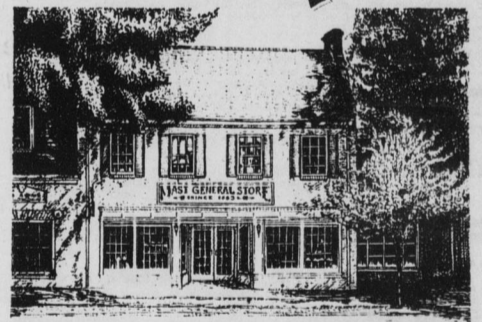
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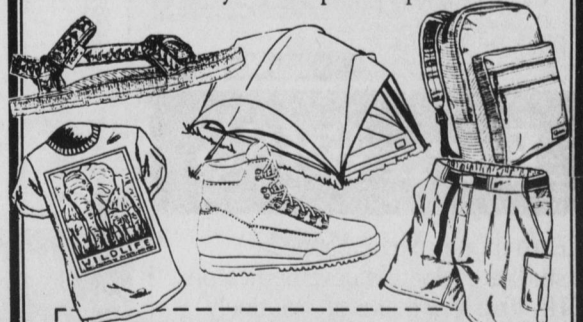
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