

vigilant*

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO WHAT'S GOING ON IN POPULAR CULTURE

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WHAT'S HOT

So much is going on with entertainment, it is hard to keep track. Here are some current lists – a quick way to inform you as to what's **hot** ... and what's **not** in pop culture.

Top Radio Songs

1. Grenade / Bruno Mars
2. Tonight / Enrique Iglesias
3. Firework / Katy Perry
4. Born This Way / Lady Gaga
5. ***** Perfect / Pink

Source: www.billboard.com

Top Movies

- | | |
|---------------------|------------|
| 1. Hall Pass | \$13.5 mil |
| 2. Gnomeo & Juliet | \$24.8 mil |
| 3. I Am Number Four | \$37.6 mil |
| 4. Just Go With It | \$78.7 mil |
| 5. Justin Bieber | \$62.9 mil |

Source: www.imdb.com/boxoffice/

Top Redbox Movie Rentals

- | | |
|--------------------------|------|
| 1. Megamind | PG |
| 2. You Again | PG |
| 3. Red | PG13 |
| 4. Faster | R |
| 5. Paranormal Activity 2 | R |
| 5. Despicable Me | PG |
| 6. The Social Network | PG13 |

Source: www.redbox.com/movies/top20

Top Video Games

1. Zumba Fitness: Join the Party - Wii
2. Killzone 3 PlayStation - PS3
3. BulletStorm Epic Edition - Xbox 360

Source: www.gamestop.com

TV Shows

1. American Idol - FOX
2. NCIS (CBS)
3. Two & A Half Men (CBS)

Source: www.imdb.com/sections/tv/

Top Downloaded Songs - iTunes

1. Lady Gaga - Born This Way
2. Rihanna - S&M
3. Ke\$ha - Blow

Source: iTunes

JUSTIN BIEBER

A YOUNG STAR WITH A RAGS TO RICHES STORY AND A MOM WHO PRAYS



The first time I heard of Justin Bieber, it was in a Weird Al Yankovic parody song. That was a couple years ago when the song "Baby" had hit the charts and this young 14 year old mop-headed kid was just becoming the latest teen phenom to rocket up the charts. Now, a couple years later, Justin Bieber and his signature hairstyle are the heartbeat of most teen girls in America. He has had a bunch of hit songs, and his latest endeavor, a movie about his rags to riches story – *Never Say Never* – has already grossed millions at the box office. He graces the covers of almost every teen magazine on the stands, and was most recently on the cover of Rolling Stone.

His mentor is the R&B artist Usher, and if you happened to see his performance at the

Grammy's, you will see a whole bunch of talent - from guitar, to vocals to dancing, he has the whole package going on. His music is basically about relationships and girls and the usual young teen romance stuff. In his interview with *Rolling Stone*, he said he believes in waiting for love before having sex. "I don't think you should have sex with anyone unless you love them ... I think you should just wait for the person you're in love with." Later in the interview, when asked about abortion he said, "I really don't believe in abortion, It's like killing a baby."

His mother, Patty Mallette, came from a tough background - dropout, jail, drugs, abuse — but at 19 she experienced an encounter with the Lord that set her on a different path. The Lord showed her His great love for her, and raising Justin as a single mother, she has tried to instill the values of Christianity in his life. When Justin was young, he did chose to accept the Lord and get baptized as well. In an interview with the Associate Press, Justin said that his Christian faith has helped to keep him grounded while being surrounded by all the darkness of the music and movie industry. He said, "I'm a Christian, I believe in God, I believe that Jesus died on a cross for my sins. I believe that I have a relationship and I'm able to talk to Him and really, He's the reason I'm here, so I definitely have to remember that. As soon as I start forgetting, I've got to click back and be like, you know, this is why I'm here." Justin knows it is hard to live in the spotlight, and has made a few mistakes. But he is quick to apologize and make things right.

Patty asks for prayer for her son in "this dark industry." She says, "I'd like to think that Justin and his music is a light in the darkness. My prayer is for Justin to be protected against the temptations of the industry," and for "wisdom and discernment."

"MY WORLD GOT VERY BIG, VERY FAST, AND BASED ON A LOT OF SAD EXAMPLES FROM THE PAST, A LOT OF PEOPLE EXPECT ME TO GET LOST IN IT."



Now in its' second season on FOX, this show is pushing boundaries and even making a few waves. Featuring a group of high school students – a mixed group of both unpopular “losers” and the popular cheerleaders and jocks who are somehow mashed together to form a Glee Club – this show showcases some pretty good singing talent, and addresses some of the issues facing teens in schools today. From homosexuality to alcoholism to bullying to virginity to religion and a whole host of other sexual and high school-themed issues, this show is pushing all kinds of boundaries. Of course there is plenty of singing. This show is the king of the “mash-up.” This is where you take two popular songs and mix them together. From 80s to Justin Bieber, you will hear all kinds of stuff on this show and some of it is actually pretty cool.

