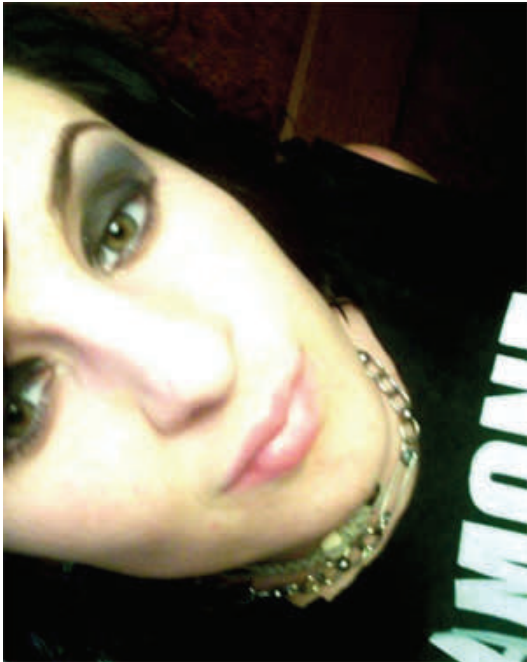


Big Scary Word

Everyone has probably said this word, or at least heard it, especially if you are into any music scene. A lot of people argue about what its definition is, and how to put a label on it. Many people hate the word, and more than that, love to use it. Therefore you can't deny that you have never heard "Look at that fuckin POSER!!"



This word in particular is very important to me, for multiple reasons. A lot of people just throw it around which can be amusing to an extent I suppose but there are things you should know.

Rule number one: do not call someone else a poser, if YOU are a poser. Don't waltz into a show and stand in the back with your hands in your pockets wearing three belts, and that new one hundred dollar famous outfit your mommy just ordered you, and then try to call the kids in the pit with torn clothes, and sweaty hair posers. Don't brag about how much weed you smoked last night and how wasted you were (being a hardcore fourteen year old and all, not that drugs make you cool) and then call the guy who says "party at my place, after the bands!" a poser. But most of all, do not wear shirts with punk bands you have never even listened to, but bought anyways because you saw their name on somebody's Myspace who IS cool, and then turn around and call that kid a poser, because they don't own the shirt, but could whip your ass in naming every song that band has ever played, when they played it, and where.

Rule number two: wearing black, dying your hair all the colors of the rainbow, and listening to Chiodos and Paramore, that does not make you punk rock, that does not make you a hard-ass, and that does not make you cool. First, those types of bands, well, my great grandma is probably more punk, hardcore, or whatever else, than they could ever hope to be, and she walked with a limp, and is dead. So next time you walk into high school blubbering about how much you just 'LUV Panic at the disco! 4eva and eva', your little scene kid buddies might think you're cool, but me, I'd beat your chubby emo butt any day of the week.

Decking out your Myspace in skulls and cross bones, and being able to name one Ramones song, that proves nothing either. I understand everyone gets into what they like through different ways, but give me a break. Also on an important side note; guys, you may be able to draw in all the little emo girls when you want with your tight clothes, hair that's cut like a females, and ability to go from 'Bi' to straight in a matter of seconds, but the real chicks, the punk chicks, the hardcore chicks, they'll just laugh at you, and then, and make fun of how small your package is through your pants, yeah, do everyone a favor, go a little farther into puberty before you wear those, thanks. These things make you something in the world of music, that doesn't involve crying and lyrics about slitting your wrists, and people who don't wear sweat shirts in the dead heat of summer for no apparent reason, call a "Scene Kid" and that in my opinion, isn't something you should go out bragging about or be proud of calling yourself, because its pretty much just another term for being a poser. Punk rock, hardcore, or any other genre has never been about making some sort of fashion statement, so stop trying to turn it into one, your killing what the music is really about.

Rule number three: Music is really important to some people. For some it is a means of expression or thoughts among many other things. For others it's something that you immerse yourself into and base things in your life off of. Or maybe it's both, or neither, or a continuation of many things in-between. Basically, for some it's a way of life. Obviously, using any amount of intelligence would lead you to conclude that when you just wake up one day and decide that you are going to try to make

yourself popular, unique, or different by chumming with the local punks/hardcore/SXE kids ect..ect.. so that you can copy everything they say, later using it to impress someone, it quickly becomes infuriating. Most of these types of music talked about on this site, and that I am referring to were derived up to let out anger, emotions, and opinions. Shows used to be about letting go, having a blast, and just enjoying the music. But now people, such as the fore mentioned, are turning it into a popularity contest, fashion statement, and a competition of who will be seen out at the shows (Hence "Scene kid"). People who actually love the music, and just want what was originally intended for it, and its fans, well, all we want is our scene back, and for things to just be about the music, not the image, that's it, its really just that simple.

I'm not trying to preach, insult (well okay maybe a little) or hate, but just explain. I can get hate mail for this, I really don't care, it is very important and needs to be addressed. Because really, music was never about you, or your reputation. Those punk bands, they didn't write the lyrics that make people think so Hot Topic could sell you that Fall Out Boy shirt, and they don't play mind blowing shows full of passion and intensity so you could be inspired to stand still in the back.

In conclusion, for once, let go of your image, its not that important, at the next show you go to, have an awesome time, let loose. The next CD you decide to pop in your car, sing the lyrics back to the band. Always remember the next time you like a band, don't do it because of how it might make you look, do it because that's what you like. Fads change frequently and without thought, but passion, passion holds strong till the end.

--Merri Collins