

# Features

## Hype! traces grunge rock phenomenon

(CPS) - Not that long ago, grunge music was an underground thing. That was before it landed mainstream playtime, fueled a fashion trend, and helped make Seattle a hip place to live.

Now grunge is passé, says filmmaker Doug Pray, who directed a film about the grunge music phenomenon called "Hype!"

"The timing couldn't be worse, coming out in 1996 with a film about something that was hugely popular four years ago. Therein lies the irony of the film," said Pray. The acclaimed "Hype!" tracks the evolution of grunge rock phenomenon that, along with coffee, put Seattle on the map. Therein also lies why I would strongly urge people who think the timing is terrible to go see the film. It's really about the birth, explosion, and mass consumption of an underground culture. We could not have come out with "Hype!" in 1992. It took four years to tell the story because the story is really about a four-year period."

Over lunch at an Italian restaurant in midtown Manhattan, Pray and his "Hype!" partner, producer Steven Helvey, do their bit to promote "Hype!" Both Pray and Helvey come across as decent guys thrilled that their film is seeing the light of day. "I want to clarify one thing Doug just said," Helvey said. "What would be absurd if we came out now with a movie that said how cool grunge is, because it is now so passé. People in Seattle in 1992 were telling us it was over, though it really wasn't. If you look at "Hype!" 10 years from now, it will still have its valid sense of the scene.

The film looks back and captures a pop culture cycle in which Seattle was the focus of all the energy. But no one should look at the film as a puff piece about grunge or Seattle."

Indeed, "Hype!" is clearly a labor of love that evolved over a long period of time. Like most first-time filmmakers, Pray and Helvey struggled to raise funding, lived off credit cards, and struggled to get some of the bigger names in grunge to participate in the project. "Early on, we didn't have Nirvana, Soundgarden, or Pearl Jam in it," said Helvey. "We had Mudhoney, The Fresh Young Fellows, Screaming Trees, and other groups like that, who were instrumental in creating what became known as grunge. We didn't have stars, so we got a lot of potential investors saying, 'Nice to meet you' and 'Good luck. I'm pulling for you.'"

Eventually, financial backers came through with money. Soundgarden agreed to appear in the film, and Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder also sat in for an interview. Pray and Helvey also landed footage of what's assumed to be Nirvana's first live performance of the grunge anthem, "Smells Like Teen Spirit." The filmmakers eventually had countless feet of material which took a year to edit into a final form. "You never knew exactly what you got until you looked at it," Pray said of the editing process. "You'd conduct an interview that seemed totally bad. You'd sit and think, 'I'm wasting film right now, which is too bad, because this guy SHOULD be interesting.'"

"Then, later in the depths of editing hell, you'll go back to that interview

you thought was a waste and find what you need. It suddenly comes to life and is right in context. That happened again and again. Other interviews you think you're nailing while you're doing them, but they're not usable. They may be impossible to edit."

Helvey interrupted, saying, "What was interesting about doing the interviews was that these guys and women weren't stuffy. Most of them were very funny and didn't take themselves or the music too seriously. The fact that the whole world took the music so seriously was so absurd. Journalists came in and tried to define the grunge sound, the scene, the fashions. It was a big joke. That's what the movie's all about."

Pray and Helvey know "Hype!" could be their foot in the door for careers in Hollywood. The two are looking for projects to do together and apart, documentaries and features alike. All that, however, is a bit down the road. First, Pray and Helvey must crisscross the nation in their effort to hype "Hype!"

"We're learning, right now, firsthand, a lot about what the bands in the movie are talking about," Helvey said. "We made a film, somehow got it made. We got it seen at the Sundance Film Festival. Suddenly, we're meeting all these industry people and all these media people. Now the film's getting released, and we're doing more interviews. It's so ironic. Doug and I are not Pearl Jam, but we've gotten a sense of what people went through in Seattle. It's exciting and scary, and we'll see what it leads to."

## What a way to cheat: pencils the new fad in cheating scheme

(CPS)- Federal officials say some college students taking graduate admission tests this fall paid thousands of dollars for pencils that they hoped would sharpen their scores.

A California man was charged with fraud Oct. 27 after federal investigators said he helped people cheat on graduate admission exams by encoding their pencils with the answers.

George Kobayashi, 45, charged students as much as \$6,000 for his "unique" method of preparing them for the GMAT, GRE and other required tests though his company "America Test Center," according to the complaint filed in Manhattan federal court.

Kobayashi allegedly hired a team of experts to take each exam in New York, Relying on the three-hour time difference, the expert test-takers telephoned the answers to Kobayashi's office in Los Angeles, where the answers were quickly coded onto pencils given to his clients, federal officials said.

"This defendant enriched himself by playing on the insecurities of young people at an anxious time in their lives," said Mary Jo White, a Manhattan U.S. attorney. "The victims here are not only the universities that accepted students who cheated on their admissions test, but the honest students who perhaps did not get into the school of their choice because they were displaced by someone who cheated."

