

Opinion

'Evils' of music not confined to rock 'n' roll

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a two-part series on the recent Senate hearings concerning the lyrics of rock music.



Karl Pallmeyer

Last month a Senate hearing was held to determine if rock 'n' roll albums should be given ratings to warn parents that the album they are about to buy for their impressionable children may contain offensive material. The hearing was held at the request of the Parents Music Resource Center, a group wanting to "clean up" the rock music industry. The PMRC was founded by a couple of women who just happened to be married to the senators who presided over the hearing.

The PMRC wants all rock albums to have a label that warns concerned parents of the album's lyrical content. The albums will be given an "X" for sexually explicit lyrics, a "V" for violent lyrics, a "D/A" if the lyrics deal with drugs or alcohol and an "O" for lyrical references to the occult.

The PMRC wants to warn parents of the evils of rock 'n' roll. Although I'm not married to a senator I plan to start my own group, the Karl Pallmeyer Music Resource Center, to warn parents of the evils of other forms of music. The KPMRC will use the same rating system as the PMRC to warn people of the evils of country music.

The country musical "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" deserves an "X" rating. I don't think parents should allow their children to be exposed to an entire musical that deals with a house of prostitution. Charlie Rich's "Behind

Closed Doors" and Barbara Mandrell's "Midnight Oil" also should get "X" ratings for their stong sexual content. Jean Knight's "My Toot Toot" is another vulgar song that may cause young children to become sexually promiscuous.

Violence is common in country music. Mel Tillis, in his song, "Ruby, Don't Take Your Love to Town," says he would kill his unfaithful wife if he wasn't paralyzed. Johnny Cash, in "Folsom Prison Blues," is serving time because he "shot a man in Reno just to watch him die." Not only is "Folsom Prison Blues" a violent song, its violence is without a reason.

Alcohol abuse is also a common theme in country music. Willie Nelson's "Whiskey River," Jimmy Buffet's "Margaritaville" and Tom T. Hall's "I Like Beer" are songs about drinking. Gene Watson's "Drinking My Way Back Home" not only deals with drinking but drinking while driving. Merle Haggard mentions smoking marijuana and taking LSD in "Okie from Muskogee" while Hoyt Axton mentions heroin in "My Snowblind Friend."

There are even country songs that deal with the occult. Terri Gibbs in "Somebody's Knocking" is about a woman having an affair with the devil. In the Charlie Daniels Band's "The Devil Went Down to Georgia," Satan is wanting to take the soul of a mortal. Only Johnny the fiddle player can stand up to Satan. If a young child were to hear this song he or she may get the idea that God is dead and our only savior is a fiddle player from Georgia. "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" is a sacrilegious song that deserves an "O" rating for its occult references.

David Allen Coe's "Up Against the Wall Redneck Mother" is the best example of the evils that country music promotes. The song deals with sex, vio-

lence, alcohol and the occult. In the song, Coe promotes having fun with loose women, drinking lots of beer, beating up hippies and raising hell. Anyone who calls for "raising hell" is obviously a Satanist.

It is upsetting to me to think that young, impressionable children listen to country music. It's not only the music that is bad but lifestyles of country artists could cause young, impressionable children to be drawn astray. Hank Williams died because of alcoholism and his son, Hank Williams Jr., also has had drinking problems. Johnny Cash, Freddie Fender David Allen Coe and Merle Haggard have all spent time in prison. Willie Nelson Charlie Daniels and Waylon Jennings play up an "outlaw" image to sell albums. I wouldn't want my children to grow up like any of those country stars.

Once the KPMRC cleans up the country music industry, we will concentrate on warning the public about the evils of classical music.

In Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's opera "Don Giovanni" the main character is a man who boasts about having sex with 640 women in Italy 231 women in Germany, 100 women in France, 91 women in Turkey and 1,003 women in



Spain. Any young child that hears about a man who has had sex with 2,065 women across Europe may try to imitate his lifestyle. Mozart also wrote an opera, "The Abduction from the Seraglio," which takes place in a 18th century whorehouse. I don't think parents should allow their children to be exposed to an entire musical that deals with a place of prostitution. Many of Mozart's works should get an "X" rating for strong sexual content.

In Georges Bizet's "Carmen" a soldier and a toreador fight to the death for the love of Carmen. This musical display of violence might lead children to settle their differences in a less than humane way. Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Rigoletto" shows rape and suicide in a romantic fashion. Considering the high number of teenage rapes and suicides, young people should not be allowed to be corrupted by Verdi. The operas of Bizet and Verdi should be rated "V" for the horrible violence they present.

Alcohol abuse is a common theme in opera. Giacomo Puccini's opera "La Boheme" takes place in the Latin Quarter

of Paris. Various Bohemian characters including a poet, a seamstress, a musician and philosopher sit around and discuss offensive subjects of drinking wine. The youth of America should not view this as a favorable style. Claudio Monteverdi's "Orfeo" one of the first operas, deals with a journey through Hades. The title "Orfeo" only be a 17th century Italian word for "opium." Operas like "La Boheme" "Orfeo" should be rated "D/A" if they deal with drugs and alcohol.

The way classical composers use the occult in their songs and operas is distasteful to all good, Christians. The works of many classical composers should be rated "O" for their references to the occult. Franz Schubert's "Erlkonig" is about a child who loses life to a demon. Richard Wagner's Nordic gods and mythical beings many of his works. In "Götterdämmerung" all of the gods, dwarves and giants are destroyed in a huge state fire. Wagner's works inspired Karl Marx to write "The Communist Manifesto" and Adolf Hitler to write "Mein Kampf."

