

IS LISTENING TO LOUD MUSIC WORTH JEOPARDIZING OUR HEARING ABILITY?



Emilie Cady
Reporter

YES

Don't you hate it when you are listening to your music and people are telling you to turn down your music? Everyone is always complaining and saying that if you listen to really loud music, you are going to go deaf, but I think that is just a little extreme. I think that as long as I can still hear, why not listen to my music as loud as I want to? It's a great way to drown out annoying people and is necessary if you want to even try to listen to music in a place where annoying people are yelling at each other from two feet away.

The only bad thing would probably be if you did not hear that car coming when you were crossing the street but that's what eyes are for. Aside from drowning people out, listening to loud music is just an altogether better experience. All you hear is the music — the words of the singer or singers is crystal clear, and all the noise just blows your mind away because the music is so loud that all you can possibly think about are the lyrics and the sound and feel of the music you listen to.

Listening to music is an awesome way to concentrate when you are doing work. You cannot hear the little kids in your house screaming or the annoying sound of your dog barking, so you are just thinking about the piece of paper that is right in front of your face with your music in the background. I have also found that listening to your music really loud when you are running or jogging really helps. When I run, the music is so loud that I can't hear the sound of my breathing or the sound of my feet hitting the pavement or track. Because you are concentrating so much on the music blaring through your ears, you walk less because you are concentrating more on the music than you are on how immensely tired you are after running four or five laps. People who listen to their music low are missing out because when you turn up the volume and just allow the music to fill your mind, it's just awesome.

I think that people who are afraid of the possibility of losing their hearing should worry about themselves because chances are that if you tell someone who listens to loud music to turn it down and they do not, they don't really care. It is funny because listening to really loud music for long periods of time really can damage the nerves in your ears, or that is what is said online anyway.

I am sure that people who listen to loud music can hear perfectly fine after they take out their earphones. Besides, if loud music really does do damage to your ears, it is definitely not going to happen overnight, which is good news for all of the loud music listeners out there. Chances are that it will take a while for the music to actually do any real permanent damage to anyone's ears. Everyone who likes to listen to loud music has at least a good 30 or 40 years before they have to worry about purchasing those hearing aids your friends said you were going to need if you kept listening to your music so loud.

I do not understand why people make such a big deal about listening to loud music. Just think of all of the loud noises and sounds that we hear all the time. We go to concerts and parties; hear the sirens of police cars, fire trucks and ambulances; the revving engines of monster trucks and motorcycles; the screams of little kids; and the list just goes on and on. In fact, some of the sounds we hear on a daily basis are probably a little, if not significantly, louder than your loudest music or earphones. People talk about it as if people who listen to loud music are going to go deaf right after they take out their earphones, but I don't think that listening to music as loud as you want to is as big a deal as everybody makes it seem.



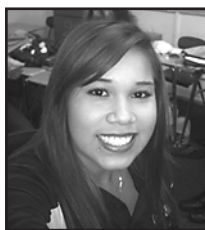
Leemar Gillam (9)
"No, because it interrupts others, first of all, and secondly, you can lose your hearing."

Nishit Arora (10)
"Yes, because you can block out annoying people."



Timothy Rua (11)
"Yes, because you can block out sounds and in the end you can concentrate better."

Jordan Steyer (12)
"No, because no matter what volume the music is, it's still the same music."



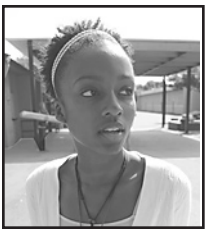
Tania Rodriguez (12)
"Yes, perhaps not in our teenage years but when we hit that elderly age we will have to use hearing aids, but I still enjoy it because you can ignore people."

Mrs. Elizabeth Nasouf, Counselor
"No, because studies and research have shown that it does affect your hearing, but if the students are okay with wearing hearing aids in the future, then more power to them."



Mr. Luis Garcia
"No, because they're going to be deaf in the future; they're going to be angry old men who talk really loud."

