
The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 08-05-2008 17:37

They're at it again...

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Re:The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by Pan Tau - 08-05-2008 18:00

Well researched stuff. "Although you're dead and gone, believe me your memory will go on" seems to be clinching the argument that MCR cause suicide. There is no possible alternative interpretation.

In the meantime, I'll start a campaign to blame Terry Jacks for causing suicides among middle-aged people. "Seasons In The Sun" is obviously a suicide note.

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Re:The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 08-05-2008 18:04

Is your child an 'Emo'? Use the Daily Mail's handy cut out and keep guide to find out!

Emo fans wear dark clothes, practise self-harm and listen to "suicide cult" rock bands.

The Emo phenomenon began in the U.S. in the 1980s. It is a largely teenage trend and is characterised by depression, self-injury and suicide.

Followers wear tight jeans with studded belts and wristbands. Their hair is dyed black and worn in long fringes to obscure their faces.

If your child does not fit this description, congratulations. You can return to ignoring them and obsessing about house prices and immigrants.

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Re:The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by Mighty Mudhsuden - 08-05-2008 19:21

Are Panic! At The Disco emo? I like them. Maybe I should tell my mum and dad.

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Re:The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by Taylor - 08-05-2008 20:14

The comments section of that article might surprise a few Mail writers who think their readers will swallow absolutely any old crap. Magnetic bracelets that cure leukemia? Sure. Shitty moping rock music causes suicide in 13 year olds? Getoutofhere.

Having said that, it must be terrible music to listen to if you're genuinely suicidal. I always thought that about Joy Division as well, and the Manics to some extent. Good catharsis if you're just wallowing for a while, and great if you're coping kind-of-OK at the moment, and you need to come to terms with the shit feelings in order to move on, or work something out. Better still as self-expression for the people making the music, listened to in that context. But if I'm really, dangerously low, I'm fucked if I'm going to listen to the most depressing music I can think of... OK, you don't want to stick on "Surfin' USA" or something, but there's plenty of music which acknowledges how shit the world can be and, crucially, meets it head on. Stooges, The Fall, Velvet Underground, loads of rap, loads of metal, even "John Lennon / Plastic Ono Band", which is a horribly self-pitying album, but has a sort of determination and grit about it. All of these also have the advantage of being several thousand times better than any old Emo bollocks. I made my own mistakes with this when I was younger, listening to too many dirges when I shouldn't have, and I'm still faintly bitter - certainly don't think it did me any good, even at the time, and I wasn't even interested in the "fashion" side of it, either. It was never cathartic, in all

honesty, it just made me worse. Christ knows what it must be like now, in an even more hostile and alienating world, when you add the legitimising influence of peer pressure, and the fashion imperative.

I'd just hate to get rich by encouraging middle class kids to mope, like that My Chemical Romance bloke (and it always is middle class kids, you don't catch kids off the estates listening to that shit and taking it seriously, because their peers won't tolerate it and the environment doesn't indulge it... and there's something good about that). Not that Mr Chem-Rom should feel any personal responsibility for this horrible story here, of course, but even though he's not killing these kids off, he is encouraging them to utterly waste their youth and priming them very badly for the day when they actually have some real fucking problems to worry about. Seems like exploitation to me. At least there was something vaguely artistic about Joy Div and all that lot.

Worse still, the 13 year olds who aren't killing themselves are shuffling off to doctors, who are happily prescribing them potent brain medication at an extremely vulnerable age. You've got a portion of the audience who aren't depressed but start acting like they are, and a portion who are genuinely depressed and proceed to get worse. Whole thing is a disaster, really. Bands can do what they want, you know, but personally I'd be pretty uncomfortable if I was making a living out of this.

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Re:The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by dgih - 08-05-2008 22:27

This is pretty close to the whole Judas Priest thing from the other thread, isn't it. Distressing that the Daily Mail think they can push such nonsense.

Her dad is a bit stupid. I don't think many parents would be convinced that slitting your wrists was the way to become some part of a fashion. Crazy.

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Re:The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by EIM - 08-05-2008 22:38

"and is characterised by depression, self-injury and suicide."

Christ. He's taken Rod Hull's death badly, then.

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Re:The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 08-05-2008 23:10

Brilliant!

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Re:The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by evilC - 09-05-2008 08:48

Mighty Mudhsuden wrote:

Are Panic! At The Disco emo? I like them. Maybe I should tell my mum and dad.

Don't bother. They wouldn't understand anyway.

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Re:The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 09-05-2008 12:10

The Black Parade is a nickname for the place where Emo fans believe they will go when they die. Is Emo a religion then?

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Re: The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by Nishlord - 10-05-2008 11:34

The Emo phenomenon began in the U.S. in the 1980s. It is a largely teenage trend

Shit! You mean I've grown this fringe out for nothing?

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Re: The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by King Mob - 10-05-2008 21:56

Oh well, as long as we're all unhappy bubbles of anal wind popping and winking in the mortal bath, then of course there's no problem.

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Re: The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by King Mob - 10-05-2008 22:04

Is there any evidence to suggest that suicidal cases are more likely to listen to 'cheerful' music, in an attempt to snap out of it, rather than wallow in their own despair?

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Re: The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by jason voorhees - 11-05-2008 03:54

No love or respect for Panic! at the Shitsco, but massive respect and love for My Chem Romance.

Maybe something gets lost in translation overseas, but they're Jersey boys through and through and I can guarantee Taylor that not one ounce of cynicism or exploitation is in their act.

