

## music... Listeners Choice

by David Alfe

We all listen to the radio at least once a day, one time or another. We all have our separate tastes and there usually is a station covering at least one if not all of them. On the AM dial, the varying stations include news (KYW), two way talk (WCAU), classical, middle of the road, and of course, 'top-forty'. The majority of young people 12-20 years of age are attracted to 'top-forty' type stations. The major stations which carry this format are WIBG and WFIL. Basically these stations play the 'top 10 to 20' of the national 'playlists' with a few local favorites, an occasional request, oldies, and plenty of commercials. The common complaint among the 'constant' listener (one who listens to three or more hours of radio a day, not necessarily at one time) is that the same songs are played every 20-30 minutes; and after 3-4 hours of the same songs, a fast talking DJ and endless commercials, you're up a wall. Besides, not all of the music played is that good.

Is there another alternative? The answer is yes, and it's on the FM dial. Here, as on the AM dial, there are different stations for different tastes; jazz, soul, easy listening and underground. Underground started in the late 60's with WMMR followed by WDAS. These stations pioneered in playing underground music, which consisted of Rock, Progressive Jazz, Black and Folk. Most of the DJ's were hired from the 'radicalized'

WXPB (University of Penn) which combined Rock and Black music with political and community affairs.

Later WDAS evolved to an all-Black format leaving WMMR to fill the 'White' counterpart of the underground radio.

WMMR, in the early 70's, began evolving into a more folk type music and began shunning the rock and jazz it had started out with. Also, it began to play less and less of those groups who had started out on the underground stations and had become successful receiving AM airplay. Some examples: The Who, The Rolling Stones, Crosby Stills, Nash & Young, Chicago, etc.

WDAS and WMMR were the only choices to escape the AM racket. This continued until the late summer of 72 when WFIL switched their 'Solid Gold Stereo' format for a middle of the road cross between 'Top Forty' and underground. The format was to play some of the 'Top Forty' but not as regularly, also include album cuts, songs by well known groups and by not so well known groups, an occasional oldie and less commercials. In other words, slow down the pace from the rat race of AM stations. This seemed to be a good idea because the constant listener, as explained before, now had something he could enjoy, but not for long. In the beginning of 1973, WFIL eliminated the album cuts, played singles, went to a 'Top Forty' 'Let's Boogie' format with high energy rock, limited oldies, did away with the turntables and put everything on tape, thus doing away with the less frequently cuts.

Again the potentiality of a 'constant listening' or at least

a 'diversified popular music' station fell into the hands, or in this case into the mouths of the 'bubblegum chewers'.

But Lo! Late in the summer of 73 (strange isn't it?) WYSP formerly a 'Barbershop Music' station - headed by Frank X. Feller (formerly of WIBG) rekindled the format pioneered by WFIL but this time added a little more professionalism to it. WYSP plays Jazz, Black, Folk and Rock with an occasional popular 'Top Forty' thrown in. Hopefully WYSP will gain a large following of the 'constant listeners' and become more popular as time passes.

The fate of WYSP remains to be seen. If it continues on its present course it should be quite successful, but if it evolves into another WFIL, the effects could be disastrous.

## Classics Only

The library here contains a record shelf with over two hundred recordings. Granted, much of it is junk. In fact, for the person entirely interested in Rock music, the whole shelf might be considered worthless. But for the classical music listener it is Mother Lode. The music ranges from Baroque (Mozart's Salve Regina, Baroque Brass, many works of Bach), to the Romantic Era (Brahms, Beethoven, and Wagner among others) to the modern (Bartok, Barber, Nielson and Janacek). Four notable recordings that may especially appeal to he who is just beginning to enjoy the classics are:

Bartok, Concerto for Orchestra - Bartok does some great things with horns in this piece,

the first movement in particular.

Ravel, Daphnis et Chloe, Suite 2 - Daphnis et Chloe is considered Ravel's greatest ballet score. Although this recording does not contain the equally brilliant Suite 1, the second suite is an experience in sound (especially if you're listening with earphones and turn the volume up).

Samuel Barber, Knoxville, Summer of 1915 and Hermit Songs - Knoxville Summer is an arrangement for solo vocal and orchestra that is marvellously pure. Be sure to read the words as they are being sung for the text by James McAgee is equal to the music. Hermit Songs, composed by Barber and set to the writings of medieval monks is very neat.

