

# Transition continues



**JUANITA DRISCOLL**  
Columnist

Transition to WSU continues.

Being one of the few Black women who work for The Daily Evergreen is difficult.

You have the desire to excel in order to nurture, and you experience the added burden of pressure

for your community. Prior to my WSU experience the two elements were easily balanced.

This reporter decided to embark on a quest for journalistic success to give African Americans a positive voice in the world at large. She wanted to give the media a complete picture of her people. She wanted to make the world feel the strength of her community.

Now the picture is changed. My kindness has been mistaken for weakness.

A couple of weeks ago the dream ended. The awakening started innocently enough.

A concerned bald-headed Black man gave me some words of advice. He said the Black community will always judge this reporter more harshly than other reporters.

He also hinted that if total compliance with the community's whims was not given he would stop speaking to me. The issue was clear.

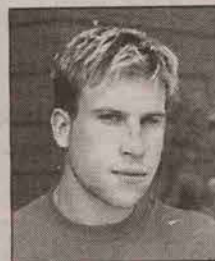
He wanted a pawn. He wanted someone who would be a tool for his propaganda. Words were exchanged. His pathetic attempt to manipulate loyalty was squashed. Strike one.

After the Fekadu Kiros controversy, another bald-headed Black man shared his perspective on the subject.

While screaming in my ear he said Kiros deserved what she got. He said she never represented his con-

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# Rock is dead



**DOUG GRZMACHER**  
Columnist

In 1955, Bill Haley was a major catalyst in provoking rock 'n' roll music's explosion onto the pop charts.

In his hit song of that year, Haley's lyrics reflected the success the new genre would enjoy when he sang "We're going to rock around the clock tonight/We're going to rock, rock, rock 'til broad daylight."

The legions of people who have been "rockin' around the clock" to rock 'n' roll ever since have helped keep rock a mainstay on the pop charts for the last 40 years. No other form of music — not jazz, not R&B — has enjoyed that much success for so long a time.

However, recent trends in pop music indicate that rock's success is coming to an end. Dawn, it seems, has finally approached on rock 'n' roll's 40-year-long, all-night party.

According to recent trends in the music industry, the first rays of light from a rising sun appeared in the night sky in 1990, the first year since the early '60s that not a single rock album charted No. 1 as reported by Billboard magazine. Two years later the Nirvana-inspired alternative rock wave ushered rock back on the charts as a prominent fixture, effectively silencing all rumors that rock was dead.

But grunge did not delay the sunrise for long. Alternative rock grew too commercial for its own good. Consequently, the market is now flooded with bands that fail to distinguish themselves, doing more to imitate than to create.

Rock boomed in 1992 because

bands such as Nirvana and Pearl Jam had a raw, unpolished sound that, after a decade of cheesy synth-rock, listeners thirsted for. Five years later, after new albums released in 1996 by firmly established rock acts R.E.M. and Pearl Jam failed to live up to projected numbers, there is no question that the raw sound has spoiled from being left out in the mainstream sun too long.

Rock fans and critics will argue that rock music will boom again, using a musical Darwinism theory to explain that it is just a matter of time until another revolutionary-sounding band such as Nirvana comes along and blows the doors off pop music to spark a resurgence in rock. It's a valid theory, until one realizes that Nirvana was never a revolutionary band and rock music hasn't evolved since the late '60s.

Every boom in rock music since the days of hippie lore has simply been a regurgitation of past styles. Late '70s punk-rock, a genre including The Sex Pistols and The Ramones, was simply a recycling of sounds from '60s garage rock

acts such as The Sonics, and surf bands such as The Ventures.

Heavy metal cashed out of the '80s with big dollars by combining glam-rock of the '70s with the grit of Led Zeppelin. Even less original is grunge, which has made its mark by repackaging '70s punk for a '90s audience. The evidence may be painful, but it appears as if rock 'n' roll has not come up with a new concept in 30 years.

It doesn't help that rock 'n' roll music itself was never a new concept to begin with. Rock 'n' roll has enjoyed 40 years of success by ripping off Black musicians. The practice first began during the jazz age, when White jazz-band leaders such as Benny Goodman used black jazz-band leaders and arrangers such as Fletcher Henderson and Don Redmond to launch themselves into the consciousness of the White mainstream audience. Rock's conscience

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## Recent trends in pop music indicate that rock's success is coming to an end.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Everybody wants to be naked and famous."

— Presidents of the United States of America

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# Thanks for attending speech

Editor:

Greg Louganis received three standing ovations from more than two thousand spectators during his address to campus in Beasley Coliseum on Oct. 8.

People drove from as far away as Seattle and Boise to see the Olympic medalist.

More than 30 agencies, departments and individuals contributed money and time to help make it possible.

On behalf of the Sexual Information and Referral Center, Cougars Encouraging Alcohol Knowledge and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Allies Program, thank you to the WSU community for helping make this a successful and exciting event.

Kiantha Shadduck,  
Student Coordinator  
and  
Melynda Huskey,  
GLBA Director