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(American Exceptionalism) Next >**Conservatism and Censorship** by **Joe Escobar** - Friday, April 12, 2013, 5:09 PM**This forum thread is for Conservatism and Censorship posts and replies.**

After studying the required materials, address the individual questions in SEPARATE posts.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post.

To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

Since there are multiple questions, BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Don't simply leave it RE: Conservatism and Censorship

Sum of ratings: -

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Sapho to Heavy Metal, 1900 to 1985 and not much as changed**

by Jennifer Smith - Monday, April 15, 2013, 10:38 AM

I was born a year before the PMRC set in motion the music censorship laws that would require albums toting "explicit content" to be marked as such, yet I remember well in to my early teenage years that those stickers still remained on the CDs I tried to buy as a kid. Watching both the video on Heavy Metal, the PMRC, and Dee Snider's fight against censorship as well the video on Sapho and what Olga Nethersole had to endure made for an interesting comparison, especially to realize that even if the mediums have changed form, the "fight" for "morality" really hasn't.

The various rock stars they interviewed stated that in "a sick way, the PMRC was the best thing to ever happen to heavy metal", and even the clip about Sapho admits that the trail against Nethersole only *increased attendance* to the play. And even now days, an Explicit rating on something will only serve to get you more audience, not less. Curoosity, defiance, a desire to go against what is considered "the norm" pushes our eyes and ears closer to the things that we "shouldn't" view, and those so-called

warriors for morality just make us all the more interested in just what it is they're trying to shield our eyes from.

Conservatism wants us to remain staunchly in the past; those who consider themselves conservative turn with rose tinted glasses to "how things were" with almost blind conviction that times gone by were the best, and that change is only going to send their country and the entire human race careening in to a faithless, baseless, lawless society. Both those who were against Sapho and the wives of politicians in the 1980's swore up and down that they were doing "what was right" for the people, and were so determined to take the nation by the hand and lead it about like a child incapable of making rational decisions that they refused to see the other side of it, and in the end only furthered the cause of the very thing they were fighting against.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Sapho to Heavy Metal, 1900 to 1985 and not much as changed

by Gregory Vandelune - Monday, April 15, 2013, 3:24 PM

While you are entitled to your opinion about things, it would be more constructive and effective if facts were used more than personal distaste for political alignment. I believe that you object to the Parents Music Resource Center (PMRC) but I am unsure if it is because of censorship issues or an imagined "conservative" conspiracy. I disagree that labeling content of music based on the lyrical content is censorship any more than labeling movies based on content. I can only imagine the chagrin of any adult who gives an eight year old an album with lyrics graphically depicting masturbation or rape. It seems logical that people should have a glimpse of the content, especially if they are not fans of the genre. As for the sweeping generalizations about conservatives and your passing opinion as fact, I would suggest understanding the history of the PMRC. The spokesperson for that organization was the then wife of Democratic Senator and future Vice President Al Gore. Al Gore even testified before the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee regarding the issue .

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parents_Music_Resource_Center) Surely, Al Gore was not conservative. I am a politically conservative and I can say that do not look at anything with rose colored glasses. Perhaps, the issue at that time was parental rights to know what their children are purchasing over those of minor children to purchase music that graphically depicts drugs, sex, and violence.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Sapho to Heavy Metal, 1900 to 1985 and not much as changed

by Joseph Standridge - Monday, April 15, 2013, 11:42 PM

What I find to be a rather important point to me was your comparison of rating movies to the rating of music. The "glimpse" was rather narrow and uniformed. According to both my personal experience of them, and the wikipedia article on the Parental Advisory Logo (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parental_Advisory), or PAL for short, the stickers weren't too descriptive on what was included. The original sticker read "Explicit Lyrics" which is a rather broad label, and could encompass many different topics such as lyrics of a sexual nature, or words that were considered swear words. It was also determined by the PMRC, which made what was considered PAL worthy still a matter of old, established opinion. Later on the warning was changed to mostly "Explicit Content" (wiki) and "Parental Advisory" (wiki) which is still broad. If parents were to judge an album based off of the sticker, they are deeming it unworthy only knowing very little about the offending material. Censoring it based off little information.