An undercover federal investigator who employed Kobayashi's services witnessed the scam and flew to Los

Angeles to take the GMAT on Oct. 19.

The Educational Testing Service, which administers more than 9 million admission exams each year, worked with federal investigators for about a year and a half to bring charges against Kobayashi.

"We're delighted in the sense that the system works," said Mercedes Morris Garcia, an ETS spokesperson.

About 100 students are believed to have used his company to cheat on graduate admission exams, she said.

"We have a pretty good idea who was involved in this," Garcia said. "We'll take it case by case. There will be serious repercussions down the line."

ETS has confronted similar cheating schemes, according to Garcia. "In the past 10 years, we've had serious cases involved with the time-zone difference," she said. "This is more elaborate in the sense that it involves coding pencils."

Garcia would not comment on whether the company was changing its security measures.

Patricia Taylor, assistant general counsel at ETS, said: "We take test security very seriously at ETS, and welcome the opportunity to work with federal officials in the future to strike a blow against test fraud."

If convicted, Kobayashi faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison on each of two counts of mail and wire fraud, and a maximum fine of \$250,000 or twice his gross gain from the scheme, whichever is greater.

### academic notices

- Final exams end • 12/13
- Final grades due, Noon • 12/16
- UNCA closed • 12/23 - 12/27 • 1/1
- Orientation for new students • 1/13 - 1/14
- Registration • 1/14
- Classes begin at 6 p.m. • 1/14
- Late registration / drop add • 1/15 - 1/22
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - No classes, offices closed • 1/20

### athletics (ext. 6459)

- Women's Basketball vs. Western Carolina, 3 p.m., JC • 12/29
- Women's Basketball vs. Georgia State, 2 p.m., JC • 12/31
- Men's Basketball vs. UMBC, 7:30 p.m., JC • 1/4
- Men's Basketball vs. Marshall, 7:30 p.m., Civic Center • 1/6
- Men's Basketball vs. Liberty, 7:30 p.m., JC • 1/11
- Men's Basketball vs. Winthrop, 7:30 p.m., JC • 1/15
- Women's Basketball vs. UNC Greensboro, 7 p.m., JC • 1/16
- Women's Basketball vs. UMBC, 2 p.m., JC • 1/18
- Men's Basketball vs. Charleston So., 4 p.m., JC • 1/18
- Men's Basketball vs. Coastal Carolina, 7:30 p.m., JC • 1/20

### concerts/live entertainment

- "42nd Street," Broadway Musical tickets \$18, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., HC 27 • 1/7

### etc.

- Charlotte Hornets tickets available for 12/13 - Philadelphia, 1/2 - Dallas, 1/15 - New Jersey; January 21 - 31 games on sale • starting 1/14
- Used Book Co-op - Buy and Sell, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m./4 - 6:30 p.m., HC 18 (sponsored by SGA and NCSL) • 12/9 - 12/12
- Used Book Buy, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., HC Bookstore • 12/9 - 12/13
- Highsmith Center open all night • 12/8 - 12/12
- Residence Halls close at 9 a.m. • 12/14
- Movie tickets - \$3. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., HC 27 (ext. 6584)
- Mediation Workshop, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Laurel Forum, KH, Free (R.S.V.P. by 1/25) (253-5120) • 1/25
- Escort Service for students from any area on campus; call Public Safety or use yellow box at Vance Hall - 251 - 6710
- "Freedom From Smoking" - smoking cessation classes - orientation meeting, 12:15 p.m., WHC (ext. 6520) • 1/23
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, 3:30 p.m., HC • 1/23

### exhibits

- Jon Dawes Sculpture Exhibit, reception 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., OH • thru 12/20
- Liberty Becker Raku Exhibit, reception 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., 2nd floor, OH • thru 12/20
- Photography Exhibit - UNCA students' photographs, 12 - 4 p.m., Gallery f/32 32 Biltmore Ave. • thru 1/13
- Children's Art Works - rotating exhibit, RL
- Jason Watson Exhibit, 1st floor Univ. Gallery, OH • 1/17 - 1/28
- Rhett Thompson, 2nd floor Gallery, OH • 1/17 - 1/28

### homecoming '97 - feb. 3 -9

- Watch for schedule in January for week-long events

### lectures

- Reading by Visiting Prof. Tom Hubbard of Fife, Scotland, 7 p.m., Urthona Gallery, 91 Patton Ave. • 12/11
- "Developing an International Awareness in Western North Carolina," World Affairs Council, 7:30 p.m., OCC (ext. 6140) • 1/13

### organizations - special programs

- "Mittens, Hats, Socks For Kids" - hang them on the Christmas Tree in HC (sponsored by ODK) • thru 12/13

Have a Happy  
and Safe Holiday  
Break!

# FYI

For Your Information

december  
11  
thru  
january  
23

## UNCA

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