

Arts & Entertainment

College radio plays alternatives

By Chris McCubbin
Staff Reporter

Across the country the music played on college radio stations sounds different from music played on commercial radio.

The 200 to 300 college stations in the United States play what's known as an alternative music format. "Alternative" is a catch-all term.

According to music charts in the Gavin Report, formats at alternative stations are mostly dominated by punk, new wave and their direct descendants, but they also play rockabilly, rap, reggae, heavy metal, local music and some music so experimental it doesn't have a name yet.

The Gavin Report is a multi-trade music publication covering six different formats in pop music.

Peter Standish is the report's alternative music editor. Standish said alternative music strives to meet the community's need for new and adventurous sounds, a need that commercial FM radio used to meet.

Standish said it is impossible for a college station with a tiny budget, a limited broadcast area and amateur disc jockeys to compete head to head with commercial radio.

People who want to start a new soft drink company, he said, wouldn't want their product to taste like Coca-Cola. They would try to come up with something different. Similarly, alternative radio has come to be the almost exclusive territory of college radio, he said.

Unlike most college stations, UNL's radio station, KRNU (90.3 FM), does not play alternative music. KRNU's format is drawn from the national top-40 charts.

According to Larry Walklin, chairman of UNL's broadcasting department, KRNU's official purpose is twofold — to provide an opportunity for UNL students to acquire broadcast experience and to provide programming not otherwise available in Lincoln.

Walklin said KRNU fulfills its second purpose through a variety of



With eyes on the clock, Scott Thien follows the tightly scheduled KRNU radio program log. Thien also makes some of his own program selections.

Andrea Hays/Daily Nebraskan

news and sports coverage, including live broadcasts of the Legislature and NU Board of Regents' meetings. KRNU also is the only local station to broadcast the New York Metropolitan Opera, Walklin said.

When asked why KRNU does not go to an alternative format, Walklin said KRNU's DJs are playing the kind of music they'll probably be playing once they enter the job market.

Standish said he thinks college students have little difficulty moving from alternative to commercial radio.

Kathleen McLaughlin is the program director for WNUR, at Northwestern University. Like KRNU, McLaughlin said, WNUR's purpose is to provide programming otherwise unavailable in the Chicago area. However, WNUR applies this principle primarily to its

music format.

At 7200 watts, WNUR is the nation's most powerful college radio station. Musically, it plays one of the nation's most radical alternative formats. Fifty percent of WNUR's playlist is less than two months old. If a given song is picked up by any other local stations, WNUR drops it, McLaughlin said.

Besides its new music programming, McLaughlin said, WNUR also has jazz, dance, free-form, folk, reggae, rhythm and blues and local shows.

McLaughlin said WNUR's format is more expensive than a mainstream format would be, primarily because of the large number of import albums the station buys. However, McLaughlin

said, many record companies will donate new and experimental music to alternative stations.

In addition to money received from the university, WNUR supplements its budgets with an annual fund-raiser.

McLaughlin said WNUR DJs have no difficulty finding employment in commercial radio.

Work critiques social issues

By Jennifer Welton
Staff Reporter

Marbles are filled with many colors and shades, yet all are the same size. Like marbles, the human species consists of many colors and attitudes, yet all humans share the same biological classification.

Songwriter Pete Shelley put it simply: "And you're homosapien too!"

Art Review

Visiting artist Margo Humphrey lectures today at 7 p.m. in the Sheldon Art Gallery Auditorium.

After viewing Humphrey's lithograph, "The Marble Box," I see the social implications the artist is making on life and its many prejudices.

The piece has underlying symbolism and sexual connotations. There is an allegory in the lithograph pointing out

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Toes best appreciated when least evident

It has always been my contention that the most comfortable human beings do not realize they have toes. Remembering that there are tiny appendages somewhere at the end of your body is usually a sign that things are not going well.

The past week and a half I sat through my classes realizing I have toes, because UNL classrooms are cold.

I think most of us can relate to this toe theory. Think of last summer. Do you remember whether you had toes? Probably not. You depend on them for balance, but you probably don't think about them.



Bill Allen

Think of the last time you stubbed your toe when you got up to change the TV channel. Do you remember hopping around on one foot, swearing out loud if you could, and wondering if life would ever be worth living again?

At that particular moment, you were painfully aware that you had toes.

Ingrown toenails often make people aware they have toes — sometimes for days at a time.

And anyone who has ever broken a toe knows how painful that can be. Most hospitals say they can't really do anything if you break a toe. Casts aren't made that small. They just tell you not to walk on it — eventually it will heal.

People with broken toes often ask themselves why they even have toes in the first place.

Toes were a major point in the evolution vs. creation argument.

Would any god in his/her right mind have invented tiny appendages whose sole purpose is to only be noticeable when causing pain of some sort? That's the evolution argument.

Creationists say toes exist because some girls have cute toes. They get married and quickly spread more little Christians around, or something like that. Guys have toes because it would be kind of silly to have put toes on girls and not guys. Or did I get creation confused with evolution?

Anyway, I think I've proven my contention that life is more acceptable when you are unaware of your toes.

Sitting in class Tuesday I felt this wiggling sensation down around my feet. I realized I was rubbing my toes against my socks because they were cold.

This happened during classes in both Andrews and Burnett halls.

One thing I noticed about toes is that when they are demanding attention, almost everything else in life takes a back seat.

In college class, concentration is one of the most important aspects of learning, since there is so much material to assimilate. Many things can break or impede this concentration — a boring professor, a wink, a nap or a hangover — and cause a tragedy in our American educational system. One thing that should not break this concentration is a cold classroom. Students don't

deserve this.

