

Alternative rock now the trend?

Brian Ray
Staff Writer

Every time I turn on the radio, it's there. The noisy, unfocused sound of alternative rock fills the airwaves with catchy power-pop tunes of teenage angst, rebellion and debauchery.

It is everywhere. On college campuses, in high schools, on music videos and on the minds and lips of the young generation. They have embraced it in much the same way that the generations before embraced *The Grateful Dead*, *The Beatles*, or Elvis Presley.

With performers like *Alice In Chains*, *Smashing Pumpkins*, *Pearl Jam*, *Nine Inch Nails* and *Nirvana*, the "alternative" underground invaded rock radio and MTV, changing how young people viewed popular rock music. Corny power ballads and songs about fast cars were replaced by buzzsaw guitars and controversial

topics, such as teenage suicide, drug abuse and abortion. They were new, exciting and different. Once those bands broke big, everybody could predict that it wouldn't take long for imitators to come out of the woodwork.

In the past few years, many bands have adopted the "alternative sound." Groups or performers like *Bush*, *Silverchair*, and countless others have exploited a musical genre that started out as something raw and pure. In that way, the term "alternative" has become devoid of meaning. Every time I hear a song by *Bush* on the radio, I think, "Wow, they sure sound like *Nirvana*." When I see a video by *Silverchair*, I think "They sure sound like *Pearl Jam*." I find the whole genre hard to take seriously anymore because it has become a trend.

The rock scene now is no different than it was 15 years ago,



except the music is a little different. Instead of the sexist, moronic sounds of "glam-metal" bands like *Motley Crue*, *Poison*, or *Warrant*, there are the politically correct, but still moronic sounds of *Green Day*, *The Offspring* and *Weezer*. I can see why, because both are catchy and fun and about as deep as a puddle. The audience is 13-25 year olds, not the kind of people who think *Pearl Jam* is some new product by 'Smuckers'.™

I guess I wouldn't have a problem with it if there wasn't this (sort of) faux credibility associated with the "alternative" scene. What started on college campuses has been imitated by kids who weren't even born when *The Sex Pistols* broke up. It has become another way for kids to irritate their parents.

Whenever I see a 14-year old walking down the street who has dyed his or her hair bright blue and is wearing jeans baggy enough to house an entire Eastern Indian village in each front pocket, I think, "Who are these kids? I can't understand them."

I guess I have some personal stake in the subject because I feel cheated that the music I liked has been homogenized and commercialized. As a fan of true heavy metal music, I can only think back to how I felt when radio and MTV were hyping up crummy, no-talent glam bands and calling them metal. I felt the same way that most true "alternative" fans must feel about the rock music scene now. The only thing I can say about it is, "This too shall pass."

Slippery floors prove hazardous



Karin Redston
Assistant Opinion Editor

Once again Oregon is living up to its reputation for an incredibly rainy spring which means many CCC buildings are going to have very slippery floors.

The two buildings that are the worst for me are Barlow Hall where *The Print* is located and the Community Center. Other students have complained about the stairwells in McLoughlin.

These floors and stairwells are lethal when they are wet. There have been a few times when I have almost performed gymnastic feats that defy the laws of physics.

As a person who is physically challenged, my coordination and balance are not good. Unlike able-bodied people I do not have the recovery ability should I slip. Once I start to go, it's all over. Fortunately, I have yet to break

any bones. So far, I've only limped around for a few days. Next time I may not be so fortunate.

Am I the only one who sees the liability in this? Another person almost fell last Friday morning while coming into work. So, I'm wondering what can be done about this situation that would be cost effective.

The easiest solution is to put strips on the stairs that would allow shoes to grip. They could also be put on the cement floor of Barlow Hall. As for the Community Center there is no easy solution. I've heard there might be a type of a wax that is not slippery but I'll have to check into it.

In the meantime someone from the college should investigate this dangerous situation before someone becomes seriously hurt... like me.

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Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to a current article in *The Print*. Actually two articles. First, the one written by Damon Fouts.

In his article he professes to be an over researcher. I think he is full of delusions of grandeur. Scanning *The Oregonian* does not constitute research, it is a good starting point. But, anyone who has done research papers knows the value of source material. Such as maybe *The Constitution of The United States*, or who originally came up with the idea of a balanced-budget amendment. Maybe even books by such people as Thomas Jefferson, FDR, Eisenhower, Nixon, or Newt Gingrich. If you are going to quote something maybe it should be explained how it is relevant to your argument. Just a thought!!

Also, Zimmerman was wrong when he said that this is a private network. Everything generated here at college is part of the public record. Look up the Attorney General's opinion on Public Record Law. If I am wrong then show me the documentation. Don't just say something is fact because you think so, but because you have the information to back it up.

JM. Garvison

To the Editor:

Damon,

I enjoyed your tongue-in-cheek article in the 4/17/96 edition of *The Print*. However, you could have saved yourself a lot of discomfort by tapping into your local CCC library. We now have the *Oregonian* in full-text CD-ROM format right here in your front yard! Cushioned seats are available! Professional reference librarians are on duty from 8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. M-Th, 8-5 on Friday, and 10-2 on Saturday.

This may, of course, just enable your obsessive habit. I think such addictions are common to journalists. Perhaps you and a helpful reference librarian could begin a campus chapter of Over-researchers Anonymous. The library has several small conference rooms for group study. I am sure that a weekly meeting of ORA would be considered acceptable usage. Please contact us should you need this additional support from the library staff.

Cyndi Andrews
Director/Learning Resource Center

Famous Quote of the Week
"I don't know. I have a bad feeling about this ..."

Princess Leia
The Empire Strikes Back