This is in contrast to the MPAA movie rating system. We should all know the ratings of G, PG, PG-13, R, and NC17. (Source) Right away these are much more descriptive and offer a broader category of ratings. Perhaps some parents only want to let their kids see G movies while others are fine with PG. The MPAA goes beyond this to also include the descriptors of why a movie is rated such, like "Suggestive content" or "Strong Language". This is a far more accurate rating system, and you can better gauge what you are getting into. This way even if you do try to limit access to offending materials you can see what gave it the rating, and weigh your personal beliefs in on it more accurately. Some parents would find it more acceptable to have their kids see a violent scene rather than a sexual one, or vice versa.

To relate this all back to the topic at hand, I agree with Jennifer that the strict labels such as the PAL was what I would consider to be a conservative act. It bases content off the norms that had been established and groups many things as "questionable content" without properly identifying it due to the limited labeling. It's an older way of deciding things, in a sense "this wasn't acceptable before, it shouldn't be now, trust me." I would call that censorship, because it's labeling without representation. Sapho was criticized harshly for topics that today would qualify under a "PG-13" rating. With the passing of time, what is socially acceptable changes, and holding back on accepting it is just resisting change. I would argue it is for the worst, as it limits exposure to different ideas in music, but that's my more liberal opinion.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Sapho to Heavy Metal, 1900 to 1985 and not much as changed  

by Gregory Vandelune - Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 7:11 AM

Perhaps we should start at some form of agreement? I suppose that everyone can agree on the definition of censorship, if we take it from google: *The practice of officially examining books, movies, etc., and suppressing unacceptable parts.* The idea of the PMRC equating to censorship does not make sense to me.

The connection I drew between the MPAA ratings and the PAL did not say that they were equivalent. It was merely to say that they were comparable in nature. I would hate to digress into Greg's views on responsible parenting so I will leave it simply as it serves as a cautionary notice to parents to investigate further.

I would ask you and your "more liberal opinion" to consider this: what is the real harm in a label saying explicit lyrics? Is it violating a child's right to purchase music? We (America) regulate mainstream movies, pornography, tobacco, and alcohol for children. What is so appalling about giving a parent a warning to check out the music before a child listens to lyrics such as:

I was gonna make love to you but then I got high

I was gonna eat yo pussy too but then I got high

now I'm jacking off and I know why, yea heyy,

- Afroman

(<http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/afroman/becauseigothigh.html>)

I would prefer not hear a five year old singing that song, even though I own the album. Yes, the exposure to different forms of music is a good thing. That is not the argument. I think that children should be exposed to classical, jazz, blues, Motown, country, rap, etc. The individual song or album, however, could be too explicit for a child. I would not classify that as conservative but rather social morals. Is banning pornography from children passé? Maybe we should allow just pornographic stories because they are just words?

Personally, I am conservative but I do not support censorship. If there were a movement to suppress these songs, I would resist that. Advising parents that something might contain objectionable content is warning not suppression.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Sapho to Heavy Metal, 1900 to 1985 and not much as changed   



by Haley Shaw - Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 9:06 AM

In reading all of your ideas on the fact of censorship I do see where you are coming from. But look at the way that the cable networks censor the movies that they show on their channels. They change words, cut out parts that they find unfit that most people would be fine with thus basically changing the rating of the movie. Mainstream radio does the same this with the songs that they play. If you were to take the song "Thrift Shop" by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis a good 45 seconds or more is cut out for example the word "piss". You don't think of that as a "bad" word but the radio did so they cut it out.

For me the "explicit lyrics" sticker on CDs made me as a kid want it more so that I would be the cool kid on the block with the CD the other kids parents wouldn't let them have. In a way I think musicians fight for that sticker because I wasn't the only kid that thought that way.

It is different in the way that we rate movies and music. Just the fact that we get warnings in the beginning of a movie about what we are going to see. But for music it's just the sticker. I think if it wasn't a form of censorship they would tell you what "foul" language you where to expect from the purchasing of the CD.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Re: Sapho to Heavy Metal, 1900 to 1985 and not much as changed

by Gregory Vandelune - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 12:16 AM

I looked up the lyrics. I believe you might be mistaken. I have included the lyrics below and highlighted what I am assuming to be censored.