However, this is not a show that is pro-family or suitable for kids. The Parents Television Council warns that Glee contains, “gratuitous sex, explicit dialogue, violent content, and obscene language. It is unsuitable for children.” In one episode,

one of the coaches protests spiritual songs being sung on public school property. The school counselor says they're using them to comfort a boy whose father is comatose after a heart attack. The coaches response is, “Asking someone to believe in a fantasy, however comforting, isn't a moral thing to do. It's cruel.” The counselor says the coach is being arrogant, to which she retorts, “It's as arrogant as telling someone how to believe in God, and if they don't accept it, no matter how openhearted or honest their dissent, they're going to hell. Well, that doesn't sound very Christian, does it?”

There are some positives to the show, but the junk you have to endure to get to them far outweigh the occasional good moment. From the inappropriate dress of the girls (and many shower /shirtless scenes with the guys) to the use of profanity to the wanton sexuality and innuendo, this show really falls far short of the standards that we see in the Bible. Just because the music is exciting and cool, doesn't mean you should check your brain at the door.

HERE'S MY TAKE

If there is one thing I love, it is music that is fun and happy with some cool beats and good instrumentation. Justin Bieber is very talented, and if he is wise in his choices, he could have a long career. His music is cool and surprisingly even appeals to older people. He's funny and even makes fun of his own image (Super Bowl commercial for Best Buy). He has a mom who loves him and who cares about the course of his future. She knows that he was given this talent by the Lord and prays that he will use his abilities to help and heal. And that would be amazing. But it depends on who he allows to influence him. He has collaborated with Usher, Ludacris, Kanye West and Chris Brown – none of whom are known for wholesome living or music. If those people are major influences on his life, how long will it be before he begins to change. The Bible says that you are known by the company you keep (Prov. 13:20), and what you are saying with your mouth comes from your heart. Justin has said that he is a Christian, and we pray that the Lord will move in his heart and that he will truly experience a deep revelation of the Father's love for him and that it will change the course of his life like it changed his mother's life.

I recently wrote an article about facebooking and texting. I stated that the reality is that our minds in today's' oversaturated communication world are just that... oversaturated and overstimulated. Few know how to unplug and breathe and clear out the constant stream of information. IHOP Singer Misty Edwards said that we are bombarded by this continual flow – from updating Facebook and Twitter to the constant flow of texting conversations. At some point, this continual over-communication drowns out the sound that we need to hear... the voice of the Lord. He's trying to speak to us, but we are so unable to drive without music, or sit through church without texting. We never take it in for real. We don't disengage from our text and Facebook friends long enough for our minds to start considering and meditating. If God were on Facebook, He would friend all of us and say, “I want to talk to you, I want your attention. I am jealous for you! My heart burns with desire for you! I love to be close to you! Even in your weakness or brokenness, I want you! I want to be with you! Do you know how you move my heart? I have much to show you! Do you hear my heartbeat? I delight in you! I enjoy you more than you know! Do you know who I am? I came and died because I want you to be with me forever and ever!”

Our space... behind the face... where we can commune with the One who created us and longs for us to slow down and stop for a while. To shut off the computer, the TV, put down the iPhone, or the video game controller, and find a quiet place and sit and listen. Find a stream, a park bench, a quiet couch, and open up His letter to you and read. Listen. Be still before Him for just a few moments.



Nearly 1 in 4 students think that looking at notes on a cell phone, texting friends with answers, or using their phone to search the internet for answers during a test isn't cheating.

Texting Facts

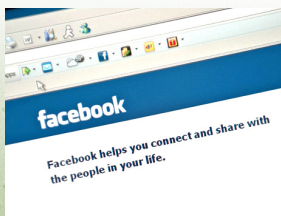
A recent survey of teens with cell phones found that 4% of teens from 12-17 have texted sexually suggestive nude or nearly nude images or videos of themselves to someone else (also known as “sexting”) and 15% have gotten texts with images of someone they know.

Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project

83% of teens with cell phones are texting. “The average U.S. mobile teen now sends or receives an average of 3,339 text messages per month compared to 191 calls. The average number of texts has gone up 566 percent in just two years.”
<http://blog.nielsen.com/nielsenwire>

Facebook Me!

It is projected that 80% of teens will use social networks in 2011. Of the 19.4 million US teens using social networks in 2011, more than half are female. As of June 2010, 69% of teens ages 13-17 had a Facebook profile and 70% use Facebook weekly.
<http://twtrcon.com>



*about vigilant

Vigilant is an informative newsletter of spiritual and social concern which is published monthly. Information is found through various studies, articles, online sources and life experience and is documented by footnotes. Contact Joshua Petrillo at Voice Ministries, 1610 S. Nappanee Street, Elkhart, IN 46516. vigilant@voiceministries.com. Vigilant is a part of Voice Ministries. ©2011

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