

Div:ersions

WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT SECTION ★ THE DAILY TAR HEEL

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Magic '80s comes to Cradle tonight
 WXYC hosts a retro '80s party at the Cat's Cradle tonight. With dancing until 3 a.m., trivia contests with prizes and the era's classic movies, the Cat's Cradle will be the place to moonwalk over to later, all for only \$3.

NO uncertain terms

This past April, a great tragedy befell the world. "Thriller," Michael Jackson's pop masterpiece which had held the title of the biggest selling album of all time for the past fourteen years, was robbed of its throne by the "Eagles Greatest Hits." Blasphemy! The definitive '80s album, overthrown by a bunch of neo-country, long-haired, hippie wannabes? Say it ain't so!

But, alas, it is so. Nor is this incident alone in signaling the trouble that '80s nostalgia is in. Molly Ringwald's new show was cancelled by ABC. Sting still won't talk to the rest of the Police. And when was the last time you heard someone say "grody to the max?" Let's face it — the '80s need help. And we, the children of the '80s, are the only ones who can give it.

Think of all that the '80s have done for us. The pop culture of the '80s helped us to laugh in a time in which a lot of serious things were happening.



matt MILLER

Worried about the prospect of thermonuclear annihilation? All you had to do was turn on MTV and see Martha Quinn introducing the new Devo video. Iran-Contra got you down? There was undoubtedly a Steve Guttenberg movie playing somewhere. Jim and Tammy Faye have stolen millions in the name of God? Like Frankie Goes to Hollywood said, "Relax!"

I know that there are people out there saying, "The '80s were too cheesy." Of course it was cheesy! The majority of pop culture in every decade is cheesy. The '70s? It gave us such gems as Supertramp, "Three's Company," and John Travolta in "The Boy in the Plastic Bubble."

As for the '90s? Now we've got future classics like Collective Soul, "Family Matters," and John Travolta in "Michael." Honestly, can any of these be seen as an improvement over the decade of Members Only jackets and "Rock Me Amadeus?"

The beauty of the '80s was the fact that it recognized its own cheesiness and it reveled in it. Do you think that the lead singer of Flock of Seagulls thought that his haircut looked good? Do you think that anyone associated with the movies "Rad" or "Thrashin'" saw them as serious cinema? Do you think that Ally Sheedy had any illusions as to her acting abilities? No! They were all cheesy, but they knew that they were cheesy, and that made them fun.

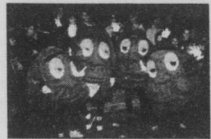
I think that the big problem with the '90s is its inability to laugh at itself. The whole angst-ridden grunge thing is no more serious than new-wave synth pop was, but say that to a Pearl Jam fan and the flannel will fly. Tears for Fears fans didn't have that kind of fragile sensitivity about their music; they knew it was just entertainment. Artists in the '80s basically knew how to have fun and be upbeat with their music.

So where does that leave us? Are we hopelessly stuck in the pretentious, uptight '90s? Can there be no return to the days of big hair and skinny ties that embodied that wonderful decade that was the 1980s?

Sadly, we may never completely recapture the glory of the '80s as it once was. However, there are things that we can all do to ensure that the memory and the spirit of those years live on.

Have a Brat Pack movie marathon. Learn to break dance. Sing the theme song to "Greatest American Hero." Pull the Atari 2600 out of the attic. Go to the WXYC Eighties Dance at the Cradle tonight. Better yet, buy a copy of "Thriller." Let the '80s rule, and tell the Eagles to "Beat It."

Let's go retro '80s!



Upbeat sound of 'Big '80s' returns

BY BROCK PIERCE
 ASSISTANT ARTS & DIVERSIONS EDITOR

Ask anyone who turned on a TV in 1979 to name the most exciting thing they saw, and you can bet that they probably won't mention the pre-election political jockeying between Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter. However, a more popular, and far more hip answer, would be "Video Killed the Radio Star" by the Buggles on MTV.

As MTV's first video phenomenon, the Buggles helped open the door to a brave new musical world known as the "Big '80s." Yes, this is the decade when bands like Genesis, Dire Straits and the Police ruled not just on the radio waves but on the television screen as well.

Perhaps nothing signifies the musical transition of the '80s better than the shooting death of John Lennon in 1980.

With this musical muse of the '60s and '70s gone, MTV swiftly stepped in to fill the huge creative void with an in-your-face assault on the senses by way of the music video.

The result was the rise of musical artists like Duran Duran, Prince (when he still had a name), the Cars and a myriad of others who championed the wonders of the electric keyboard and screeching electric guitar. Not to steal the Agassi-coined phrase, but image certainly seemed to be everything. However, despite its image conscious attitude, '80s music still holds a certain zest that has yet to be replicated.