Tuesday it was 11 degrees outside. After class I went outside to warm my toes.

As you can see, everything comes back to toes.

Many problems in the universe can't be solved easily. This nuclear war thing, for example. I say, how are we going to know if we can survive a nuclear war, unless we try it? Or this abortion thing. I say, wait until they're 3 years old and kill all the ugly ones. Still, there are people that would argue with these positions.

This cold toe syndrome does have a solution.

Turn up the heat. There is no way to justify students at an institution of higher learning sitting around in cold classrooms.

I don't want to hear about cutting down the heating bills, or the university's budget woes, the Lied Center for the Performing Arts, or the departmental cuts, or the rising costs of education.

I want to forget I have toes.

I want to sit in class and concentrate on the coercion tactics of the Hamadryas baboons or the problems with Syd Field's script-writing formulas.

Final notes:

This is not just my complaint. Several people have complained to me about this, as if I look like a thermostat. Also, I've noticed several people bundled up to keep warm in classrooms. Have you ever tried to fill in one of those computer-graded exams while wearing mittens?

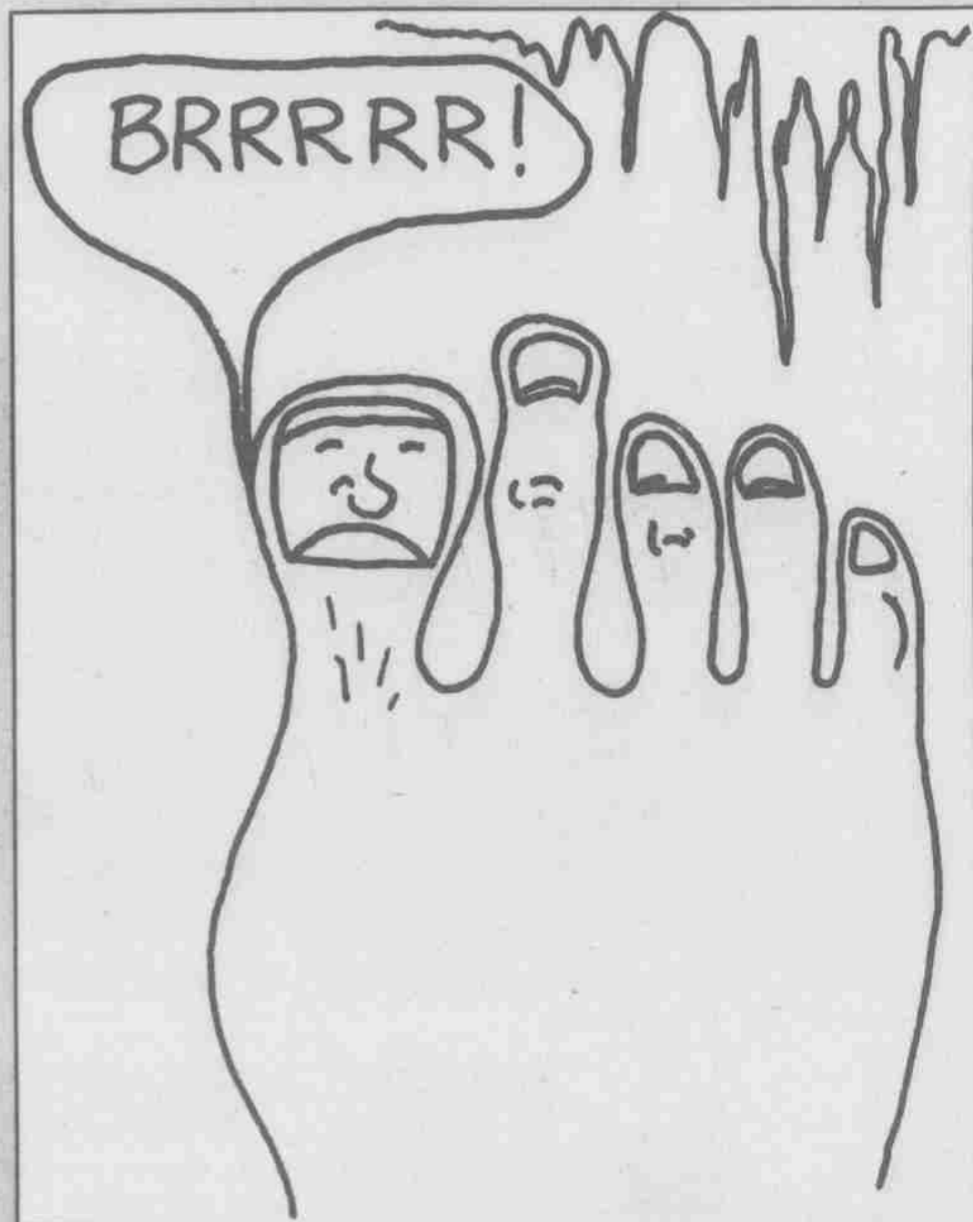
Some of you in your infinite wisdom will say why not put on two

pairs of socks? I tried that. When your toes get warm they start to sweat, then you go outside and they get cold. So you end up with a sock full of cold sweat. Have you ever tried walking around with a sock full of cold sweat? It's not great.

That's all I have to say. I'm think-

ing about walking over to Chancellor Martin Massengale's office now and seeing if it is cold in there. If it is, maybe he will want it a little warmer, too.

If it's warm, I'm going to wonder just where student's toes rank in the hierarchy of this university.



Dalene Adams/Daily Nebraskan