For WXYC, variety is the spice of life

By SALLY PEARSALL

WXYC on 89.3 FM, the campus radio station, can't be defined as simply progressive or alternative it's got a unique programming style all its own.

"When you turn on XYC, you could hear anything from alternative stuff to old stuff to jazz to blues to reggae," said Steve Balcom, program director for the station. "We don't have the block programming of other college radio stations, and we don't get into traps of playing only all-new music."

Balcom said most of what gets played on XYC depends on the DJs' personal tastes; during their air time, they are given almost complete freedom to play whatever music they want. And because the station is student-funded, XYC's programming isn't cluttered with commercials.



A WXYC DJ spins the tunes during his shift

Tar Heel/Laura Patterson

XYC does have some regular shows, including Sunday's "Orange County Special," which features traditional bluegrass, country and folk music, and the

"Northern Hemisphere Live" phone-in talk show. Last semester, Dean Smith was a "Northern Hemisphere Live" guest host.

This summer, XYC has added

another specialty show - the "New Music Show," which is broadcast on Saturday night and features brand-new releases. Phone lines are open during the

Molly Maguire's

IRISH PUB & RESTAURANT

show so that listeners can call in their opinions.

XYC also broadcasts UNC sports, including lacrosse and women's basketball games. And on student election night, XYC keeps the campus updated with the election returns.

It's a student-run station, but XYC staffers say they don't think it's the most popular station on campus. "We don't have the illusion that we've got the majority of the students (listening), but we do get a good portion," said Jason Bott, station manager.

"We also reach a large part of the community - people who are

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