Latin American Fiesta, works by Chavez, Copeland, Villa Lobos, and others - This recording is really fun to listen to, especially the second side. Chavez's Sinfonia India really shines out and it is for certain that if you turn up the volume of your stereo all the way, by the end of the piece you'll feel like Chiquita Banana.

Although not found in the library, a truly powerful and rich work is Gustav Holst's The Planets recorded by Zubin Mehta and the Los Angeles Philharmonic on London Records. Mars, Bringer of War throbs and Jupiter, Bringer of Jollity is a majestic piece of music that is really first class.

By the way, in his "Listener's Choice" column, that roach Alfie left out WFLN, the classical music station. Although a little on the rich side (sponsored by Bryn Mawr merchants and their spawn, the format is very

good and well balanced. WFLN has both AM and FM broadcasts, 96 on the FM dial.

## SOUND ADVICE

This is a new and hopefully regular feature in the *Lion's Eye*. It is written by two freshmen: Jerry Pasquarella, and myself, Tony Fanelli. This brainchild of ours first started in our junior year at high school, and it was adequately successful. The article is an endeavor on our part to give the PSU student a capsulized view of the coming musical events in the Philadelphia area.

Acknowledging the fact that there are more than 1,200 students attending this center of learning, we realize that there will be quite a variety of musical tastes. Therefore, the article will contain two sections. The first section, devoted to rock, is written by Jerry. The second is written by Tony and concerns itself with folk and country music. We will collaborate on jazz, blues, etc. In future issues, space allowing, we hope to begin a record review. We want SOUND ADVICE to be a helpful, one-stop guide in choosing your musical entertainment. All comments and help will be gratefully accepted.

## Coffee House

by Mary Rose Robinson

Tough Beans Coffee House had its premiere performance for the 1973-74 school season on September 7, 1973.

Vance Mixell, a student at our campus, started the show with a medley of songs by Elton John plus other instrumental arrangements. Mike Favinger kept the beat going with his own personal musical compositions which dealt with his own personal experiences. The Coffee House also presented Dewey for a repeat performance. Many of the students who were here last year remember Dewey for the humor that he added to his folk music. Don Brunetti, an excellent artist from the Powelton Musicians Co-op, finished the evening with folk ballads.

One song titled "Vodeo" was for his partner, who was to have sung also. However, his partner's wife was in labor and his partner had to leave before he could perform. Congratulations on the new addition to the family.

The S.G.A. was pleased with attendance considering the scanty advertising. We hope all that came enjoyed the performers. I'm sure that those of you that stayed to listen to our star performer Don Brunetti, felt that he got his money's worth.

As one student expressing his reaction to the Coffee House said, "Success cannot be measured merely by attendance." The S.G.A. will be presenting more Coffee Houses for the students' enjoyment, and we hope that all will come. Anyone able to offer help, to put these productions on, contact Mary Rose Robinson in the S.G.A. office.

On October 27, Keystone will have its annual all U Day weekend, which is basically a weekend at University Park with many events included. If interested, contact Keystone.

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## WOMEN AND THE MEDIA

by Mary Ann Senior

"Women and the Media", an experimental course of interest to both men and women students, is being offered at Delaware County for the first time this fall. Lynn Haskin, the instructor of Journalism 198, hopes primarily to bring to the students an awareness of the relationship between women and the media in several of its facets. Among these will be an examination of the inequities encountered by women seeking careers in this field, as well the fairness of treatment of women and their activities as they are reported to the public. The image of both men and women projected by the media, particularly the advertising industry, and the influence of these images on our way of life will also be considered.

Since there is not a great deal of material devoted specifically to the subject, the class will have to delve into a variety of sources for their information. Several books which have become known as feminist works are among the required reading, since their authors have touched upon the problems of "Women and the Media", and considered them an important part of their investigations into the condition of women and the women's movement. These readings will be supplemented by statistical information and student observations.

The experimental nature of the course should allow the students sufficient flexibility to explore the problems and their possible solutions, if they wish to pursue them. Each person will do a project in any of the areas of communication: advertising, radio, television, film, newspapers, comics, magazines, and even music, to illustrate a concept of particular concern to that individual. As Ms. Haskin expressed it, "The type of awareness that I hope to generate is something good for most people to have. Even, for example, the future engineer may be made more sensitive to the effects of the media."