"Thrift Shop"
(feat. Wanz)

Hey, Macklemore! Can we go thrift shopping?

What, what, what, what... *[many times]*

Bada, badada, badada, bada... *[x9]*

[Hook:]

I'm gonna pop some tags
Only got twenty dollars in my pocket
I - I - I'm hunting, looking for a come-up
This is fucking awesome

[Verse 1:]

Nah, Walk up to the club like, "What up, I got a big cock!"
I'm so pumped about some shit from the thrift shop
Ice on the fringe, it's so damn frosty
That people like, "Damn! That's a cold ass honkey."
Rollin' in, hella deep, headin' to the mezzanine,
Dressed in all pink, 'cept my gator shoes, those are green
Draped in a leopard mink, girls standin' next to me
Probably shoulda washed this, smells like R. Kelly's sheets
(Piiisssssss)
But shit, it was ninety-nine cents! (Bag it)
Coppin' it, washin' it, 'bout to go and get some compliments
Passin' up on those moccasins someone else's been
walkin' in
But me and grungy fuckin it man
I am stuntin' and flossin' and
Savin' my money and I'm hella happy that's a bargain, bitch
I'ma take your grandpa's style, I'ma take your grandpa's
style,
No for real - ask your grandpa - can I have his hand-me-
downs? (Thank you)
Velour jumpsuit and some house slippers
Dookie brown leather jacket that I found diggin'
They had a broken keyboard, I bought a broken keyboard
I bought a skeet blanket, then I bought a kneeboard
Hello, hello, my ace man, my Mello
John Wayne ain't got nothing on my fringe game, hell no
I could take some Pro Wings, make them cool, sell those
The sneaker heads would be like "Aw, he got the Velcros"

[Hook x2]

[Verse 2:]

What you know about rockin' a wolf on your noggin?
What you knowin' about wearin' a fur fox skin?
I'm digging, I'm digging, I'm searching right through that
luggage
One man's trash, that's another man's come-up
Thank your granddad for donating that plaid button-up shirt
'Cause right now I'm up in her stuntin'
I'm at the Goodwill, you can find me in the (Uptons)
I'm not, I'm not sick of searchin' in that section (Uptons)

Your grammy, your aunty, your momma, your mammy
I'll take those flannel zebra jammies, second-hand, I rock
that motherfucker

The built-in onesie with the socks on that motherfucker
I hit the party and they stop in that motherfucker

They be like, "Oh, that Gucci - that's hella tight."

I'm like, "Yo - that's fifty dollars for a T-shirt."

Limited edition, let's do some simple addition

Fifty dollars for a T-shirt - that's just some ignorant bitch
(shit)

I call that getting swindled and pimped (shit)

I call that getting tricked by a business

That shirt's hella dough

And having the same one as six other people in this club is
a hella don't

Peep game, come take a look through my telescope

Tryna get girls from a brand? Man you hella won't

Man you hella won't

(Goodwill... poppin' tags... yeah!)

[Hook]

[Bridge:]

I wear your granddad's clothes

I look incredible

I'm in this big ass coat

From that thrift shop down the road

I wear your granddad's clothes (damn right)

I look incredible (now come on man)

I'm in this big ass coat (big ass coat)

From that thrift shop down the road (let's go)

[Hook]

Is that your grandma's coat?

(<http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/macklemore/thriftshop.html>)

There might be more but that was only a cursory
highlighting. These are censored by the FCC in
accordance with federal law.

(<http://www.justice.gov/criminal/ceos/citizensguide/citizensguide-indecency-and-profanity>). While I commend the two
gentlemen for their command of the English language, the
song is indecent and probably should not be played on the

radio for small children to hear.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Sapho to Heavy Metal, 1900 to 1985 and not much as changed

by Joseph Standridge - Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 9:36 AM

Upon googling the definition of censorship, this is what I found. The full definition of censorship I found was "*Censorship is the suppression of speech or other public communication which may be considered objectionable, harmful, sensitive, or inconvenient as determined by a government, media outlet, or other controlling body.*" (Source) The PMRC in this instant would be considered a controlling body which is determining what lyrics are harmful for the youth, while many others disagree. For example in the video Dee Snider wouldn't have put those labels on them, at least before he found out they boosted sales. I will admit fairly, that the PMRC does not directly censor songs. However, as I learned here, I think it's reasonable to draw a connection between them and a degree of censorship. It states that "Walmart is known for only selling edited albums. If no edited version of the album is available, Walmart will ask the artist to make one; if the artist refuses to make an edited version, Walmart will not carry the album" Just because of the little sticker, Wal-Mart will refuse to carry an album unless they clean it up.

