

WHP 580 Radio talk show host Durgin vents

By JOHN FOX
Staff Reporter

Talk radio in central Pennsylvania is rich with opinionated and aggressive personalities. One such personality is WHP 580's Bob Durgin, who broadcasts to nearly a million listeners everyday.

The themes on Durgin's show dance around the local political arena. He is usually characterized as a conservative with great contempt for government interference of any kind. At 60, Durgin talks at greater length on the issues in which he is most interested.

"I am interested in anything across the socioeconomic and political spectrum. Anything that pisses me off," Durgin said. "I talk about anything I feel as though the powers that be should be held accountable for and things I feel that people are getting taken advantage of. I try to stay vigilant. We get into the social arena and the so-called culture war. There's a multitude of things that both the people and I are interested in and angry about. Unfortunately, anger seems to be, and has been for the last 10 years, the rallying cry for different factions and ideologies in America, namely conservative and liberal. We've been at war ever since."

Durgin is clear in his opinion on what role government should play in the lives of local community residents.

"As little as possible," Durgin said. "I'm not a libertarian, although people seem to think that I am. I do have some liberal points of view, but not too many. I'm a great believer in capitalism. The more government you have, the less free you are. The more taxes you pay the bigger and more oppressive the government becomes. Government can't have programs and be in power without regulations, statutes,

"I am interested in anything across the socio-economic and political spectrum. Anything that pisses me off."

and different kinds of laws that take freedom of choice and freedom of movement away from the citizenry. So, it's just a truism. The bigger the government gets, the more expensive, powerful, and authoritarian it gets. Socialists believe the exact opposite."

Durgin is notorious for raising his voice to

callers who argue against him. He is more modest when discussing his knack for heated argument.

"I don't try to pick a fight. That doesn't happen unless the caller starts it," Durgin said. "Unless someone is really obnoxious, they have to start it. I will give it to someone who calls up to disagree with me and finds it necessary to preface their remarks with some kind of personal insult. I just rip right into their butts when they do that because I hate that."

Durgin revealed that he is not a fan of shock jocks, especially Howard Stern, and with respect to current pop-culture, he feels disconnected and appalled.

"I feel left behind," Durgin said. "It's just the evolution of society. The older one gets the less in touch he becomes with the younger generation because he's in touch with his contemporaries. It's just human nature. I was a kid back in 1956 when Elvis was hitting the scene. My generation invented rock-n-roll. It has just taken so many different forms and mutated since then into something that the entertainers have become beyond decadent."

"I'm talking about all of the rap music and whatever else is in vogue. I don't like it and I don't expect to like it. What I don't like about the people that perform it is how they act and what they say on and off stage. Eminem is a perfect example. He worships murder, suicide, rape, and he objectifies women. He and his ilk do everything to degenerate human life and when you call him on it he says 'They said the same thing about Elvis'. Well, they did. The difference is that they were wrong. We're right. When you start talking about murder and screwing your mother, the sky's the limit. You turn on any rock station and they have the f-word and all kinds of cussing and swearing. They're reprobates," Durgin said.

Durgin focuses on the commercial promiscuity that some female celebrities currently perpetuate.

"Britney Spears, Madonna, and a lot of these other female pop stars act and look like sluts," Durgin exclaimed. "Why can't they just entertain us without being such sluts? Sex has sold since cavemen were here but celebrity women didn't always act like sluts. They didn't wear shit like this and act like they're making love to a ghost on stage."

Durgin connects this with the propensity for young people to imitate their role models and cites our collective decadence as the object of hate from other cultures.

