

From Def Leppard to Just Def, One Fan's Musical Tastes Evolve

The evolutionary chart of my musical tastes spans more than 10 years, from Poison to Dead Prez. Basically, I've evolved from the depths of extreme cheese in the glam metal world to the super cool world of hip hop, with varying levels of dorkiness in between.

My first concert was in the fourth grade, when my Dad took me to the Charlotte Coliseum for Def Leppard with guests Queensryche and Tesla.

I felt cool being the only 9-year-old there on a school night, sporting my ripped stonewashed jeans and 5-inch tall bangs. I felt even cooler after my Dad bought me a concert T-shirt, which I put on over my clothes and later wore as a nightgown until seventh grade.

I can assure you my musical tastes have changed drastically since then.

Music circumvents itself, so admit that at least once in your life you've sold out to whatever's hot on the music charts and jumped on the musical bandwagon.

I've listened to a variety of musical genres except country, which I don't think I'm at a loss for avoiding.

For example, from fourth through eighth grade, I listened to a lot of heavy and glam metal, for which I still have a soft spot in my heart.

My room housed an altar to the godly Sebastian Bach, a Bret Michaels corner, a Motley Crue calendar and a door-size Guns N' Roses poster. Add to that a case



SHINDY CHEN
MY ESPN TOLD ME SO

with a guitar pick caught at the Pantera concert and a bunch of Slayer memorabilia. My room was a lame display of an obsessive teenybopper who watched way too much "Headbanger's Ball."

Eighth grade rolled around and with it came grunge music, which I absolutely ate up. I wore flannel, replaced Bret Michaels with Eddie Vedder, smacked a Chris Cornell poster up and attended Lollapalooza, where I crowd-surfed and moshed during other favorite bands-of-the-moment Alice in Chains and Primus.

After grunge's death and the disorientation it brought to music, combined with the disillusionment of being a high-school teenager, my lost self took refuge in The Cure. This yearlong phase included a trip to Atlanta for the concert my sophomore year of high school and a collection of 12 Cure CDs, which I will neither consider selling nor ever religiously listen to again.

For the remainder of high school, I

listened to hard-core/straight-edge music and went to hundreds of shows, realizing I didn't always agree with the music's lyrics or lifestyle despite loving the sound. Then I got into hip hop and techno music and went to parties (raves) with my friends, who'd already been going throughout high school.

This lasted until the end of my college freshman year, when I was broke from parties and tired of driving to other cities for all-night, drug-induced dance festivities.

Rap/hip hop is the only music that makes sense to me these days, and I regret not introducing myself to it back when I let metal rule, though *License to Ill* was one of my first tapes (Madonna's *True Blue* was another). The lyrics, the beats... you get hooked no matter how raw the underground sound or flashy the mainstream club hits. Like every musical genre, not all of it is good, but within it you embrace certain artists, as well as the scene and culture associated with it all.

Times change, music changes. I write hip-hop reviews now; I may still be doing so five years from now, but not until after I've re-emerged as a leather-wearing, hair-teased rock groupie. Right?

By the way, has anyone heard the new Pantera?

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BIZBUZZ ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Baby Bye Bye Bye

The American public, with a twisted sense of what constitutes good music, has put 'N Sync in the record books this week.

Wall of Sound reports that the group shattered Backstreet Boys' first-week sales record, selling more than 2.4 million copies of its long-awaited album, *No Strings Attached*, its first week on the shelves. On the album's debut date, March 21, rabid fans snatched up more than 1.1 million copies of the record.

For those who just can't get enough of the shiny quintet, the band comes to Raleigh's Entertainment and Sports Arena on May 17.

Question Reality

"The X-Files" fans don't have to question reality any longer because the truth is finally out there. Last week, David Duchovny announced that he will leave Fox's "The X-Files" after this season, the show's seventh.

According to Jam! Showbiz news, Duchovny will leave with no hard feelings, but he did snidely accuse producers of being "only about money at this stage." Duchovny had refused to negotiate a renewal of his contract.

Pot Jam

Continuing his long-running fight to legalize industrial uses of hemp, actor Woody Harrelson lost his last appeal in Kentucky's Supreme Court last week.

In 1996 Harrelson planted four

hemp seeds in Kentucky. He was arrested for the offense, and since then has fought for the courts to distinguish between using hemp for economic purposes and taking a joint.

Popcorn entertainment news reports that if Harrelson is convicted of illegally planting hemp, he could face a \$500 fine and time in jail.

and the adoration will continue this spring at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

According to Jam! Showbiz, an exhibit showing original strips, artwork and artifacts dealing with the comic strip will open May 20 and run through the end of 2000. Of "Peanuts" creator Charles Schultz's 18,000 strips, nearly 10 percent dealt with baseball. Looks like peanuts will continue to be a mainstay of the American baseball tradition. "Take me out to the ballgame..."

Compiled by Erin Wynia

You've Come a Long Way, Charlie Brown

America loves the "Peanuts" gang,

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