Samantha Green
Reporter



NO

Salvaging one's hearing for music is a concept I can't seem to wrap my head around, or in this case, my ears. When walking the school grounds one can see the array of earphones in students' ears. Many of us pass students in the hallway and can hear the tunes that they're listening to. Whether it be Evanescence or Lil Wayne, salvaging your hearing for some of these songs is purely unhealthy and quite frankly idiotic.

The investments we make with our bodies now will lead to how we as adults function, which is why we need to make good decisions. Good decisions should be made with our lifestyle choices. We hear about eating healthily and no alcohol or drug consumption, but why is it that we don't speak as frequently about our ears? All of these things contribute to our adulthood and our hearing is a big part of this. You don't want to have a hearing aid by the age of 40 and though this may seem amusing to some, it's serious.

When the decibel count surpasses the normal standard that our ears can't handle, the noise then travels into our ear and to the cochlea (the tiny hairs in the ear that vibrate to create sound) and can lead to the wearing away of those hairs. The invention of in-ear headphones has led to high cases of hearing loss, especially among young people, because we turn the sound up to the highest point and destroy those tiny hairs that can't grow back. Occasionally, people might burst one of their eardrums because of how loud some of their music is, which causes permanent deafness in the ear affected.

Another negative aspect to listening to music so loudly is how oblivious you may become while bopping your head from side to side. Many people miss important events or may be susceptible to dangerous situations.

Students are already unaware of many things going on at school, but with your headphones so loud it's like you're in a different world. I myself am guilty. Sometimes you're jammin' to reggae and walk straight into a pole (or maybe that's just me) — even worse if you're riding a bicycle. The danger level is higher and crimes are more easily committed because you're an easier target. Picture it: you're walking on the street singing a song loudly and someone comes behind you with a knife. You know what just happened? Your phone, iPod, money and sneakers just got jacked! (Maybe the sneakers are a stretch, but it happens).

Between the deafness and being robbed, you're also being disrespectful. Sure, your parents are being annoying, your brothers and sisters are running up and down, and all you want is peace, so you pop your earphones in, put them on full blast and all you hear is Justin Bieber's voice saying, "Baby, baby, ooohhh!" Meanwhile, your ailing grandmother is calling your name because all she wants is someone to get a can of peas for her. Your grandmother storms into your room and slaps you in the back of the head because you won't listen — how disrespectful!

Many times when we're in our little worlds, we lose sight of the fact that we're a part of a bigger world. We need to acknowledge that we're not alone in that world. It's even worse when someone is speaking to you and you put your earphones in — perhaps I should slap you in the back of the head instead then? Besides, is Justin Bieber worth all of that? Eventually that disrespect will lead to a conflict and pretty soon you won't even hear him saying, "Baby, baby, ooohhh" anymore to you. That's a good thing as far as I'm concerned, but you won't be happy.

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POTENTIALLY BRILLIANT BUT NOT LIKELY

By: Andy Anusiem
Reporter

Ben? Ben, where are you? Be- Hey. He left his computer logged on. Ben's rant huh? Let me see what I can do... Kids these days. You give them the keys to your carriage, and they go wild. Levi Detweiler, a 17-year old Amish teen ran a stop sign in his horse and buggy. He must have skipped out on his car fax, poor guy... Anyway, the authorities chased him on a mile-long low-speed chase. Eventually, he took a turn too fast for his speedy buggy, and he took off on foot. After a week of investigating, the sheriff's office found him, and charged him with possession of alcohol, reckless endangerment, failure to stop at a atop sign, and over-driving an animal. Next time you see a teen driving a carriage, get out your camera and you walking shoes, because its going to be hard to keep up with the next low-speed chase! Back to the real criminals, a young teenager in New Port Richey, when arrested for breaking into a car and stealing a key, a pocket knife, and 42 cents in change as well as a pink cellular phone, went crazy in the back of a cop car. He tried to prove his innocence by shredding the chair in the car to bits – with his bare teeth. He did \$300 worth of damage to the car, and his bail was #10,300. Well, he's got 42 cents, only \$10, 299.58 to go! It's a great weekend! For witches. European witches. Romanian witches. Yes, my weekend was pretty horrible... Witchcraft has been recognized a legal profession in Romania. Thank the heavens, the Thriller back up dancers now can find a job after being outcasts following Michael Jackson's tragic death. A witch called Brataru (a powerful one, you can tell by the name) told the website of a top TV station, that she plans to cast a spell using black pepper and yeast to create discord in the government. Personally, I think this a threat on national security. This is exactly why the Romanians need someone like Former President Bush ruling. He at least would've taken the initiative to put a stop to this threat on the Romanian government. Too hard to beat them? Come on, Harry Potter did that in book 5. And if a 15 year old boy with anger management can do it, shoot... But before I criticize these people, I should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, if they get angry, they're a mile away, and barefoot. That's it for now! Don't forget to stretch...

