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HARDER

# Nauseous noise

## America's youth corrupted by the antics of band



“*They are not just a new band that is a cross between Nine Inch Nails and Kiss, but are a persona of the demoralization of America.*”

Kill your parents.  
Yeah, that's right.

Kill your parents is the wonderful phrase gracing the back of a Marilyn Manson T-shirt. Sounds like a nice, family-oriented rock group, right? On the contrary.

Marilyn Manson is a relatively new industrial group with painted faces and devilish themes that gives new meaning to the parental-advisory label. They are currently on a nationwide tour, causing family associations and politicians alike to try and cancel concerts and hide their children.

Their on-stage antics have involved such lovely attractions as multiple types of sexual immorality — not to mention inviting the lead singer's 11-year-old brother to come up naked.

They are not just a new band that is a cross between Nine Inch Nails and Kiss, but are a persona of the demoralization of America. They may have some things in common

with regular bands, but have more overriding major differences.

Many bands have peculiar names for themselves, albums and songs, but Manson has taken the witty art to a new level. If it is not bad enough that they are named after a notorious serial killer, then their album “Antichrist Superstar” might be a little hint that they are not exactly trying to fit into the Cleaver family.

And although “Scabs, Guns, and Peanut Butter” may be a very appropriate title for an Army survival video, I can't envision seeing those words on the Billboard Top 50 any time soon.

Music has obviously evolved into an outlet that is more than organized noise. Musicians and listeners regard it as a poetic artform with politically, socially and morally charged themes.

The majority of artists do not care if audiences agree with their views, and Manson (the lead singer of the band of the same name) is no different.

He said in a recent issue of Rolling Stone that “(his music) has been designed to speak to the people that understand it and to scare the people that don't.”

I will admit that I come frighteningly close to soiling myself every time I catch a glimpse of one of their videos, but I do understand what Manson believes in.

He wants people to be their own gods and to forget about political correctness.

I strongly disagree with his first claim. I do not think that the self-oriented views affiliated with the Church of Satan can in any way help our society to prosper. We need to act as one body and try to achieve appropriate moralistic goals on a societal level, not in an individualistic, anarchic scramble.

As for Manson's stance against political correctness, it is the one and only issue on which I halfway agree

with the singer. We all should be our own persons, while living collectively as a nation.

I wish people did not identify themselves as “African-American,” “Asian-American,” “Mexican-American” and “Sri Lankan-American,” but just American.

However, I have a feeling that Manson's “Kill Your Parents” line of thinking is a tad bit different than my one-culture philosophy.

So what, if anything, should be done about these anti-religious freak shows that are sweeping across the nation faster than the Tickle-Me-Elmo craze?

If you think that they are just a bunch of weird metal rockers that went a little too crazy with the makeup and insects on MTV — then do nothing.

But if it seems to you that they are adding tremendously to the corruption of our world — take action.

Hundreds of thousands of lost, little junior high kids are succumbing to Manson's rebellion philosophy and need help. Adolescents are especially looking for acceptance and easily find it in their own little, scary group of friends.

Just because Manson was severely disturbed as a child does not mean that he should help to pollute the already tainted young minds of America.

The impressionable young people of this country need to be encouraged by positive role models and learn from good examples — and that is exactly what we can do.

Regardless of the group's musical talent, its demoralizing nature is unacceptable. On one hand, I feel like an old man, whittling a piece of wood on my front porch yelling, “Darn punks and their rock ‘n’ roll music!” as the hoodlums drive past while butchering “Sweet Dreams,” but I have a feeling that really is not how it is.

“Antichrist superstars” like Marilyn Manson have every right to play their music freely, but the families of America have the duty to cling to the last bit of decency they have left and put these demonic idiots out of business.

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# The check's in the mail...

## University handling of financial aid inexcusable



“*I have no problem with the University receiving the money it deserves. After all, we are in fact purchasing a service from them. But for them to decide for students when and how to pay for that service seems almost unconstitutional.*”

On paper, my relationship with this University seems normal enough. I pay tuition, employ meter-maids with my reckless disregard for designated lots and visit the lawyers at student legal services weekly.

But recently the “powers that be” at UNL have gotten me, as they say in the Vatican, “a little pissed, awfully.”

I'm alluding to the semi-new centralized billing system UNL implemented in the fall of 1996. It was supposedly designed to make students' lives a little easier.

Unfortunately, it's anything but.

Any student who receives a loan check is probably already painfully familiar with this new system. But for those of you who are not, here's roughly how the system works:

YOUR loan check, issued by YOUR bank and which YOU will have to repay, is sent first and foremost to the University. The University then proceeds to use

YOUR loan check to pay off everything from tuition to any parking fines incurred, and probably, your pro-rated portion of the campus electric bill. Then, what's left of YOUR money — if any — is funneled to you in the form of a state treasury check.

At this point, you are probably deeply offended by this new system. As a matter of fact, I wouldn't be more offended if Clinton and Gingrich called me unethical.

Does the university honestly believe that students are incapable of managing money and paying our bills? Most of us have been successfully doing this for years, yet the institution feels as if it's the only one who knows how to spend our money properly.

And to compound this pompous attitude from the University, this “easier” system has proven to be a much larger pain-in-the-ass than the old one. Myself, along with countless other students, have either received

our checks late or have yet to receive them at all.

My check this year didn't arrive until five days after the semester began. With numerous tasks assigned on Monday, I was forced to do what we po' students refer to as “float a check.” The skill of floating checks, however, is dependent on having an eventual income and with the university still digesting my loan check, I had no idea when that income would arrive.

If it wasn't for the Nebraska Bookstore's desire to work with me and remedy the situation, I would probably still be in financial peril.

I have no problem with the University receiving the money it deserves. After all, we are purchasing a service from them. But for them to decide for students when and how to pay for that service seems almost unconstitutional.

Like so many other UNL students who put themselves through college, my loan check is the sole life-

preserver in a churning sea of escalating tuition fees and school-book prices. It is often our only refuge and we don't want it screwed with.

I wonder what kind of fight our student government offered when this new system was proposed. I'd bet it wasn't too much. But I can see why they wouldn't want to rock the boat and jeopardize their numerous benefits, namely free-parking, unlimited Moon-Pies and some great letters of recommendation from some very influential University officials.

Ever since I started college in 1992, the University has made it distressingly clear that they are running a business. You need to look no further than the loss of student football seats to higher bidders to realize this fact.

And if it's true that UNL is indeed a business, why is it the only one in America that can be successful while ignoring its customers' needs and desires?

If the administration wants OUR college to be a business, then it should act like one.

If customers — students in this case — don't pay a bill, the University should refuse registration and send their bills to a collection agency. Don't punish all of the customers for the misdeeds of a few.

But the bottom line is simple: There is nothing any University official can say that would convince me — and all of my glorious fatness — that MY loan check belongs in THEIR hands first.

The University will be quick to point out that students can request (in writing) that their loan check go only to tuition and housing, a bend-over-backwards attempt at reaching middle ground. I don't buy it. The real problem, in my humble opinion, remains unaddressed.

I would like to think that I'm not alone in my annoyance towards the University. If I am, however, I'd like to say that I was just joking about the whole thing.

But if there's one dude out there that feels just a fraction like me, then this column is worthy of discussion.

More importantly, however, it is demanding of attention from the “powers that be.”

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