



A WXYC disc jockey reads an announcement on the air

WXYC escapes monotony

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Staff Writer

WXYC, the University's campus radio station, brings an opinion out of everybody, but all students agree that the station located at 89.3 FM is definitely unique.

According to station manager Bill Burton, WXYC is recognized as one of the 10 or 12 best college radio stations in the nation. "Definitely the best in the state, and probably the Southeast," he says.

The most obvious reason that WXYC, as its affectionately called, is so unique and highly regarded is because of the variety of music it plays. It is the only station around where one can hear something from Willie Nelson, followed by the Gang of Four and then something totally out-of-date like the Bee Gees. So what if everyone was hoping they would never hear the brothers Gibb, minus Andy, again. "We'll play anything that's good," says Burton.

This station definitely has something for everybody's taste. Disc jockeys play traditional rock 'n roll tunes that all double "r" fans have heard, plus obscure groups that are just trying to break the ice on

commercial radio. But there's more to music than rock 'n roll, and WXYC is out to prove it. Anything that can be classified as music has a chance for airplay on WXYC. It is not uncommon to hear jazz, country and funk mixed in with the rock during any stretch of WXYC's air time. "Variety is the spice of life," Burton quotes.

On area commercial stations, such as G105 and 94Z, one tends to hear the same pop songs over and over. According to Burton, commercial stations limit themselves. "They are boring to work with and to listen to," he says. WXYC is on the air 24 hours and broadcasts no paid advertisements.

Jocks at WXYC have a lot of freedom to play what they want. Barbara Behen, a disc jockey during the summer and the regular school year, says, "Being able to inflict your tastes on other people is great. Especially getting phone calls from people saying, 'That's the worst song I've ever heard' or 'That's a really good song' is fun."

People who listen to WXYC escape the pop syndrome. This explains why Burton figures that a little more than half of the student population turns

its dials to 89.3. "Almost all people who listen to contemporary music listen to us at some time or another," he says. He estimates that 20 percent of the student population permanently park their dials at WXYC. According to Burton, a year and a half ago when WXYC was on the ballot as a referendum item for constitutional funding, they received more votes than all of the student body president candidates. "It shows that people cared more about WXYC than who was going to be their next student body president," Burton says.

Burton also figures that 10 percent of the student population hates WXYC, "but at least they know we are here." Burton says of WXYC, "Listen if you like it, if you like it tell your friends about it, if you don't like it — sorry. That's what college radio is all about."

The station offers more than music programs. Their talk show, Northern Hemisphere Live, which recently moved from its Wednesday night time slot to Sunday afternoon from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., discusses a variety of campus subjects. Last year they

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All-Nighter at the Student Union



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