

# Censorship affected summer music

By MARK BRETT

The summer of 1990 will be remembered for censorship.

Record labeling, a subtle and deceptive censorship device, became even more insidious as it was standardized throughout the music industry. More overtly, rap group 2 Live Crew was arrested on stage for public obscenity and their record was subsequently banned in cities across the country (while the album was garbage, it

## Old relationships remain familiar at class reunion

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time," and proceeded to outdo me by detailing several escapades. I laughed so much I almost fell into the video camera. Far too soon these moments also became memories.

Here's my favorite moment: I am heatedly arguing with a friend about the cultural stereotypes being perpetuated in the movie "Pretty Woman" when she says, "Oh, Steve, it's just a movie."

The radiating waves of my indignation draw others into the turmoil until someone breaks the tension by saying, "This is just like high school. Everyone's having a good time and then Ferebee gets on his soap box."

Ah, yes, I think as we laugh, we are indeed family, and this may not be the beach, but we're home.

## Responding to any death takes difficult adjustment

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• You avoid all social activities, wishing to be alone most of the time.

You may have a friend or know of someone who is in the midst of this grief process and they might come to you for advice. How are you going to respond?

The first thing is to be natural. Be yourself. They have come to you because they feel comfortable in talking to you. Your interest should be genuine and sincere so that they know you care.

Secondly, do not try too hard to help. In most cases what the person really needs and is seeking is someone to listen to them as they sort out their feelings. Do not try to force them to "open up." They will share what they are feeling at a time that is right for them.

## Review

doesn't deserve to be banned; what does?).

Heavy metal band Judas Priest found itself in court on the ludicrous charge that they were responsible for the suicide death of a teenage boy who listened to their music (if we're placing blame here, let's look at the parents, who were so out of touch with their child that they nothing was wrong).

The list of First Amendment casualties lengthens, and I have to wonder how the spirit of rock and roll rebellion got in its current sad shape. Let's face it: Elvis is dead, and the rest of us aren't feeling very well, either.

On that somber note, let's progress on to some of the bright spots of the summer of 1990. (Note: the New Kids on the Block "Step by Step" tour will not be discussed, except perhaps in lip-sync).

First up was Metaphysical Graffiti, the newest release from the Dead Milkmen, masters of Tabloid Rock. The Milkmen do their usual perverse job on this one, from "Beige Sunshine," a sort of absurdist expression of the Milkman world-view, to "Methodist Coloring Book," a song about the repressive qualities of organized religion that I'm sure would be very popular around here.

Next comes GWAR's Scumdogs of the Universe.

GWAR claims to be a group of outer space warriors who have been banished to Earth, where they formed a thrash metal band to take control of our population. No one seems to know who they really are, but as long as they write uproariously funny thrash parody like "Maggots are Falling Like Rain," "Slaughterama," and "Horror of Yig" (which contains a bagpipe solo), who cares?

The one pleasant surprise of the summer is the success of Faith No More, whose album "The Real Thing" is a genuinely brilliant look at the darker side of humanity. "Epic," their much-played hit tune, is actually about the desire of and the quest for the things you can't have. Try explaining that one to Casey Kasem.

The conflicting legacies of Elvis Presley, Led Zeppelin, and Bob Marley were finally reconciled this summer on Un-led-Ed, the debut from Dread Zeppelin. Fronted by a Rastafarian and an

Elvis impersonator, Dread Zeppelin somehow weaves reggae melodies and Elvis into the hard rock crunch of Led Zeppelin with an ease that defies description.

This mix produces songs like "Heartbreaker (At the End of Lonely Street)," which puts "Heartbreak Hotel" to the tune of "Heartbreaker" and then re-creates it all in a reggae style. Dread Zeppelin is an amazingly refreshing band, in a retro kind of way.

Human Radio's self-titled debut was released this summer to nearly overwhelming indifference, which is too bad. They are one of those rare bands that can combine pop-style rhythms with intelligent, thought-provoking lyrics to produce music that should appeal to both underground and Top 40 fans.

Unfortunately, they missed both groups entirely, the former probably turned off by the way they sound like Squeeze and the latter not understanding the references to Nietzsche and Jesus the

travel agent. "Me and Elvis," at least, got some airplay as a kind of novelty song, which is a waste but better than nothing.

In addition, Summer 1990 produced the The Cramps, everyone's favorite transvestite shockabilly band, which released their first new album in ages, "Stay Sick," which did just that (if you don't believe me, check out their version of "Shortnin' Bread").

In the realm of less extreme shockabilly (which, by the way is punk rockabilly), Social Distortion put out a self-titled album, nice grungy rock and roll of a type they don't make any more.

Suicidal Tendencies released the typically political "Lights, Camera, Revolution," which includes a song with the provocative title of "Disco's Out, Murder's In."

Finally, the Pixies were their characteristically disturbing selves on "Bossanova," which is just plain weird. And on that note....

## Effects of symposium on earth seem to have worn off this year

By TERESA PITTS

As I was walking through the halls of the administrative building, I made an interesting observation: the effects from last semester's symposium, "Our Island Earth," are virtually disappearing.

Remains from the symposium exist, such a recycling bins for paper and aluminum. However, the farther we get from Earth Day, the less concerned this college seems to be about environmental issues.

Maybe many new students are unaware of these small efforts and returning students have forgotten or are unconcerned. Whatever the reason, Wesleyan needs to respond as an educational institution and show some environmental concern.

For those who don't know or have forgotten, large recycling bins for office and computer paper are placed throughout most of the buildings on campus, and smaller recycling baskets are located in most classrooms. However, the baskets along with the larger paper bins appear to have been converted to trash cans.

I looked inside several and most contained snack food wrappers, aluminum cans, organic matter,

and some paper — mainly notebook paper. Sound like a trash can to you? I saw one basket among the classrooms which contained only the requested office and computer paper.

I also found a similar situation concerning the aluminum can bins. These can be found near the drink machines in the administrative building as well as in the dorms, and the cans put there will be recycled. However, aluminum cans share their space with trash, changing these bins, too, into trash cans. Also, cans that should be discarded in the recycling bins seldom make it there, but instead are thrown into regular trash cans.

Recycling is not the only important environmental issue that the Wesleyan community is overlooking. Another significant one is energy conservation.

Many times lights are never turned off after class; if the class ends at three or four in the afternoon, then the lights burn uselessly until the 6:30 night class. However, if no class meets, then the lights continue to burn until security turns them off about 10 p.m.

The same is true for the classroom air conditioners, which use even more energy. I can under-

stand leaving them on after the day classes in order to cool the room for the night classes, but usually the doors are left open and the cold air that is generated escapes.

Speaking of wasting energy, while walking through the classroom building at approximately 9:45 at night, I heard a fan in a professor's office. It was probably going to be operating all night. What a waste.

A college community should be environmentally focused and set the standard for other institutions. As an educational institution, we should react to current issues affecting the world, such as the environmental crisis. However, Wesleyan tends to dismiss the problem.

Each person should take some responsibility and play a role in environmental preservation, by recycling or conserving energy. You only have to exert minimal effort to throw paper and aluminum in the proper recycling containers and to turn a light switch or air conditioner off when not in use.

These are small tasks with enormous benefits. Let's try to be environmentally conscious not only during Earth Week, but on a daily basis.