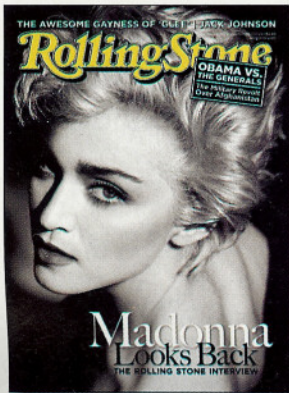


Correspondence

{ Love Letters & Advice }



Material Girl

CONGRATS TO AUSTIN Scaggs on a job well done with "Madonna Looks Back" [RS 1090]. Every interview I have read with Madonna is rehashed shit, but yours was insightful and thought-provoking. I actually learned something about someone who has been a ubiquitous pop star for 25 years.

S. Scott Ploen, Seattle

THE MADONNA INTERVIEW was enlightening and gave a very different take on her career. The fire that inspired Madonna hasn't gone out, and even though the piece was called "Madonna Looks Back," she's clearly focused on moving forward.

JC Alvarez, New York

I LOVE MADONNA, BUT SEEING her with a Les Paul is like watching Jimmy Page roll around onstage in panties and a cone bra. It's just wrong.

Ray Reigstad, Minneapolis

MADONNA THINKS PLAYING like Paul McCartney would be "boring." What do you call a 50-year-old woman who jumps around in spandex and tries to act like a teenager? How does "pathetic" sound?

Lawrence Fishberg, Bronx, NY

CONGRATULATIONS ON HAVING the Queen of Pop and the King of Heavy Metal in the

same issue. It's interesting how Madonna made a career out of constantly reinventing herself while Lemmy has managed to remain Lemmy despite the odds. I can't imagine the past 30 years without them.

Susan Sherwood, San Marcos, TX

Metal's Godfather

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR Mark Binelli's excellent "Vampire of the Sunset Strip" [RS 1090], about Motörhead's undisputed Godfather of Metal, Lemmy Kilmister. Though Motörhead have never graced your cover, there are so many bands that never would have made your front page if not for them. It's nice to see Lemmy get the respect he deserves.

Aaron Zybach, Portland, OR

I HAVE WAITED 29 YEARS for RS to do an article on Motörhead and Lemmy – at long last it has happened, and Binelli actually got it right. Next stop for Motörhead? The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame!

Matt Donahue, Toledo, OH

I REALLY AND TRULY LOVE your magazine: It's a biweekly bouillabaisse of information. However, hiding away the article on Lemmy Kilmister – with Madonna on the cover – is cruel and unfair. It's like finding out your girlfriend's bra was padded. Don't show me fake eye candy when the true beauty is on the inside.

Mike Fortier, Montreal

THANK YOU FOR THE ARTICLE on Lemmy. For those of us who still believe in rock & roll, the man is our pope, our Dalai Lama – not because he's holy but because he's a guy who sought out a lifestyle that allowed the most freedom possible, and he managed to live it.

Brian Gallagher, Liberty, NC

ALTHOUGH I'VE NEVER been exposed to Motörhead, I

fell in love with Lemmy after reading your piece. He embodies everything a rock star is supposed to be. He's not some washed-up has-been, changing diapers and coaching Little League. Nor is he doing stints in rehab or on some lame reality show. No. He's living the life he loves, and if that life is full of whiskey and a Nazi collection, then so be it.

*Brittany Thayer
Morgantown, WV*

ONLY THREE THINGS CAN kill Lemmy Kilmister: a wooden stake through the heart; a silver bullet to the brain; having a Number One song on *Billboard's* Top 100.

Mike Williams, Pantego, TX

Sea of Plastic

YOUR ARTICLE ON THE Garbage Patch in the Pacific ["An Ocean of Plastic," RS 1090]

"Hiding the Lemmy article was unfair. Don't show me eye candy on the cover when the true beauty is on the inside."

was one of the most harrowing, bone-chilling things I have ever read. It's irrefutable, and it's unsolvable. Maybe Lemmy is right: Mankind is a disease.

Shannon Mehaffey, Los Angeles

AS I READ ABOUT THE GREAT Pacific Garbage Patch, my heart sank. I could feel myself getting physically ill. When I was in the Navy, in 1977, bags and bags of garbage were thrown over the fantail every night. As Capt. Moore said in your piece, "It's a plastic ocean" – and that just cannot be undone.

*Douglas Meredith
Kingwood, TX*

IN HIS ARTICLE "AN OCEAN of Plastic," Kitt Doucette asks, "When was the last time you spent an entire day without

using a piece of disposable plastic?" My answer: yesterday. And the day before that. It's not impossible to get off the plastic-ridden consumer treadmill of mass consumption, but it does take dedication. A half-century ago, people lived well with much less plastic. We can do it again.

Beth Terry, via the Internet

Afghan Crucible

ROBERT DREYFUSS' ARTICLE "The Generals' Revolt" [RS 1090] offered an interesting look at the opposing views vying for control of the Obama White House. The most important message came from Colin Powell's aide who said Obama is going to need JFK-like courage to stand down his own generals and reduce forces in Afghanistan. This is the central test of Obama's presidency: He can either be known as the president who continued George W. Bush's failed war policies, or he can become the modern-day John F. Kennedy. The choice should be obvious.

Logan Green, Boston

Clarification: In our story on Merle Haggard in RS 1088,

Merle Haggard wishes to make clear that when he states that he is "not a fan of the cowboys," he is referring specifically to "a couple of disrespectful gentlemen that happen to call themselves cowboys" who live near his property in California. In fact, some of Merle Haggard's best friends and biggest fans are cowboys.

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