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# Music makes the man — so choose wisely

There's no doubt in most of our minds that America's music is as diverse as its people. American music has been on a constant evolution since its inception. In order to better understand the beginning of America's changes in music and where it stands today, it's important to look at the first historical incident concerning this topic.

The first documented song in America was "Hu-yah, Hu-yah," by the Natchez Indians in 1192 A.D. It was a popular song and everyone seemed to enjoy it, despite the fact that it literally translated into "Beware the goat."

Eventually, however, in the early 1200s, the song was quickly overtaken in the charts by a similarly sounding rap version entitled "Hu-yah, Hu-yah — Hell YEAHH!" As time passed, many styles of the song arose including the timeless Amish classic, "Hu-ye', Hu-ye'."

The diversification of American music had begun and continues in epic proportions to this day. According to a recent study, some Americans are so particular about their style of music that they listed funerals as the only time they would "consider" listening to something else.

Yet there are other Americans who enjoy all kinds of music and, especially when their girlfriends are yelling at them, will occasionally listen to them simultaneously.

But let us not forget those who don't know enough about contempo-

rary sounds to make the arduous decision of which music to buy. If you are one of those people, there's good news, for I have compiled a complete, yet brief guide to contemporary music. After browsing through each section, you will no doubt have a better idea of what styles of music best suit your taste. **COUNTRY AND WESTERN**

The origins of country music can be directly traced back to Ernest C. Bardeaux who invented yodeling after drinking moonshine and accidentally urinating on a water moccasin. The rest, as they say, is history.

A few years ago, country music was one of the fastest growing styles in America. Recently, however, country music's popularity declined once people discovered that the Billy Ray Cyrus Virus could be cured by placing your head in an oven and basting it with Tabasco sauce.

Many faithfuls still cling to the rich lore of country music. Traditionally, singers have been drunken outlaws, but recently, their reputations are beginning to change. For example, George Jones, who once drove a John Deere tractor to a bar because his wife hid his car keys, now enjoys the simple pleasures of life, such as knitting or riding a hobby horse in the nude. (Nobody ever said he stopped drinking.)

Generally, spotting a country and western fan is easy. The simplest way is to examine the bumper stickers on the back of their trucks. If they read either a) Follow me to (Insert your local whorehouse), or b) My buddy is Hank Larson: Bail bondsman, you can be relatively sure you're behind a country music fan.

**RAP**  
With the recent violent happenings in the rap industry, many experts predict a sharp rise in the sales of rap music. Rap, which is short for the Latin, "Reeti Alto Peele" (meaning, "My volume knob is broken") is unique in that it must be blared at enormous volumes. As a matter of fact, recent findings suggest that earthquakes are NOT the result of shifting tectonic plates beneath the earth's crust. Scientists now know that they are merely the result of three or more teen-agers in Los Angeles starting a Snoop Doggy Dogg CD at the same time.

Rap music offers a wide variety of lyrics for its fans, the most popular being: "BOOM, THUMP, BOOM, BA-BOOM, BOOM." To the untrained ear, this sounds like little more than an unethical taping of Elephants mating, but to the rap lover, it's poetry.

Like country fans, rap lovers are also easily identified by their vehicles. Typically their cars, as dictated by ancient rap law, can be no more than three nanometers from the ground and must have great difficulty going over speed bumps. If someone is seen conquering a speed bump without enlisting the aid of a jack-hammer, they are usually shot repeatedly. **IN FACT, AN UNBELIEVABLE 97 PERCENT OF ALL DRIVE-BY-SHOOTINGS ARE A DIRECT RESULT OF THIS LAW!**

So be careful, if rap is your thing. **ALTERNATIVE**

Perhaps one of the fastest growing styles of music is alternative. Artists such as Nirvana, Pearl Jam and Milli Vanilli have not only flooded American music stores, but have also

created a new breed of youth who lip-sync.

The new "grunge" look, which consists mainly of not showering for a period of seven months, was inspired by alternative music. This look was reportedly founded in Seattle during the early 1990s. (EDITOR'S NOTE: It should be noted that Steve's father in Mississippi is currently suing the state of Washington, claiming that he has been considered "legally grungy" since 1937.) Alternative music is a very deep and reflective music and often times serious underlying messages are coded within their lyrics. For example, few people know that Nirvana's song, "Smells like Teen Spirit" is actually a song about why people named LeRoy should never play Bingo.

It's hard to hear at first, but if you listen carefully after smoking 382 pounds of marijuana, it is quite evident.

There are other styles, such as jazz, heavy metal, and classical, that space does not permit me to discuss. I hope, however, I have addressed the more popular styles for college students.

Now that you are armed with knowledge, you should have no apprehension when purchasing your next CD. Remember though, the style of music you choose will ultimately dictate who you are as a person.

Now that I think about it, we're probably all better off whistling theme songs from Disney's "101 Dalmatians."

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# The Great Debate

