

U. MAIL

We're through being cool

Regarding your article about the '80s music scene [The Late, Great '80s, March 1995] — the music that comes to my mind when the 1980s are mentioned is that of the Jam, the Buzzcocks, Hüsker Dü, and the early Mudhoney and Nirvana scenes. These were the groups really laying down some great tracks that, sadly, were overlooked.

Brian Vanderberg, staff member, Western Michigan U.

In your article "The Late, Great '80s," the musical group Devo is targeted negatively. The writer states that Devo doesn't have "deeply poignant, alarmingly intellectual songwriting." How many Devo songs have you heard? Their lyrics range from ideas about 2001: A Space Odyssey to personal relationships, identity and the structure of society and government. The article basically says that Devo are pure cheese and just trying to be weird and different. Sorry — they started in 1974 like that.

Jason Robertson, sophomore, U. of Michigan

Your article on '80s nostalgia blatantly portrayed New Wave culture as being so horribly devoid of cultural merit that the only possible reason for listening would be to boost one's ironic superiority complex. Now, for bands such as Kajagoogoo and A Flock of Seagulls, your point holds truth — these were fluff pop bands that have never been taken seriously.

However, you laid the same claim on bands such as The Ramones and Devo, which began as mid-'70s punk outfits. Eighties postmodern acts, by having irony as an essential element in their music, were actually more rebellious the more famous they became. In 1995 more than ever, this '80s musical philosophy holds relevance, because it is a rejection of today's status quo. And that's just the tip of the energy dome.

Ben Yater, sophomore, U. of California, Santa Barbara

In your article "The Late, Great '80s," you didn't mention the major factor that defined the music of the time: MTV. Any band that could produce a video with a catchy tune was able to parade in front of millions of young viewers, changing how everyone listened to (or watched) music. The music changed very quickly in the early '80s, and New Wave paved the way for alternative. So remember, for every Falco, Men Without Hats and Missing Persons there was a Talking Heads, Midnight Oil and U2.

James J. Casey, graduate student, U. of Nebraska

Bare naked ladies

I didn't like the obscene photograph of the girl with no clothes on [Campus Shots, "Student streakers at U. of Virginia," Jan./Feb. 1995]. I don't want to see filth in my university's weekly. Please don't print the barnyard snapshots.

Tom Carter, junior, American U.

Library whines

Just so our friends at the U. of Michigan don't feel totally isolated ["Fined, Sealed and Ignored," March 1995], I thought you would be interested to know that we Aggies (Texas

A&M) are faced with the same problem when it comes to [faculty] returning library materials. Our student senate has passed a bill calling for a \$4 per credit hour fee increase to directly fund — you guessed it — the library. I guess we'll just continue to pay while the faculty continue to stockpile their private collections.

Raymond Boney, junior, Texas A&M U.

I read with interest the article about the library problem. I work in the science and technology library here at U. of North Texas and we have the same problem — faculty who pay no fines and keep books until they lose them. Recalls can be placed on a book, but even then professors may not return it. Some professors bring back 100 books a month after they are due to renew them and then they disappear back into an office for another semester. Something needs to be done about the system — this is one "perk" that needs to be changed. But it usually takes an act of God to get something like that done.

Gene Bilney, science and technical library, U. of North Texas

Web-sters

In the article "Untangling the Web" [March 1995], you mention an invaluable asset to the Internet, although you incorrectly state that "the key to the Web is a software package called Mosaic." Mosaic is just one of many applications, known as browsers, that allow you to view text and images on the Web. Users also have the choice of Lynx, MacWeb or Netscape. The easiest way to learn about the Web is to ask someone at your school's computer department.

Michael Pryor, freshman, Dartmouth College

Doing reps for Jesus

I am writing in regards to the article "Motivating with Brute Force" [March 1995]. I want to commend you for having the courage to write about a topic, Jesus Christ, that is so controversial right now. I watch John Jacobs and the Power Team on the Trinity Broadcasting Network. It's interesting to watch the sometimes dangerous things that they do. The Power Teams are a ministry. They are men who like to lift weights, and they use their



JACK AND THE ACADEME STALK.

Scott Magoon, Northeastern News, Northeastern U.

God-given talents to relate to Bible scripture. Some people may not listen to a minister preach, but they would come to watch the things these men do — and in turn they will hear the message of Jesus Christ.

Andrea Raso, engineering dept., Ohio State U.

OUT of date

Ironic, isn't it, that the morning after the advisory board of the new [gay, lesbian and bisexual student support services] office met for dinner with [Indiana U. president] Myles Brand for a time of good conversation and honest dialogue that *U. Magazine* featured an article about 1st fall's controversy surrounding the office complete with a picture of a protest sign noting "Backstabbed by Brand" ["OUT for Funds," March 1995]? While it was interesting to read about IU in a national magazine, an up-to-date article on what's happening in the office might be of greater benefit to the university community than a rehash of old news.

Doug Bauder, GLB coordinator, Indiana U.

One for the road

I'm writing in response to the "Last Call" [Jan./Feb. 1995] article. A friend from Belgium made the statement that he felt the drinking age law was the culprit. In his country they don't have problems with binge drinking because there is no drinking age. Drinking was never a big thrill for students because of this. When underage people find an opportunity to drink, they drink in excess — they enjoy rebelling against a stupid law.

Keith Gardner, senior, Georgia Tech

Summer Employed, Some Are Not

Summer vacation loses half its meaning once you grow up. Unless your dad is Thurston Howell, your three-month hiatus is going to be filled with anything but the sipping of fruity, umbrella-topped beverages by the pool side.

Think work. And if your biological job-search clock has been on snooze, you may find that your summer employment prospects are dropping like flies. (Well, maybe not like flies, since they're all over the damn place in the summer. More like thermal underwear prices.) But summer jobs don't have to be a drag. Here are a few cool jobs you may not have considered:

Lifeguarding: Aside from the months of intense training, this job has many perks — burning, tanning, peeling — that can make your summer ideal. Plus, it's the only workplace where the newfangled Wondersuit is proper attire. Risk factor is high, though. When you flip over to sun your rear on the lifeguard stand, not only do you turn your back on novice swimmers, but you also leave your SPF-free tush open to direct, deadly sunlight. Be safe and hire a buddy to slather sun block on your unreachables.

Bagging at the food store: That's bagging, not begging — although the latter may be effective as well. Revel in air conditioning and fondle fresh food — two luxurious activities you may be unable to afford otherwise. Just be sure that you don't do a good enough job to get promoted to inventory, or you might end up restocking the feminine hygiene aisle, which lends itself to potentially embarrassing moments when you bump into your ex while he/she is out on that midnight Ovaltine run.

Lottery Powerballing: A definite plus in this occupation is that there is absolutely no labor involved, short of digging through the couch cushions to find \$1. The down side? When the treasure troves of couch cushions dry out — and, young laddie, they will — the aforementioned begging re-enters the equation. But who knows? You've gotta play to win.

Golf ball collecting: An ancient Greek ritual that has gone widely unappreciated in modern society, GBC (as insiders have tagged it) allows its workers hours of uninterrupted, um, meditation in the shaded nooks of the world's golf courses. Since collectors only get paid for each ball they turn in, income is shaky at best. However, if your spunk happens to catch the eye of the course owner, you may have the opportunity to climb the course ranks and be handed the keys to the company golf cart — thus, free summer transportation. Convertible, too. Aspire to such greatness.

Beth Mayall

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