The singer's from Belleville, a really rough little shitnugget of a town outside of Newark. He grew up in the shadow of Morrissey, The Cure, Echo & The Bunnymen, etc. He's like any of the kids in drama club growing up, dressed in black and lurking in the shadows of class - not laughing at the lame jokes made by the lame jocks and cheerleaders.

Now in Jersey, there were pockets of whiteboys in every middleclass-wealthy town during the 80s that would dress in black, watch Jim Jarmusch films and write poetry in graveyards while listening to Joy Division.

The thing is they were all wiped out. Poof. Pfft. Gone. Just Like That. Was it grunge? Was it techno? Was it video games? Was it Britney Spears? Who knows, everyone just disappeared during the 90s.

Just as burnouts and metal-heads and the trailerparks were lost to hiphop, their polar opposite goths (said name for poetry-reciting Joy Division-listening kids) were sacrificed to...no one. They simply ceased to exist.

So this kid is stuck in his basement for the entire 90s, trying to be a comic book artist. He goes to SVA, he draws all day and night in his basement, year after year. Then 9/11 happens in 2001, and he decides he wants to be a singer.

Only he was the last of the goths, stuck in suspended animation, and the only music he knows was the good shit he listened to in the 80s. He is so driven, that he releases all of his music for free in an effort to see if any of the goths who disappeared were also hibernating.

And then...the Goth signal went up in the sky, but goths now meant those Columbine idiots who took Christian Slater's character in Heathers in the wrong way, so everyone decides that all of these kids have to be called a name.

My point to all of this is that Gerald Way is real as real can get. He's the kids I went to school with. Just like N.E.R.D.s In Search Of was the quisesential music of lower-middle-class kids who grew up in projects next to trailer parks, My Chemical Romance is the quisesential music of white kids who wanted something deeper, something more meaningful, something that spoke to them being excluded from the football team and the in crowd. They're as authentic as it gets.

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Re:The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by Pan Tau - 11-05-2008 10:13

Excellent post, jv.

I can't see how MCR can be lumped together with all these other "feel-my-pain" assholes (those cunts who wallow in the fungus of Fred Durst's putrid footsteps).

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Re:The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 11-05-2008 19:40

I've got a lot more time for MCR than for most of the other emo bands. Partly for the reasons JV expresses above, and partly because there's a certain self-reflexive wit and awareness about them. And because they know how to write a cracking pop tune. (And also because I've got one of their gold discs hanging above my toilet.)

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Re:The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by Hofzinser - 12-05-2008 12:30

Oh well, as long as we're all unhappy bubbles of anal wind popping and winking in the mortal bath, then of course there's no problem.

You can't beat a bit of Derek Bowie.

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Re:The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by Eggchaser - 12-05-2008 13:40

Spearmint Rhino wrote:

And also because I've got one of their gold discs hanging above my toilet.

A novel update on the sword of Damocles.

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Re:The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by tigerbomb - 13-05-2008 13:50

The kids from the estates round here still seem to exclusively listen to happy hardcore (or whatever - it seems to be much the same as it was 10 years ago) but then I grew up on a council estate (mum cleaner, dad unemployed - mostly) and spent my teenage years listening to The Smiths and the Sisters of Mercy (and they feyer mid-80s versions of goth). As did all my mates.

The handful of middle class kids liked Dire Straits and Bryan Adams (if they liked music at all) and the more football-oriented kids liked U2 and Big Country.

I think everyone else liked AC/DC and Maiden.

Maybe that was just a Scottish thing, tho'.

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Re:The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by The Prodigal - 13-05-2008 17:03

Most of the tastes you mention would have been much the same in the English provinces. Happy hardcore is a particularly Scottish thing, though (although it has always had outposts in provincial England - the one place where absolutely nobody listens to it is London).

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Re:The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by dglh - 15-05-2008 15:31

Oh My. The Mail is really working this one. Sinister Cult?

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Re:The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by Pretend Best Friend - 15-05-2008 15:49

I very much enjoyed MCR getting the entire Reading Festival crowd chanting "FUCK THE DAILY MAIL"

I don't think anyone can say that enough

Fuck the Daily Mail

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Re:The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by evilC - 15-05-2008 15:55

dglh wrote:

Oh My. The Mail is really working this one. Sinister Cult?

Hmmm... the sinister cult of your children doing something you don't approve of! Yep - that's a new one, isn't it?

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Re:The Daily Mail vs Emo, part 2

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 15-05-2008 16:55

Perhaps I'm listening to the wrong songs, but from what I've heard MCR are just shit. I don't know if they're real goths or fake goths or whatever. I don't care. I just think their music is really boring tuneless cacophany.

I always thought that about Joy Division as well, and the Manics to some extent. Good catharsis if you're just wallowing for a while, and great if you're coping kind-of-OK at the moment, and you need to come to terms with the shit feelings in order to move on, or work something out. Better still as self-expression for the people making the music, listened to in that context. But if I'm really, dangerously low, I'm fucked if I'm going to listen to the most depressing music I can think of... OK, you don't want to stick on "Surfin' USA" or something, but there's plenty of music which acknowledges how shit the world can be and, crucially, meets it head on.

I find that to be the case. When I've been really, really, really down, my music of choice has been Flogging Molly. They make a wonderful racket. As with a lot of stuff in the Irish-American tradition, it's about getting up after getting knocked down (over and over).

Joy Division is ideal me because of my rampant anxiety. The simplicity of it seems to calm my nerves.

