

Kiss clones and bad-boys of the underground

By RANDAL BULLOCK
Staff Writer

Okay sickies, it's bottom feeding time again, and we're not making any stops on the way down this time. The week has been fruitful and has offered up the very best of the perverse, the depraved and the misaligned for your perusal. Music to instruct, entertain and fill your brain with nasty thoughts. An album guaranteed to make the PMRC up their Valium intake, henpeck their husbands and down Pepto Bismol to soothe their disrupted digestive tracts. In fact, I think I can hear Tipper shooting a hole the size of Fiji into her Depends undergarments right now. Let's find out why, shall we?

Hell-o — Gwar (ShimmyDisc)

Kiss is not dead. No, no, no. It, like Elvis, cannot die. As long as there are millions who will flock to the Gene Simmons Living Tongue Memorial on their way to Graceland, there will be entertainers willing to slap on the appropriate garb and muddy the same waters. And so we have Gwar, the Kiss of the '80s. Or, at least the parody of Kiss for the '80s, which is much harder to do than it sounds, since Kiss was essentially a self-parody anyway, in the manner of Styx.

But for those of you who don't think Kiss was good at what it did, which it was, I'll tell you that the comparison is merely a thematic one, i.e. Gwar wears costumes

(much better ones) and sings songs that are degrading to women, glorify the party ideal and treat sin as a cardinal virtue. And although this may sound negative, all the results are in and that's what America wants from its rock 'n' roll bands. Gwar is more than happy to give it to you.

In keeping with this, Gwar wants you to know that it has come for your entrails. It also wants you to know that bone meal is better than no meal at all. But don't worry, there is an explanation. Gwar comes from Richmond, where the official citywide stench of sulphur has been scientifically proven to create irreversible mutations. Gwar merely represents its constituency as best it knows how. As a result, it also thinks it would be rewarding to rape your dog with a plow. With this being the least talked about Southern pastime, I can see Oprah's revealing special on Richmond now — "So," she asks, oozing tact, "is pus really the best lubricant when using a plow?" But I digress. We were talking about...? Oh yeah, Kiss.

So, obviously the comparison to Kiss breaks down a little here. But face it, Paul and Gene may have had the right idea with Kiss all along, they were, unfortunately, just spineless maggots. And though Gwar may live on the underside of rotten meat, you

can't accuse it of maggotty. Even the music, with a much greater debt owed to hardcore than metal, bites harder than Kiss ever did and reminds everyone why Kiss belonged and remained on the

shirts of pre-pubes.

But this doesn't mean you have to be a simp. Gwar's jokes are right on the mark, even if they are a bit on the vulgar side. Look at it this way — any band that replies,

when asked about war, with "Sure, it's fun... but is it art?" scores some points at least. Gwar is living proof that you can't keep a good concept down. Join them on the molten nipple mound.

Edited 4 Television

By WINSTON P. LLOYD
Staff Writer

Television is the most powerful of all media, and television is good. That's right. I said it. Television is generally good, quality and sometimes, dare I say it... art.

That is what this column is all about; explaining the quality and sometimes the lack of quality that television produces daily.

For instance, an average of three to four new programs make it each year. That is out of thousands of scripts and hundreds of produced ideas.

So, what do we like? Familiarity. If we are somehow familiar or can identify with a character or situation, then we are more likely to watch the show. The more we identify, the higher the ratings. Therefore, television is a reflection of those who watch it. "Dynasty" is a reflection of certain desires and fantasies.

Beyond the recognition a show must create in viewers, there must be stories which hold the attention. Otherwise an attempt

at realism as in "Jack and Mike" is a failure. Detailing such things will be the point of this column from week to week.

Now you're thinking, "So it's a reflection of its viewers. Intelligent people don't watch it." Wrong. Viewership is spread evenly among classes. The average person with more than \$40,000 of income yearly watches 50 hours a week. The same average holds for those in poverty. Television indeed affects everyone. Ninety-eight percent of households have at least one TV set, and the largest circulation magazine in the United States is TV Guide.

To give you an idea of what this means, consider that the most successful motion picture of all time was "E.T.," which sold a total of about 65 million tickets in its two-year run. More than 40 million watch "A Different World" every week.

More numbers: About 14.7 million saw Dan Rather last week. If it's true that he's biased, imagine the influence he has. More people

get their news from television than any other source. Views presented here could affect millions every week, whether it be the news or a comedy.

Think of this in terms of a presidential election. In the 1984 "landslide" election, Ronald Reagan beat Walter Mondale by 16.8 million votes. That is exactly the number of people who watched "Designing Women" last week. "Cheers" averages more viewers weekly than the votes either Kennedy or Nixon received in 1960. The margin in that election was 119,000 votes. The worst rated program of last week was seen by 36 times that many people.

With television's power and reach, it deserves the attention given motion pictures. And here it is. For the student who may want to spend one of his valuable study hours watching TV, now you may know what is worth seeing. So every week, here will be a guide to what's good and bad on the box. Same Bat day, same Bat paper.

You Want Easy To Operate?



The Zenith Data Systems
eaZy™ pc

eaZy™ pc2 with dual
3.5" 720K disk drives
was \$820⁰⁰

NOW \$699⁰⁰

eaZy™ pc20 with one 3.5" 720K
disk drive and
20MB internal hard drive
was \$1177⁰⁰

NOW \$999⁰⁰

The eaZy™ pc from Zenith Data Systems gives you a full-featured computer that's so simple to operate, you can be up and running within minutes after opening the box. And it even comes with a 14" monochrome monitor attached. Along with an easy to use keyboard, and compact, high-capacity 3 1/2" disk drive. Added to all this, you get some very important extras...

Now, the eaZy pc can be yours at a great student price when you visit The RAM Shop at the Student Stores. We'll give you a full demonstration and match you up with the right software and peripherals. To give you a computer that can take you from college to career!

So stop by today. And see the eaZy pc for your self. See you soon!



Student Stores