It was a time of feel good tunes and musical lightheartedness that seems like a breath of fresh air stuck between the stuffy and brooding decades of the '70s and '90s.

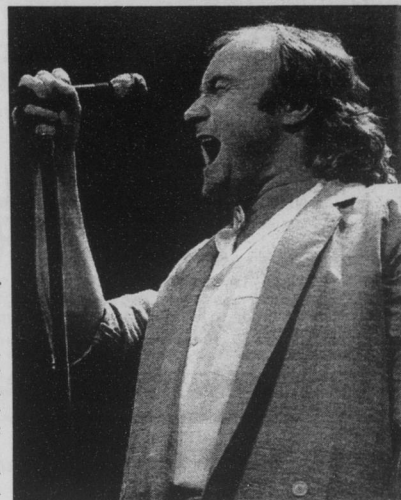
For instance, take a pop act like

Madonna singing "Holiday" or Michael Jackson's "Beat It" and then think about how these songs would fare amidst today's musical tastes. They would probably be criticized for being up-beat and for lacking the self-seriousness that '90s music culture seems to have mistaken for ingenious talent.

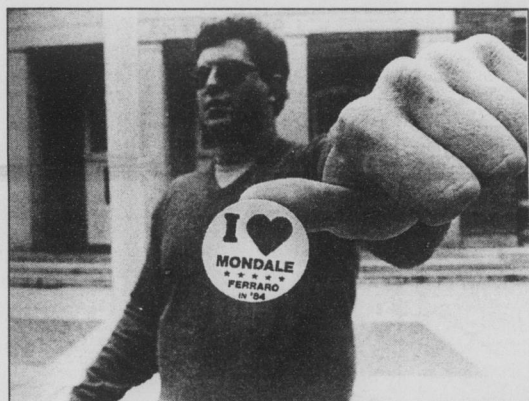
That's not to say that today's music lacks substance, because many of today's bands play brilliantly crafted songs. But, it seems that, as of late, many music listeners have tired of life in the musical doldrums and like to occasionally revisit those glory days when Bruce Springsteen could draw a stadium-sized crowd to hear "Born in the USA."

Even the hard rock genre seemed more happy-go-lucky way back when. A

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'80s formative years for nation's society, cinema

BY JIM MARTIN
 ARTS & DIVERSIONS EDITOR

The upcoming rerelease of "Dirty Dancing" is living proof that the decade of trickle-down economics is not dead. It is coming back in a big way. The formative years of the majority of college students were shaped in large amounts by the cinema of the 1980s.

As if the rerelease of "Dirty Dancing" was not proof enough of the '80s return, there continues to be a multitude of '80s antiques popping up in film. Enter John Cusack.

In the '80s, Cusack's characters were the ones everyone cheered for. Whether he was trying to date Ione Skye in the romantic comedy of romantic comedies, "Say Anything," or trying to get his life straightened out in the bizarre but classic "Better Off Dead," Cusack was the man for the '80s man.

If anyone was to succeed in film, it was Cusack. He never made it until recently, when in the summer of 1997 he was the star in the summer hit "Con Air" and in the critically acclaimed, "Grosse Pointe Blank." Ferris Bueller, I mean Matthew Broderick worked the same way. Who's next, Jon Cryer from "Pretty in Pink?"

During the '80s, the words blockbuster and trilogy defined themselves. Directors created memorable trilogies which broke box-office records left and right. Robert Zemeckis had the "Back to the Future" movies, and Stephen Spielberg, of course; had the "Indiana Jones" trilogy. Franchises were started and the necessity for a sequel began.

Had it not been for the continued success of the above movies, Ridley Scott's "Alien" movies and the "Star Wars" movies, studio heads would never have thought to franchise. The action genre contributed more than others with Stallone and

Schwarzenegger pumping out generic testosterone fests like "Rambo" and "Commando."

The mainstay of actors nowadays used the '80s as their springboard. Tom Hanks got "Big" and Mel Gibson was a "Lethal Weapon." Tom Cruise became a "Top Gun" and Nicholas Cage was "Raising Arizona" while "Peggy Sue Got Married." Even Christian Slater had to "Pump Up the Volume" with a bunch of "Heathers."

So why is it now that '80s movies are being retouched and rereleased? "Better Off Dead" is just one of many that got touched up and sent back out on video store shelves. The answer is not just about money.

In the age of big-budget, high-tech, superfluous special effects and small-budget, idiosyncratic films, there seems to be no movie to simply connect with. Alas, that was the magic of '80s cinema. "St. Elmo's Fire," "The Breakfast Club" and "Sixteen Candles" were all movies which mirrored society especially the individual in society.

