

departed with his snivelling anteater still intact. If I had been in their boots, I would have administered a swift right Doc to the bollocks. You dickheads certainly intended to have a good time all right, but at the expense of everyone else. If there's any apologies to be rendered, then it should be forthcoming from you and your conformist shiteheads.

Personally, I think South Island band No Idea hit the nail on the head when they sung: 'Rugger bugger, bloody tigger, with the boys.'

Rugger bugger, bugger, bugger off!  
**Scott, Mount Maunganui.**

#### Remembering Kurt

I think people who write in to say to try to forget Kurt Cobain are fucked in the head. Just 'cause he is dead, doesn't mean he is forgotten, or his music has lost its meaning. When you fucked up cunts die, I hope no one remembers your sorry little asses.

I'd also like to say, is it just me, or have all the decent alternative or heavy metal lovers been blown away by a giant hip-hop fart? Why do we have to buy the CDs if we want to listen to our choice in music? We need to get a decent alternative radio station.

**Kim, Auckland.**

#### Definition of Music

Thank the lord of the letters page for those Slagger Slags who slagged the slaggings with slag. Hopefully, this will put an end to letters to *RIU* by closed minded musical hermits, piling shit on top of styles and bands they don't understand. There is no such thing as good or bad music. 'Music' is just a name for a collection of sounds with some sort of order put to them by human hand.

Everything, from the tortured soul ramblings of an old bluesman with only a guitar or harp, to pretty a capella, to Dame Kiri's vocal beauty, or good old Mozart's masterly arrangements, right through Elvis, Hendrix, Zappa, the Stones, the Ramones, Cypress Hill, U2, Björk, Nirvana, and PJ Harvey, to demented death metalheads or the sonic fury of Big Al's industrial... is only music. There is no good or bad, there is only music you like listening to and music you don't like listening to, purely depending on your own taste (which can be dictated to some by whatever's the current cool, as much as true personal taste, but that's all part of the equation).

Here's the great, throbbing red point my prattling on has lead to: Everyone is an individual and has the right to enjoy whatever style or styles of music they want.

Music isn't made to be hated man. You'll enjoy the whole world a lot more if you concentrate on the good vibes from music because, when you really think about it, ain't we lucky it exists? Try to imagine the world without it.

**Fatted Lamb Taking Control of the Wheel, South Auckland.**

PS: I sure hope someone gets what I'm on about, 'cause I've never made so much sense to me in my life.

PPS: May Shihad, Jan, Dave Dobbyn and Bailter Space one day rule the world.

#### Up the Underground

Dear Ed,

First of all, I must commend you and your staff for such a great magazine. Every month I wait avidly to receive 'the musical bible' of New Zealand.

I do, however, have one gripe. It seems to me the only bands in New Zealand are the Nixons, Pumpkinhead, Thorazine Shuffle and Dead Flowers. Don't get me wrong, these bands are good, but don't you think they've really had enough coverage from your magazine?

I'm just waiting for *RipItUp's* version of *Rolling Stone's* [book of] rock writing (which may not be a bad idea).

Recently, I came back from a tour of the States [where I] saw a lot of live music. I must say, not much is happening in the 'scene' (punk's not dead, again, heavy metal is grunge, and thank god country doesn't exist outside the Mid West). Two days back in Godzone, I saw Gardenshed and Slab at Squid. Both bands would really make an impact over there. Before I left, I realised there is a more underground scene happening that needs to be discovered.

All these bands playing at community halls to young kids really go off. This is where rock 'n' roll really starts. So, come on *RIU*, let's see some of the smaller bands who get 400 kids at these gigs [get] some recognition. Bands like Doggy, Gardenshed, Shaft and Nothing At All are all brilliant and deserve some ears to listen to them.

Thanks for your ink, your time, and your great input to the music scene.

**Racheal S, Takapuna.**

PS: John Russell, thank you for the excellent records I have acquired from your reviews.

PPS: Do I win the five pounds?

#### Peer Fear

I really like reading the *RIU* letters page each month, because it is so very funny hearing from all these amoeba firing insults at someone from the previous month.

'Silverchair are dumb, I hate them,' says one.

'Fuck you, you fuckin' bloody cunt, Silverchair are cool!' screams another.

'I fuckin' well hate Pearl Jam! Fuck, fuck, fuck,' etc., spews someone else.

Where will it all end? (Don't answer that.) I sincerely do hope old Merley Girly-Friend-of-Fuckhead-Homeboys speaks her all too stupid mind in the near future, so I can have a jolly big ol' chuckle at all the letters every man and his goat will write back denouncing her.

I think the thing all us weirdos, punks and freaks (this does not include all you grunge kiddie, teeny bopper cum stains who loved Boys II Men so much all those weeks ago) have to worry about is the amount of inbred, redneck rugbyheads and fuckhead, wannabe gangsta homeboys who seem to be writing in to *RIU* these days. It's pretty scary.

**Harry the Bastard, Manawatu.**

PS: Somebody persuade Lauren of Hawkes Bay that suicide is cool. It would work, as she has swallowed Silverchair.

PPS: Isn't *The Trip* compilation a big piece of corporate toilet scum?

PPPS: Kurt Cobain is alive and well and lives in the Manawatu! Really truly!

#### Message From an Ivory Tower

I hate to do it, but I am writing to beat a dead horse, in defence of all the Pearl Jam 'slaggers' (nice word by the way) being slagged.

Through the decades past, we have started to evolve into indefinable cliques or groups. For example, things like punk culture are not minorities anymore. In fact, they are quite the opposite. You see 12 year olds stalking the streets wearing Offspring T-shirts. Offspring is labelled as a punk group nowadays. You can be called a punk and not even experiment with chemicals, or break laws, or wear leather.

We are called Generation X. In this wondrous age, we have all started to learn to stand on our own feet and not rely on others

for direction. Hence, the amnesty of not having to live up to ideals linked to appealing past times.

I can now lead to where all this hatred for Pearl Jam (and their contemporaries) comes from. With this newfound freedom, we look down with repulsion upon the advertisements that tell us to look out for the next 'hit sensation' or 'grunge album of the year'. If you listen to the advertisements, you are falling to an oppressor or dictator. *You are being told what to do.* Frankly, there is not a teenager on this planet who wants to be told what to do. Anyone who listens to these groups (Pearl Jam etc.) is viewed as not thinking for themselves. You could have quite innocently started listening to a band unaware of all the hype they were getting. Just because you are listening to it automatically qualifies you as falling to the enticement of advertisement.

If you listen to Pearl Jam, you will be pulling against the rest of the donkeys, or threatening the very concept that teenagers don't need people to tell them what to do — which we don't. So, if you cop shit over listening to music, it is your own fault. We teenagers are in ivory towers, bitter and self centred. Live with it.

**FILTH, aka Bevan Kay.**

#### So What?

When reading the last issue of *RipItUp*, I was very impressed with some the letters about music taste and Silverchair. Personally, I can't stand Silverchair, but that's my business. Who else gives a shit? Also, I'm very tired of people who don't like Silverchair trying to put fans off, and people who do like Silverchair trying to make others like them. Everyone has their own taste. Who cares what other people like? Unless it effects your life in some major way, don't worry.

Also, I think Pearl Jam set an excellent example. Most of their songs have a message. They're not into drugs (I think), they aren't into crime, and they are prepared to stand up for what they believe in. But that's just my view. Why should anyone else care, and why should I care about what they think?

Just one more thing — to all you little teeny boppers out there — like what you like, not what's cool. Who gives a shit if you still like Kylie Minogue? You may not end up with many friends, but that's their problem, not yours.

**EV 4 Eva, Wellington.**

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