I also should clarify, as I may have been slightly misleading with my prior post. I do not think warning parents is bad. However the way they are warning them isn't proper, and isn't too helpful. The category the label covers is simply too broad. I personally wouldn't want my kids listening to the song you just referenced either. However I don't agree with the fact those lyrics have the same warning as:

"We've got the right to choose and
There ain't no way we'll lose it
This is our life, this is our song
We'll fight a 1000 legions
Don't pick our destiny 'cause
You don't know us, you don't belong"

I have no problem with my kids listening to those lyrics, but the parental advising label isn't useful to me. Judging a song based

off the artist's reputation is more informative, in my personal opinion. According to here the label was a compromise between the two parties that were fighting over censoring the songs. If Walmart and other stores refused to sell the records due the sticker, I would consider that a form of suppression.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Sapho to Heavy Metal, 1900 to 1985 and not much as changed

by Gregory Vandelune - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 12:30 AM

While I enjoyed and agree with the portion of your post regarding the effectiveness of the advisory labels, I disagree with others. First, I do not believe that the PMRC was any more of a controlling body than the members of Ebenezer Baptist Church and others who followed the preaching and teaching of Martin Luther King, Jr. They both brought about change but had no control to make the change themselves.

The Walmart argument has less to do with censorship and more to do with the Walton family's right to provide products and services of their choosing. I have not been able to find a KKK costume their for Halloween but I have not heard anyone claim that to be censorship. For that matter, I can't seem to find challah bread in this town. I do not believe that reflects a level of anti-Semitism on the part of Eugene merchants. The customer base does have a demand for that particular product or the merchants do not wish to carry it.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Sapho to Heavy Metal, 1900 to 1985 and not much as changed

by Chazz Milner - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 11:37 PM

Yes I believe a sticker is not going overboard on the note of censorship. It gives the parent, who is the one who should have the censorship which they wish for their children under control themselves. This way it does not repress the rights of free speech the musicians, actors, and artists have but does give a warning and after that a person has the freedom to decide.

Maybe if the Mothers of the Parents' Music Resource Center were getting involved with their children and being an active involved family they wouldn't feel the need to try and react against the up and coming artists but rather work to get more communication between parents and children about the difference of living a responsible life and enjoying music as music.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Conservatism and Censorship

by William Jones - Thursday, April 18, 2013, 11:35 PM

I have seen this documentary a couple of times and other documentaries of the same nature. As a very loyal fan of heavy metal I believe in what the genre stands for, especially when pertaining to censorship. The article which aims to define what it means to be a conservative discusses conservative's tolerance for inequality. This trait is reflected in the battle between Dee Snider, heavy metal and the PMRC as well as other examples. Slayer's guitarist, Kerry King, once reflected upon the criticism he received for his lyrics in, "Angel of Death." The song deals with the horrors seen during the Holocaust and were deemed as disrespectful and out of line. He compares his lyrics to a history documentary. He's telling a story of what happened in history without his opinion permeating through the lyrics. He is not taking a side, but rather just stating what happened in detail. Heavy metal has always tackled that which society fears most. Many religious paintings depict scenes of violence, but are completely tolerated and unquestioned. Many examples from the Baroque period can be seen and are regarded as beautiful pieces of art, while heavy metal is stereotyped as brutish and dangerous. This clearly shows the conservatives' tolerance for inequality.

There intolerance of ambiguity can also be harmful. The article states that this characteristic can lead to premature conclusions including stereotypes and clichés. It can also lead to a refusal to leave the familiar. These qualities are on all fronts when regarding the censorship battle with the PMRC. They stereotype the music and its fans. They underestimate the power of the music and rather than being open and acknowledging its potential benefits, they condemn it as nothing but harmful.