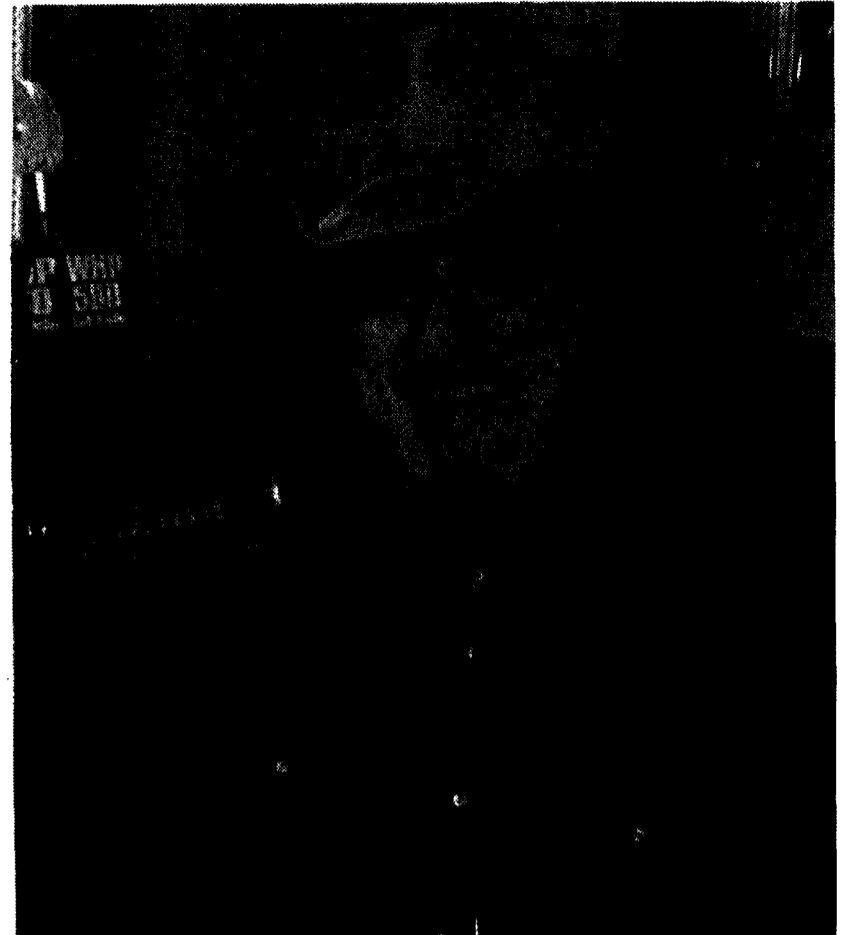


photo courtesy of WHP 580

WHP 580 radio host Bob Durgin, is known for his high-octane rants about the federal government and rap music.

"I happen to know that they sell thongs for eight, nine, and ten year old girls. It's like the fall of the Roman Empire. I think it's at that point. Some people wonder why other cultures hate us, especially Muslims. That's the reason why. They consider us a decadent, pagan, society."

Over the last fourteen years, Durgin has been able to get a feel for the general concerns of his listeners in the central PA area and beyond. He talks about some of the recurring themes on his show.

"People are alarmed at the amount of taxes they have to pay and what the government spends on it," Durgin said. "Whether it is programs like unnecessary public education needs or public assistance programs that only expand. The more taxes we pay, the more programs the government invents to spend it on. That creates socialism."

Durgin compared capitalism and socialism.

"Socialism is the antithesis of capitalism. Capitalism is personal responsibility, incentive, competition, and it inspires personal achievement. You get to keep what you earn. Capitalism's core value is the harder you work, the more you will be rewarded."

Durgin likes to talk at great length on socialism, apparently equating it with the Democratic Party in America.

"Socialism is the exact opposite. Socialism wants to redistribute the wealth and the way they do that is with taxation. They take from the rich and redistribute it to everybody else in America who has less through all these different government programs. So, the government ends up taking care of a growing number of people in society who cannot or will not take care of themselves. More detrimental than that is that socialism kills achievement. It puts a huge damper on incentive. So, why should an achiever work hard when he knows the government is just going to take it from him anyway? Socialism, in the end, is self-defeating. It's a utopian idea that never comes to fruition," Durgin said.

Durgin verbalized his contempt for government and taxation.

"I work somewhere between four to five months a year for the government for free," he said. "I am a slave. That's how much we pay in taxes and fees for all levels of government whether it's school taxes, zoning fees, permit fees, federal taxes, state taxes, it goes on forever. People like me resent that."

According to Durgin's extreme view of taxation in America, it might be a good idea for Uncle Sam to hand out some Vaseline every year around April 15th.

"Oh yeah," Durgin laughed. "They should at least kiss us first."

Listeners can tune into The Bob Durgin Show every weekday from 3 to 6 p.m. on WHP 580.