Just a decade ago, movies were not as complicated as today. Audiences can no longer root for a character on the screen that reminds them of themselves or someone they know. Where current movies tend to put unusual people in ordinary circumstances or vice versa, the '80s could place ordinary people in everyday situations but still manage to tell a gripping story.

By no stretch of the imagination are the only good movies from the '80s, but the decade did provide audiences with compelling stories and upcoming actors. The movies from just 10 years ago are ageless for those reasons. And in case they were forgotten by some, they are coming back to the future

'Material Girl' tailors fashion trends

BY AMELIA RASMUS
 STAFF WRITER

From rich bitch to trashy tramp, '80s influences are everywhere in women's fashion for Fall 1997.

This season, fashion borrows from both the fierce career and punky dance cultures of the material decade. Women may end up looking like a composite of "Dynasty"'s Alexis Colby Carrington and Madonna.

There are some familiar pieces worth digging back out. Some are better left in the back of the closet or the bottom of a drawer. But all of them bring back positive memories of powerful women and clothes with an edge, even if they should never be worn again.

The power suit was as much a business staple for the 80s as a computer is for the 90s. Almost every designer has a new version, but most of its characteristics have stayed the same. The skirt is short and body skimming; the jacket's waist is cinched in; and the shoulders are big, pointy and futuristic.

From the streets of the "Borderline" video, high-tops return, but they have been reinterpreted. They are made of black leather rather than canvas. They zip up rather than lace. They are ankle boots rather than tennis shoes. And they are sexy rather than sporty.

In fact, spike heels are everywhere this season, but this time, no one will be wearing

them with lacy little ankle socks.

Michael Jackson's jacket never looked like real leather simply because it was red, but a darker interpretation, a burgundy blazer, looks just as edgy even though it lacks the zippers and chains.

Unfortunately, wearing multiples of anything is a trend that the fashion industry did not revisit. The 80s bulked girls in inches of lace tank tops, midriff-baring t-shirts and denim jackets. This time, layers do not go any deeper than a white shirt underneath a blazer.

Apparently designers did not want accessories to go retro along with their clothes. Jewelry is savage and silver but small and sparse. Where are the big, dangling star earrings? Is a single chunky belt better than several lengths of leather and chain wound the waist? And is one bracelet or watch really enough?

Gloves reappear, but they are sleek, black, leather second-skins. Designers missed a good chance to bring back the short, fingerless lace gloves worn crunched on the hands of teenagers back when MTV was new.

It is a relief that some pieces are not sneaking their way into fashion magazines, though. No matter how permed and teased up her hair, no one looked good in the big, floppy hair bow—no, not even Madonna, not Minnie Mouse.

Thankfully, fashion-followers will not see that unisex, wind-breaking wonder, the "Member's Only" jacket, either. Who could still match anything in his or her wardrobe with the bubblegum pink and mint green possibilities of the reversible jacket, anyway?

Pants were also a particularly low point. Whether the body disappeared under amorphous, zippy-sounding parachute pants or was too exposed in quarter-bouncing tight acid wash jeans, legs could hardly have been less stylish.

Best of all, designers left the '80s colors and prints in the decade where

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Ten years change what goes in one's 'Centerfold'

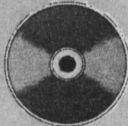
The time that passes in a decade sure does make past fads look pretty wild. Just a few years ago, people tried to break their necks to look cool on the dance floor. What will we think of our "Birks" in ten years?

Favorite	1980s	1990s
Song	"Thriller" — Michael Jackson "Like A Virgin" — Madonna	"You Oughta Know" — Alanis Morissette "Let Her Cry" — Hootie and the Blowfish
Movie	"Breakfast Club," "Better Off Dead" "Pretty in Pink," "Back to the Future"	"Silence of the Lambs," "Forrest Gump," "Pulp Fiction," "Independence Day"
Fashion	jumpsuits, fingerless gloves	bootleg pants, Birkenstocks
Dance	moonwalk, Electric Slide	the grind, butterfly
Car	Pontiac Fiero	any 4x4 (i.e., Jeep Wrangler)
Presidents	Carter, Reagan, Bush	Bush, Clinton
Quote	"Read my lips, no new taxes." — former President George Bush	"Life is like a box of chocolates." — Forrest Gump
Hair	BIG, spikes, mohawks	sideburns, Caesar-cuts

The Weekly Barometer

Carey hits top note

Mariah Carey returns to top form with a song as sweet as "Honey," yet another No. 1 hit for the pop diva.



Artist	Song
1. Mariah Carey	"Honey"
2. Backstreet Boys	"Quit Playing Games"
3. Usher	"You Make Me Wanna"
4. The Notorious B.I.G.	"Mo Money ..."
5. LeAnn Rimes	"How Do I Live"

SOURCE: BILLBOARD CHARTS