

WVMH - Not Enough Play Variety?

There has been a petition circulating the campus recently which causes us great concern. We quote you from this petition: "We, the undersigned, agree that WVMH does not play sufficiently diversified types of music including Progressive, Rock, Pop, Soul, New Wave, Country and Classical music that are appropriate for a college FM radio station. We ascertain that predominately pop-oriented programming does not fit the needs of the college community. WVMH is a non-profit organization designed to stimulate interest in a wide musical area, as well as interest in other forms of programming."

We contend that WVMH **does** play a diversity of music, **does** serve the needs of the college community and **does** give them the music they want to hear.

First of all, for diversity, you are invited to look at the WVMH playlist log. We did, and have found that songs programmed in every hour that DJ's must play at a specified time are new releases straight from the record companies, and are being "tested" in our college market. They range from new wave to rock to techno-pop. This music is progressive in every sense of the word. A classical show is also provided, with music coming from the DJ's personal collection as well as from the college music library. A number of country albums are available for the air personality to use on his/her show. Music from such talents as Alabama and Kenny Rogers is often requested and played by the station.

"Diversity" means the station plays the aforementioned types of music in conjunction with pop music. It does not mean that progressive, new wave, classical and country are to make up a majority of the station's programming. Common sense tells you that a station should appeal to the majority of its audience, and, we feel, the majority wants to hear pop.

"Pop" music is a short version for the word Popular Music, and it is self explanatory. The music is popular because it is what most radio listeners want to hear. WVMH plays the music that is found on the Billboard Hot 100 Survey, which consists of the records that record stores are selling and radio stations are playing. If the majority of people suddenly switched to buying "New Wave" albums, the charts would change accordingly and the station would play a majority of New Wave music.

If predominately pop-oriented music doesn't fit the needs of the college community, what does? What are our petitioners asking for if the music that most of the people in the country listen to isn't good enough for them? Should WVMH go all Beethoven? All Alabama? All Devo?

A final word about the use of the word "Pop." This sort of music doesn't have any particular form of lyrics, verse or beat. Go down the charts and you'll find country songs, soul songs, new wave music and progressive. Pop music in itself is diverse, and rich in differences of music and groups.

We ask our petitioners if Mars Hill's station isn't diverse enough, please give us an example of one that is.

WVMH-FM has come a long way since its origin. In 1973, a letter to the editor in THE HILLTOP complained of irregular hours, outdated music and signals that couldn't reach as far as the apartments. Since that time, programming and equipment have increased greatly in quality. Music is updated every week, and a dependable 19-hour weekday schedule has been established. Signals can reach well beyond the Mars Hill town limits.

It is the opinion of this newspaper that WVMH-FM serves the Mars Hill College community, and serves it well. It provides music to please a majority of its listeners, and plays many other types of music to please listeners who prefer music other than pop. The petition being circulated appears to be a few trying to project their opinions on many.

Salamander Munching Shocks Prof

To the Editors of *The Hilltop*:

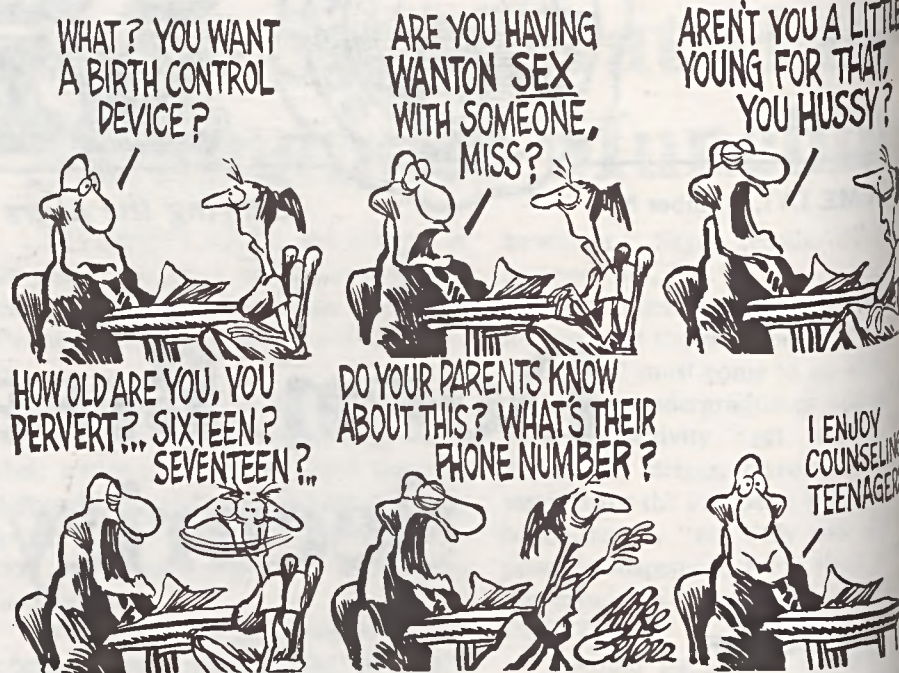
As a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University, I read with some amusement and horror the article in the last edition of *The Hilltop*: "Penn State Frat Halts Salamander Munching." Let me assure you that this practice of eating defenseless animals is abnormal up North. There was a time, for example, just after the 1981 Sugar Bowl game between Penn State and Alabama, when the Penn State students were forced to eat crow. This year, of course, they feasted on bulldog, an animal that we have learned from experience here at Mars Hill can be quite formidable. Roar lions roar!

Jim Lenburg
Department of History
Penn State, 1973

Letters to the Editor are welcome, but must be signed and include address and telephone number. Name may be withheld at the discretion of the editor.

Copies of THE HILLTOP may be obtained in the lobby of Coyte Bridges Cafeteria, the page's desk in Wren College Union, the Campus Bookstore, the front desk at Memorial Library, the bottom floor of Cornwell, and Marshbanks Hall. Faculty copies may be picked up in the mail room in Blackwell Hall. If you are unable to locate a copy of THE HILLTOP, please drop by the HILLTOP office in the bottom of Wren College Union behind the postal area. THE HILLTOP is published bi-monthly.

The next deadline for articles to be considered for THE HILLTOP is Friday, March 24. Copy may be submitted through the inter-campus mail system, or in person at the HILLTOP office.



Letters To The Editor Athletics - Too Much Wasted \$

The apathy on this campus is so strong that its amorphous reach has engrasped me. Is a college not an institute of higher learning? Why then do we quiesce to the proposed administration cuts in academic spending? Most students talked to were not even partially aware of the proposed solution and those who believed in their non-thinking way that the administration had made the only available choice. Rubbish. Want to offer one completely feasible suggestion: cut expenditures.

Some of the students talked to have been amazed at such a suggestion as if we were here to attend football and basketball games. Yet think on it; by building expanding more and more on the football and basketball teams and cutting academic spending are we not like the Reagan administration building up military and cutting social programs and programs for the arts?

I mention the basketball and football teams for I think expenditures on these teams far outweigh those on any of the other teams. I wanted to provide numbers but the man with the numbers refused to see me after I told him the subject matter of my article; therefore, large expenditures for the football and basketball teams, money from the academic departments and to exacerbate the rip-off of academics of the college, the money is being spent on people whose grade averages are, as a team, below the college average. This is what irks me, for I am going to live on the values of the Mars Hill College football team but on the condition I receive here.

- Paul Smythe

THE HILLTOP



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