

# STUDENT LIFE

## Past to Present: *The 2nd edition of the battle for modern day supremacy*

Past to Present is a monthly series where we take musical artists from previous decades and compare them to the modern day artists that come closest to representing them. E-mail any opinions or ideas for next month's section to [rpg5004@psu.edu](mailto:rpg5004@psu.edu).

By Chris LaFuria

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### Bob Dylan



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The comparison of Bob Dylan and Ryan Adams begins way before either musician laid a finger on a guitar or put their lips on a harmonica. Dylan and Adams are journeymen in every sense of the word. Dylan can be traced back to deep Minnesota where he attended three semesters of college before dropping out to pursue his potential musical destiny. Likewise, Adams dropped out of high school in rural Jacksonville, North Carolina and moved to the same location where Dylan seized the coffee-shop scene- New York City. Musically, the two are destined to draw comparisons.

Although Dylan's career has changed drastically, his basic folk/country style as in "Don't Think Twice, It's Alright" and "I Shall Be Released" can be directly linked to Adams' songs "Two" off of his new album *Easy Tiger* and "La Cienega Just Smiled" off of his Grammy-nominated *Gold*. The image of an overwhelmed, twenty-something lost soul

traveling his way across the country with his guitar in hand, harmonica around his neck and a pocket full of hopes and dreams is the symbol for the iconic Dylan and his modern-day counterpart Adams. With songs written about lost loves to the city that possessed their souls (New York, New York), the poetry of each singer can be linked to such poets and writers as Dylan Thomas (which supposedly Bob Dylan derives his last name), Sylvia Plath and Ernest Hemingway.

Not only did Dylan's lyrics pertain to the remarkable 60s, but also his words and lyrics chime on to present times. Likewise, Adams lyrics and poetry will last decades past the current generation of easily filterable music.

#### Key Songs

Dylan's "Just Like a Woman" vs. Adams' "Goodnight Rose"

### Ryan Adams



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### The Band



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Whether it's playing deep, intellectual and poetic anthems to kicking back and playing the garage-band jam style; both of these bands have similar music style and comparable on-stage performances.

The Band was first noted as the background posse for Bob Dylan. Formerly The Hawks, The Band has made many records spanning four decades and including such monumental hits as "The Weight" and the cover of Dylan's "I Shall Be Released." Their video documentary called "The Last Waltz" is one of the best selling music documentaries to date and includes such acts as Dylan, Neil Young, Dr. John, and The Band themselves.

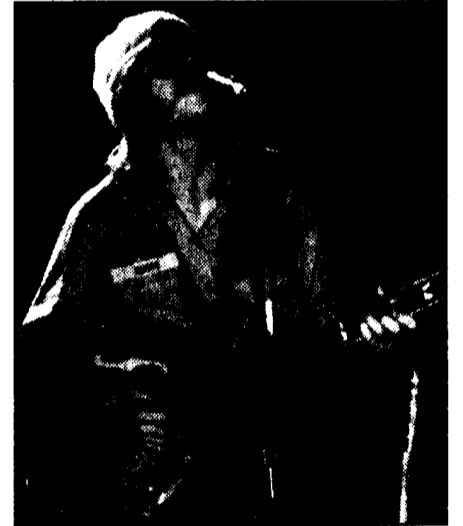
Dr. Dog hit the scene opening for such bands as The Strokes, Clap Your Hands Say Yeah and My Morning Jacket. Lead singer and songwriter Scott McMicken's

style and vocal uniqueness can be directly related to that of The Band's Robbie Robertson. While on no scale are the performance themselves directly related, Dr. Dog's set at Bonnaroo this past summer reflects the on-stage talent of Robertson and The Band on The Last Waltz and at Woodstock.

#### Key Songs

The Band's "The Weight" vs. Dr. Dog's "My Old Ways"

### Dr. Dog



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### Nick Drake



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It's always tragic when such young, talented musicians take their own lives. In the case of Nick Drake, his career had failed to reach its potential when he committed suicide. Much of his posthumous success came with his release *Pink Moon*. The depression and inner-struggle is highly evident in his soft, weak voice and tender strum on his sad acoustic guitar. His music has become a success long after he died. Recently, the song "Pink Moon" was featured in a Volkswagen car commercial.

Elliott Smith became the voice of the depressed young adults with such sad releases as *XO* and *From a Basement on the Hill*. Like Drake's *Pink Moon*, *From a Basement* saw commercial success after Smith passed away. Smith's vocal style compares directly with that of Drake's. The soft, desperate whisper heard through Smith and Drake's

voice is a shrill reminder of the troubles that each artist endured on their road to musical and commercial success.

Whether the artist is alive or dead, the music will live on forever as insights into the sorrowful life of two people whose musical ability was way before the times.

#### Key Songs

Drake's "Pink Moon" vs. Smith's "Angeles"

### Elliott Smith



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### Billboard Top Ten

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Soulja Boy - "Crank That"                         | 6. J. Holiday - "Bet"                         |
| 2. Kanye West - "Stronger"                           | 7. Colbie Caillat - "Bubbly"                  |
| 3. Britney Spears - "Gimme More"                     | 8. Alicia Keys - "No One"                     |
| 4. Timbaland featuring OneRepublic - "Apologize"     | 9. Fergie - "Big Girls Don't Cry"             |
| 5. Timbaland featuring Keri Hilson - "The Way I Are" | 10. Kanye West featuring T-Pain - "Good Life" |

### "Top Five Beers"

By Ryan P. Gallagher

5. Heineken
4. Samuel Adams
3. Yuengling Lager
2. Newcastle Brown Ale
- &
1. Guinness Draught

The Behrend Beacon does not condone underage drinking, drinking and driving, or the use of drugs.

### "Top Five Songs About Black Drug Use"

By Chris LaFuria

5. Spoon- "That's the Way We Get By"
4. Elliott Smith- "A Distorted Reality Is Now A Necessity To Be Free"
3. Wilco- "Heavy Metal Drummer"
2. Jackson Browne- "Catalina"
1. The Beatles- "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds"

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