The Hatchet

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Mainstream music fails to deliver significant meaning

Jimmy Young
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The quality of music has diminished in American society. Teenagers' standards for music have decreased, and the music industry has responded to that. They give us generic beats and synthesized voices layered with meaningless lyrics. The problem is that we are actually accepting this trash.

The quantity of money listeners paying isn't proportional to the quality of the music. Adolescents just blindly accept this trash as good music simply because it is played on the radio.

So why have we not noticed this earlier? A lot of teenagers started listening to music during Phase 2. So what are these phases?

I'll divide the time periods into 3 phases.

Phase 1: Around late '90s and before. This was the time when a lot hip-hop albums were sugar. You could lick the album all the way around and there wouldn't be track that was left uncoated; ranging from the jazzy cool A Tribe Called Quest to politically controversial Public Enemy.

Phase 2: This time period is best put as middle school. We were too young to think about what was really going on. The well-marketed iPod increased listeners for its portability and simplicity—it became easier to listen to massively streamed music. Technology slowly seeped in and before you knew it everyone was poisoned by the pollution of mass produced "music." Artists rely too much on technological advantages like auto tune, a voice correction tool now abused by music producers to produce an artificial voice. Individual artists seek their musical philosophy but producers shut them out-they believed that this generation did not need them anymore.

Phase 3: Now and beyond. Are we going to keep accepting this poor music? Is the "sex" ever going to get old? Who's going to stand up to it?

Mainstream music overflows with repetitive, catchy and manufactured sounds and underground is the dense, qualitative and powerful music. In the '90s, the majority of hip-hop music was held to a higher standard. From the beats to the lyrics, everything was original and meaningful. But today's rap music is just compiled plastic. Music industries treat money as a higher priority than the songs. There's no real talent under all that futuristic make-up.

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Photo by Jimmy Young

Seth Neumann and Emly Khuc are lovers of mainstream music. Their iPods are completely full. They are nice people,

Photo by Jordan Brahaney

Senior Class ASB officers Julia Bartolo and Ben Rich make popcorn. This is a filler sentence. It will just go on and on.

ASB members redistributed large planters filled with an assortment of wildflowers around campus over the past few weeks.

The students put in a brick pathway outside of the Eggers building, and they also trimmed plants around school, with student activities director Helen Paris wielding an electric edger.

These efforts are appreciated, but some students feel the money should go to school improvements, such as new books and bathroom locks. However, ASB isn't authorized to use student funds on such items.

Senior John Rasure said although the improvements are helpful "they should have done this a long time ago, at this point the money could be better spent elsewhere."

Paris thought of the idea to move the planters from their original position near the Eggers building because she thought that students were not noticing them. So ASB moved the planters to more noticeable areas, and work during fourth period to water the new flowers and make sure the additions maintain their beauty.J

> **"they should have done this a long time ago, at this point the money could be better spent**
>
> *John Raisure*

Junior Julien Malard, president of the New Leaf Club, said their club submitted a plan to ASB to place plants around school throughout the year, but then ASB moved ahead with this project separately.

"I first was a bit disappointed because I wanted our club to do the planting," Malard said.

However, ASB agreed with the New Leaf Club to continue adding flowers, trees and other

Hipsters rule the music scene

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The band #@&$, pronounced Stagflation, formed in mid-February just to perform in Bandapalooza. They performed covers of "Love Lost" by The Temper Trap, "Daylight" by Matt and Kim, and " Believe" by The Bravery in the concert.

#@&$ consists of seniors Emily Khuc on keyboard and lead vocals, Alex Tyler on drums, Chris Valdez on lead guitar and Brian Jeon on bass. Khuc, Tyler and Valdez are all part of the Band Council and helped plan the

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT CRAZY WEATHER?

Teachers share Halloween memories

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CHRISTINE HARMS IS RATHER TALL. WHO