I think censorship sends people down a slippery slope where there is no definite end. Censoring one thing causes a domino effect which can be hard to reverse. It restricts freedoms and shouldn't be tolerated. It restricts artists of all kinds and encapsulates their potential. They become stagnant and are confined by laws made by people who fear change and are unwilling to view anything new through an unbiased lens.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Re: Conservatism and Censorship

by Gregory Vandelune - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 1:43 AM

The idea of censorship restricting freedom has elements of truth but is very idealistic. The reality of civilization is that people in a society abide by certain standards of behavior whether simply understood or codified. What one person views as restricting freedom might be interpreted as indecent exposure, to say a minor. Do you see where I am going with this?

What one might consider artistic expression could in reality be Penthouse Letters or something else. Does that belong in a school or at a pediatrician's office? Certainly not! The issue lies in where a society, in this case American society, determines the tipping point to be. The Miller Test is the current litmus test for obscenity as determined by the Supreme Court in 1973.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miller_test) That court had five justices appointed by Democrats and four justices appointed by Republicans.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miller_v._California) Keep in mind, this was the same court that ruled in Roe v. Wade. This was a fairly liberal, open-minded collective.

While I believe that the image below is not art and is inflammatory to not only the majority of Americans but also people in general, this is protected via the Miller Test. Please bear in mind that the artist, Andres Serrano, received \$5,000 in federal grant money during the Reagan administration.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piss_Christ) I think that a representation of a religious figure floating in urine negates claims that "artists" will become stagnant and confined.



Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Conservatives like metal though?

by Jonathan Edwards - Friday, April 19, 2013, 12:19 AM

I find it this sort of strange. My brother in law was a product of the 80's. In fact, he never left the 80's, He's still there in his heart. Ironically though, he's a very conservative guy. Ironical that someone like him could like music so motivated (apparently, according to VH1) by sticking it to the conservative pigs. He's not unintelligent, so I may have to talk with him further on the disconnect between what he believes and the sentiments of these rockers that he enjoys so well.

Of course, there are the obvious smacks on Reagan, like "Bonzo Goes to Bitburg" by the Ramones, but mostly, from my inexperience with Metal, I found their attitude to be geared more toward the establishment itself, in a broader sense. I was a 90's kid though, and try to forget that the 80's ever happened.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Conservatives like metal though?

by William Jones - Friday, April 19, 2013, 10:30 PM

In my opinion, heavy metal is less geared towards "sticking it to the man" and more focused on messages of expressing oneself truthfully. The music naturally garners controversy. The genre's defense of its message, music and lyrics could suggest a defiant image however. You don't always need to agree or identify with the beliefs projected through music. I listen to all the various subgenres of heavy metal and don't agree with a lot of the messages and opinions they stand for. To me, the music rather than the lyrics are the focal point of the genre. Granted, there are definitely though provoking lyrics to be found, but the music is fueled through the instruments. Even if the genre is predominantly liberal, conservatives can still find something to enjoy. There are also conservative ideals embodied within heavy metal.

Punk as a whole was much more politically driven than metal. Although the genres share similarities, I'd say that punk incorporated much more politically heavy material. Both genres embodied the desire for change and went against the conservative tolerance for inequality. The genres themselves represent instances of inequality in the world. Punk as well as heavy metal artists are predominantly liberal.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Conservatives like metal though?

by Jennifer Smith - Friday, April 19, 2013, 10:31 PM



That's interesting that he's conservative while still being, in his heart, a rocker of the 80's. I'd be curious to see what he has to say on the matter, if you ever get around to asking him.

The majority attitude seems to be that, while not being obliquely anti-establishment, the tone often seems to hint at least dissatisfaction with the status quo and a desire to express one's self. However that said, there are some (just like in *any* life style, I think) that don't follow that path and are actually among the conservative bent. Take Ted Nugent for example. Wikipedia mentions '*staunch conservative political views, his strong advocacy of hunting and gun ownership rights, which some have described as controversial.*' I think he's a very interesting case for the other side of it, and an argument towards your brother in law's views.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Little Sticker=Big Sales

by Haley Shaw - Friday, April 19, 2013, 11:53 PM

With watching the video I agree with Dee that they did underestimate him and his way of speaking on the topic. Tipper Gore and the rest of PMRC didn't like that he was fighting back and with a good fight. At the end one of them even mentioned that heavy metal has and always will be underestimated. With them having to put the sticker on their albums they also won the battle because the sales of their music went up. This was the common occurrence that I see with the censorship of any material it just makes people want it more. They feel like a rebel when being the owner of such things. The most common I see are banned books there are clubs that spend their time finding and reading banned books. Why? Just cause they can.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Sapho and Heavy Metal, more tolerance in the public?