It is upsetting to me to think young, impressionable children listen to classical music. It's not only the music that is bad but lifestyles of classical composers could cause young, impressionable children to be drawn astray. Peter Tchaikovsky was homosexual. Richard Wagner was a racist. Franz Liszt, Johann Sebastian Bach, Joseph Haydn and Franz Schubert were well known for their sexual exploits. Many people thought Niccolò Paganini was possessed by the devil. Anyone who has seen the movie "Amadeus" knows that Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was an immoral person. I wouldn't want my children to grow up like any of those classical composers.

I am shocked and amazed at the amount of music that country and classical composers are making. Why don't we have a club to make sure that our children are not corrupted by this evil music?

Karl Pallmeyer is a senior journalist, major and a columnist and music editor for The Battalion.



MOHAMMED ABBAS - BEST LEADING ROLE:

United Feature Syndicate
MARGULIES
©1985 HOUSTON POST

Not intimidated by the razor's edge

People always ask me why I like the rugged look. The answer is easy — I hate to shave.

After four years in the military, when I had to shave at least once a day and sometimes more often, I rebelled. I grew a beard right away but found that it got messy at times. It was embarrassing to go to a dinner party and come home late that night to find I've been wearing hollandaise sauce since cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were served at 6 p.m. So off it came.

Now I shave once or twice a week, and I am asked every two or three days if I'm growing a beard again. The answer is NO! — so don't ask again. If something important comes up, I'll shave.

I can think of a lot of things more productive than shaving. First of all, I can sleep late. Many times I don't get off of work until the wee hours of the morning, so Z time is precious.

Did you know that the average male spends nearly 3,350 hours of his life keeping facial hair off an area of about a third of a square foot? Just imagine,



John Hallett

3,350 hours — that's 4 1/2 months. Even at \$3.35 an hour (minimum wage) whiskers cost a man \$11,242.50 in wages. For you women, if you shave about twice a week that's almost 40 hours — \$3,350.

Even if I have time to shave, I'll ways to procrastinate. Who in his mind looks forward to waking up in the morning to do battle with 15,000 whiskers, each as strong as a thin piece of copper wire? To me, shaving is about as invigorating as taking a cold shower when the wife has a headache.

I know what you're wondering — the answer is yes, I bathe daily. But I'd better things to do with my time — spending all morning in the wash tub.

The worst part about shaving is someone is getting rich from your misery. According to one industry estimate razors and blades account for \$500 million in annual retail sales. No sinners' by any means.

So I've finally reached a decision — you can't beat 'em, join 'em. To shave is not to shave, that is not the question. I won't compromise myself for a better but money. And there's gold in that.

John Hallett is an unshaven senior political science major, a columnist and News Editor for The Battalion.

Mail Call

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

Find another solution

EDITOR:

We disagree with your editorial printed on Oct. 16 concerning the Maryland Supreme Court ruling on Saturday Night Specials.

The statement that a Saturday Night Special is useful only for criminal activity is ludicrous. Obviously, the intended use extends beyond crime. This gun can be, and is, used for protection by many people primarily because it is inexpensive. But it is not "inaccurate" and "unreliable" as stated in your editorial. The gun is accurate and reliable within its limit: short range.

Therefore, protection from criminals is a valid use of this weapon. For example, it will frighten off all but the most crazed rapists and attackers. No one wants to be shot, regardless of the quality of the weapon.

Leaving the handguns to be regu-

lated by lawsuits is not the answer, we agree, but neither is it a step in the right direction. You cannot in American society, punish the manufacturer of a perfectly valid product because of its potential abuse.

If this were the case, automakers would be held responsible for drivers who unintentionally or intentionally ran over pedestrians, and alcohol manufacturers would be liable for any and all injuries arising from alcohol abuse. In short, all manufacturers could be held responsible for the misuse of their products. This is clearly unacceptable, and another solution must be found.

Jon Jernigan '87
Neil P. Keeter '87
Nathan S. Phillips '89

Tone down the grode

EDITOR:

ARMY! ARMY! Got a little story for you Ags! WHOOP!

How many times have you been a part of this yell at midnight yell practice? In my four years at Texas A&M, I have witnessed many a "GRODEY" yell at dozens of midnight yell practices.

This year, though, something is different and I have yet to understand

why. I think maybe it is that the GRODEY yells have reached a point where they are no longer "good bull". They are downright repulsive, Ags. I regret to say that I almost would rather be called a "two-percenter" than to be subjected to such tasteless SEXIST yells.

I hardly consider myself a moral majority, but I know I am not the only one who feels this way. I've seen many females leaving yell practice and many more who refuse to even attend. Even some true gentlemen refuse to bring their dates to yell practice and a lot of old Ags also have expressed their dismay.

One brave soul foresaw this demise and wrote a concerned letter to The Battalion. This letter was ignored by many but especially by the yell leaders. I also approached the yell leaders who listened intently, thanked me for my opinion, yet refused to act on my opinion.

Listen yell leaders, we don't want the grodey stories banned, just toned down a bit so that yell practice will remain a time-honored tradition, not a new found disgrace.

Fellow Aggies, if you support me in my plea, please write to The Battalion. If you too are upset, let's let those yell leaders see it in print.

Donna Brownlee

The Battalion
USPS 045 360
Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

The Battalion Editorial Board
Rhonda Snider, Editor
Michelle Powe, Managing Editor
Loren Steffy, Opinion Page Editor
Karen Bloch, City Editor
John Hallett, Kay Mallett, News Editors
Travis Tingle, Sports Editor

Editorial Policy
The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.
Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the Editorial Board or the author, and do not necessarily represent opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.
The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes.
The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and vacation periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates are listed on request.
Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.