

Diverse programming makes WXYC unique

By L.D. CURLE
Staff Writer

WXYC on 89.3 FM, UNC's campus radio station, could best be described as a station with remarkable diversity which concentrates on rock.

"We do a lot of different stuff, from jazz to new music," said Cheryl Parker, station manager. Most of what WXYC plays depends on the taste of the disc jockey, except when the station is featuring a specific type of music, according to Parker.

"We do try to encourage our DJs to play a variety of styles of music," said Jeff Robins, the station's producer.

On Sundays the station has a jazz show, and on Saturdays it features new music.

"Five nights a week the station features an album in its entirety, and on Fridays we have a special feature for three hours," said Robins. The feature has ranged from accordion rock music to rare Beatles songs.

The station also hosts Northern Hemisphere Live, WXYC's own phone-in talk show. One previous guest was Dean Smith, and prospective guests for fall include Phil Ford and Jesse Helms, Robins said.

In addition, the station carries broadcasts of UNC sports, including women's basketball and lacrosse, as well as the latest election returns during student elections to keep students updated.

WXYC's programming is not littered with advertising because the station is student-funded.

The station turns away about 90 percent of its DJ applicants.

"When we hire DJs, we make sure we hire people who have a sound music background and will come across well on the air," said program director Steve Balcom.

In 1986, WXYC was named as one of the six best alternative radio stations in the country by the Gavin Report, a music industry trade magazine. Rolling Stone has spotlighted the station along with four others in a feature article on college radio stations.

Outside of its programming, WXYC sponsors social events every year. The station's annual '60s dance is held in late January in the Student Union. "It's a very big social event," said Parker. "We get a lot of attention from the media about it."

Since the station is a non-profit organization, it also holds fundraisers such as last year's Cat's Cradle-WXYC benefit.

The station has all new equipment in the control room, Parker said.

"People have told us that they could really tell a difference," she said. Another new item at the station come August will be a new music director, Glenn Boothe. "Glenn brings with him a lot of enthusiasm about the local music scene," Parker said.

When asked to describe the station's style, Robins said: "The word diverse definitely comes to mind. We don't try to limit ourselves. There are definitely some types of music that we play more than others, but we don't have any music that we don't play. We never take it upon ourselves to determine which types of music are inappropriate."

Eating Out

Spanky's and Four Corners, which are both across from the University on Franklin Street, and Ham's, which is just down from Fowler's, offer a wide assortment of sandwiches and entrees, and you can have a drink while you wait. Spanky's is the place to take your parents when they come to visit (or have them take you), especially for Sunday brunch.

At Colonel Chutney's on Rosemary Street, you can sit inside or at a table in their courtyard. Try the tandoori chicken — one-half of a chicken, marinated in lime and garlic, and then grilled. They also have one of the best salads around — not just a bowlful of lettuce, but a variety of greens and vegetables, with a choice of one of their unusual dressings like Dijon and Curry. Good hamburgers, too, especially when topped with guacamole.

Crook's Corner, on Franklin Street near Carrboro, is a former barbecue hut that went upscale. It now is only open for dinner, and specializes in new Southern cuisine such as the delicious sauteed shrimp over cheese grits (no kidding). The roof outside is decorated with a freakish assortment of animals made out of driftwood.

North Carolina is famed for having the best barbecue in the United States, but there isn't any place in downtown Chapel Hill to get it. Allen and Son's, five miles down Airport Road, serves a tangy and tasty plate of pig, if you don't mind the drive.

For the vegetarians, and those in sympathy with them, Pyewacket Restaurant and Bar and the Sunshine Cafe are good places to go. Pyewacket is very popular and has gourmet-type food, with especially

good seafood. Inside, it's spacious and relaxing, but pricey. The Sunshine Cafe across the street is a little less expensive and features whole-wheat pizza with the lightest crust imaginable — it's especially good topped with huge fresh mushrooms — as well as vegetarian lasagna that can fill up most anyone, large salads and fish.

On the other end of the spectrum is Western Sizzlin on Rosemary Street for an inexpensive, juicy steak. They also offer a huge salad bar at a great price.

Onward to other nationalities. Magdalena's on West Franklin has the best Mexican food around and emphasizes healthful ingredients. A selection of vegetable side dishes and scrumptious soups round out filling menu choices such as tostadas, enchiladas, excellent taco salads and other less-known Mexican specialties. Vegetarian selections are starred and their beef comes from grain-fed cows. Whole wheat tortillas are available on request. Muted Mexican art on the walls and a nice atmosphere mark Magdalena's, with the night-

club La Terazza upstairs, where guests wait if tables are unavailable for dinner.

Papagayo's, inside the NCNB Plaza across from campus, also serves good Mexican food, as does Tijuana Fat's on Rosemary Street.

The Golden Dragon and Four-Five-Six are practically next door to each other on Franklin and serve — you guessed it — Chinese food. Both serve cafeteria style and nearly identical fare. The consensus is that the Golden Dragon's food is tastier, but Four-Five-Six gives larger portions.

If you have Mom or Dad's credit card, or a fat wallet, dress up and take the limo to La Residence, a private Rosemary Street home converted into a French restaurant. It's very expensive, except for the outdoor tapas menu, and gives you shivers just walking by the place.

A lot of fine eateries have been left off this list, but that can't be helped. Remember, don't study so hard that you end up eating all your meals on campus and thus forget to treat your palate properly.



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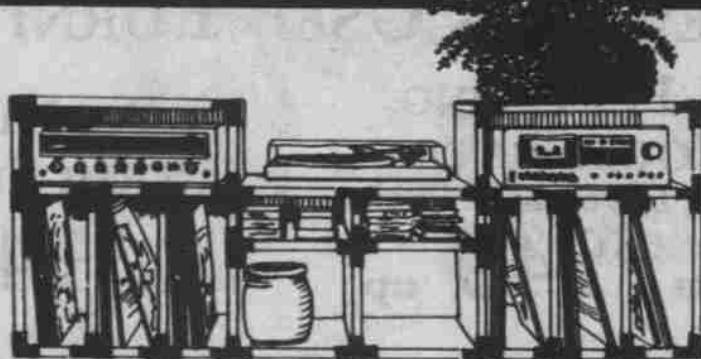
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