by Joseph Standridge - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 12:56 AM

The difference between the Sapho reaction and the strike against heavy metal was rather interesting. While it's obvious that both were subject to harsh criticism, the difference was there. Sapho, back in 1900, was not received well by the public. Many people that were a part of the production were arrested, and then the show was shut down. They were tried, but acquitted after a two day trial. (Source) While they were lucky that the charges were dropped, this was still an extreme reaction. For showing what was considered "indecent behavior" on something that is now shown

everywhere, quite a serious step was taken. For a play to have this kind of reception in today's world, it would be hard to imagine something that would offend us so much. Perhaps praising one of the countries we are currently at arms with? Or insulting our government/president to a extreme extent.

The heavy metal trial was different. It showed signs of progress in our country in my opinion. While the heavy metal was still attacked, it was done in a much calmer way. Instead of arresting the lead singers and attempting to stop the music from being distributed at all, they instead took them to court first. Both sides were given a fair chance and both sides were listened to. This was a rather reasonable way to handle the problem, even though the topic was something as touchy as the young generation. They reached a compromise in the end to put the warning label on the albums, which sort of benefited both sides. This was a more reasonable reaction than arresting, and putting the actress on trial before she got acquitted. It saved time and money for all parties involved. To me this showed more tolerance in the public of change. While change is often received with mix reviews to the general public, this seemed like a rather reasonable compromise and a promising precedent.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Sapho and Heavy Metal, more tolerance in the public?

by Karlee Andrew - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 3:23 PM

I lke what you have done here with comaring Sapho and the heavy metal trial. You made it very easy to notice the differences between the sapho trial and the heavy metal trial. Like you said, the heavy metalist had a compromising trial unlike sapho where she was arrested without even getting to say her side of the story; this definitley showed us how the publics tolerance had changed.

Its crazy thou how NOW people basically get rewarded for unmorality. They do something wrong or innapropate and they make the front page of every magazine and are the talk of the media. I feel like now its not much about freedom of speech but people rebeling olny to get publicity and attention from society.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Sapho and Heavy Metal, more tolerance in the public?

by Jennifer Smith - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 3:28 PM

Reading over this, I think I can reevaluate some of my previous statements and agree with you. The censorship trials against heavy metal were a much less extreme reaction, definately, and I find it interesting the way they choose to go about it. Granted this is just make take on it and anyone is more than welcome to take it with a grain of salt - I was only 1 when this was all going on after all.

Dee claimed 'they weren't ready for me' but if you look at his band versus many others, Twisted Sister could possibly be considered 'milder' than the rest of the heavy metal set. Of the 'Dirty 15' "We're Not Gonna Take It" was the only one of two listed for 'Violence' when all the rest we're given the label for sex, drugs, alcohol or even 'occult' dealings. Granted I've only heard a few of the others but seeing as We're Not Gonna Take It seemed more like an anthem for 'screw the norm, let us do things our way' than any sort of violent cry for teenage uprising it just doesn't seem *that bad*.

They had to put some one on the stand to represent all of heavy metal, and picking some one like Dee Snider to be the martyr in all of this was an interesting choice to say the least. Sure they were the housewives of politicians with "nothing better to do" but did they really just not do their research and pick one front man out of a hat, or did they actually *want* some one who could state their case clearly without being needlessly intimidating or vulgar? Was it a desire to show some sense of tolerance and progression while dealing with something as tricky and loaded as censorship or something else that brought some one like Dee to the stand?

I can't say I have any answers myself, but it does make me reevaluate some of the things I had considered earlier.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Sapho and Heavy Metal, more tolerance in the public?

by William Jones - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 8:43 PM

I agree with you that Twisted Sister is definitely 'milder' when compared to the other artists and songs on the Filthy Fifteen. The song was definitely a call for liberation and an anthem for a generation. The song truly was harmless and could be considered tame by today standards.