VALENTINES DAY: A DICHOTOMY OF LOVE AND HATE

ELIZABETH KNARR'S VIEW ON VALENTINES DAY IN REGULAR FONT AND NATHALY ROMANES'S VIEW IN ITALIC FONT

By: Nathaly Romanes & Elizabeth Knarr
Editor and Reporter

It's that time of year again — the time when "I love you" teddy bears fill store windows, heart-shaped chocolate boxes abound and you can barely see the sky due to all the heart-shaped balloons bobbing around in the air.

It's Valentine's Day, the day that those lucky in love receive bouquets of roses and cute little love notes, and then drive off into the sunset together with happy-go-lucky theme music playing in the background. Elementary school students are excitedly having their parents purchase their cartoon themed Valentine's Day cards to hand out to their classmates. This is all the American tradition to show friendship and love to particular special people in our lives. It's also known as the day when those who have no significant other hide in the bathroom and cry, only to be reminded of the fact that they are alone due to the expressions of undying love scrawled in pink Sharpie across the stall doors.

While Valentine's Day may inspire happy, romantic feelings in some, it also fosters feelings of loneliness and depression among those who are not fortunate enough to be in love (or worse, those who are in love with someone who doesn't love them back). By ostracizing those who are single, Valentine's Day advocates the idea that

one needs a significant other in order to be happy.

This degradation of single people may appear to be the worst side effect of Valentine's Day, but it also has a negative effect on people who are in relationships. Valentine's Day adds pressure on people to find the perfect gift for their significant other. Fifty-three percent of women report that they would break up with their boyfriend if he didn't get them anything for Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day also inspires consumerism, suggesting that a happy relationship is founded on an excess of material goods. With an abundance of jewelry, roses, chocolates, cards, teddy bears, balloons and other gifts filling the stores, Valentine's Day bombards the average customer from every angle. Who is benefiting from the commercial aspect of Valentine's Day? Hallmark. With more than 180 million Valentine's Day cards bought annually, the holiday has become nothing more than a gimmick for stores to sell more products. To all you love birds out there, try not to focus on all the commercial aspects of the holiday this Feb. 14. To those of you crying in the bathroom, perk up! At least you aren't participating in the continuation of an overrated consumption-based holiday.

Many around this time tend to hate Valentine's Day. Why? Because most of them don't have a significant other to share it with or maybe even because

of all the consumerism behind the holiday. But who ever said that Valentine's Day was simply about romantic love? The word "love" means "a feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection, as for a parent, child or friend." To those who don't have a significant other, who cares? Get out and show some love to friends or even put yourself out there and finally ask that person you've been crushing on out on a date. Or, I hate to say this, have an anti-Valentine's Day party. Either way it'll still exist in our culture.

An interesting statistic is the fact that for Valentine's Day, more than 1,000 locations in the United States produce chocolate. This employs 38,794 people (as of 2007). This "overrated" holiday

produces thousands of jobs for people and, in the end, also helps our economy. But now that our economy is down, people are improvising by hand making cards, so it seems like Hallmark will not be getting as much of the credit during this Great Recession.

Single people look down upon couples in love this time of year. As a girl in a relationship, it's hard dealing with peoples' negativity because I have someone to spend Valentine's Day with. Single people, I'm more than sure you'll have someone to spend Valentine's Day with — if not this year, for the years to come. Everyone should be happy with, celebrate and appreciate what they have instead of dwelling on what they don't have. Happy Valentine's Day.



Valentine's Day Sucks!

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