I disagree, however, that Tipper Gore and her supporters wished to give heavy metal a fair chance. I think they were anticipating and hoping for a trainwreck. The way they handled themselves during the trial and the way they expressed their closeminded views suggests that they barely did any research on Dee or the genre. I'm sure they were going off his appearance in the "We're Not Going To Take It" music video. As Dee said, they were severely underestimating him. His appearance on and off the stage garners outrageous conclusions in contemporary society. They clearly stereotyped him and his music and Dee used this to his advantage.

He entered the court in his denim vest, sunglasses and big hair. He pulled his speech, which was written on a piece of notebook paper, out of his back pocket and spoke. From the majority's view, the juxtaposition created by Dee was astonishing. From a glance, he appeared like any other

unintelligent, lowlife rocker, but when he spoke, he articulated his points elegantly and refuted every accusation thrown at him. He showed Tipper Gore and the people present throughout the trial that everything was not as it seems. He broke down preconceived notions which haunted heavy metal and its artists as well as its fans. Dee, himself, presented a challenge to the stereotypes which were so deeply engrained in the society of the time.

He and his supporters were the ones that displayed tolerance and progression. His work in establishing legitimacy for heavy metal was progress and represented his liberal views. It was a victory for heavy metal. but when applied universally, a victory for anyone who has ever been stereotyped. Tipper Gore and the PMRC ultimately just wanted to win. They wanted the world to stay the same and they feared that which was different. They feared that which challenged established ways.

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Re: Sapho and Heavy Metal, more tolerance in the public?



by Jennifer Smith - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 9:39 PM

I hope it doesn't seem too much like I'm flipflopping around on my opinion, but a lot of this is stuff I'm just now learning so I'm trying to take everything in to consideration. I can see your points, and I wasn't aware that he even came in with a speech written on notebook paper. This is certainly something I'd like to look in to more when I have time, because the more I learn the more interesting this piece of music history is becoming to me.

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Will Conservative Politicians Ever Learn?!?



by Chazz Milner - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 11:19 PM

The PMRC accomplished exactly the same outcome as the critics of Sapho did, which was exactly the opposite of what they were trying to accomplish. By attempting to limit the public's exposure to the new flashy and provocative material being produced that was so different from the values of the past there was an even greater backlash than there had been in the beginning. The narrators of *The History of Metal* stated that "when heavy metal pushes, the strong arm of the establishment pushes back." And then it seems that the masses of people who feel entitled to freedom of speech and press and rights given to us by "The Establishment" push back even harder. This reminds me of two five year old children fighting. The conservative reactionaries do not learn how to change their tactics on addressing issues they deem unacceptable which does not serve their purpose in a world where change is happening at a greater and greater pace every day. The article said that their

research showed that personal qualities of conservatives included intolerance of ambiguity which would explain the reason for the same continued reactionary resistance to radical action.

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Re: Will Conservative Politicians Ever Learn?!?

by Joseph Standridge - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 11:40 PM

Something to consider is that conservatives have a limited way of acting against what they dislike. When it comes to something like Sapho or Heavy Metal music, the best way they can oppose it is to take it to court. Seeing as it would be unreasonable for them to compete with heavy metal by trying to put out their own style of music, they can only attempt to place restrictions on it. Their hope was that by taking them to court they would be able to impose restrictions, as they are fighting in their home turf. However, in the heavy metal case the resistance ended up being rather impressive. I also don't believe that the population bought all the albums because it was pushing back at the establishment, but rather self interest generated after all the controversy.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Liberal's view of Conservatism

by Chazz Milner - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 11:49 PM

I think that the idea that only those who identify themselves as conservative could be the only ones to accurately evaluate the article is not necessarily true. Most people want to hear a well rounded argument and hearing the spectrum of opinions and evaluations of conservatives is vital in obtaining information. Also a lot of the ideals placed on conservatives are backed and supported by conservatives themselves.

The article gave examples of Hitler, Mussolini, and Ronald Reagan who all "preached a return to the old idealized past" and who all condoned inequality in some way. So maybe with a large enough range of opinions collected as research on a topic, the stereotypes could become the truth.

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