

Does Madonna's lyrics send negative messages about teenage pregnancy?

(OCR) -- Everyone's sure what Madonna is singing about, but no one seems to agree on exactly what it is. Pepsico decided the singer's "Like a Prayer" video was so objectionable that it dropped her from an ad campaign in May, even though it had already paid her \$2 million for it.

Planned Parenthood thinks Madonna encourages teenage pregnancy. Yet many college students say her song and video, "Papa Don't Preach," is about a real loser, according to an ongoing study by researchers from several institutions - including Rutgers University, and the Universities of Denver, North Carolina-Chapel Hill and North Carolina-Greensboro.

The students say the video - in which Madonna plays the role of a pregnant, unmarried woman and states "I'm gonna have my baby" - is a misleading. It falsely suggests that everything is going to work out if you love each other. And, they ask, "Where is the boyfriend?"

But not all college students agree on the singer's message. Many black students said the song wasn't about teenage pregnancy. Instead, they say, the "baby" the woman wants to keep is her boyfriend.

The researchers are particularly concerned about how younger teens interpret Madonna's videos, and are currently polling 11- to 15-year-olds for their views on her work.

**The *Capital Times*
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4 Reasons to Join the *Capital Times*

#1 An established student newspaper, a valuable resource on any campus, has a twofold purpose. First, it helps to maintain a sense of community by reporting campus news and opinion, and by carrying advertising of interest to the students and faculty.

Second, the newspaper provides practical experience for new journalists contemplating a career in mass communications and a variety of in-depth opportunities for those students with an established journalism background.

#2 The *Capital Times* welcomes and encourages everyone to become a staff member regardless of journalistic experience and time availability. By opening the staff membership to all majors, it insures different and fresh viewpoints are represented on the paper.

Each staff member is given the opportunity to tailor his or her degree of involvement on the publication. Some people write one story per issue, others submit articles periodically throughout the semester or help with the typing or layout. The quantity of time an individual contributes is a personal matter. No one will pressure you to take on more than you want.

The *Capital Times* fosters an environment where staff members can enjoy learning many facets of publishing a college newspaper.

#3 The *Capital Times* staff is fortunate to have state-of-the-art equipment in the Apple Macintosh Plus Computer and Laserwriter Printer. In addition, our staff uses Microsoft Word, MacDraw, and Pagemaker software which enables us to do in-house typesetting and layout of our publication. This insures the advantage and flexibility of saving valuable time on the layout process, using late-breaking stories, and correcting typographic errors at the last minute.

As a member of the staff, you will have the opportunity to learn firsthand what desktop publishing is all about.

#4 There is a special feeling a writer gets when he sees his name and story in print. It is enough of an incentive to keep him coming back for more assignments. We wanted to recognize those student journalists who really strive for perfection. Therefore, the *Capital Times* has established an excellence in student journalism awards program.

At the end of each semester, an appointed panel will review each issue of the student newspaper and choose the three best submissions--photos, cartoons, or stories--that appeared during that semester. The winners will be awarded certificates of recognition and a monetary prize by the *Capital Times*.

This program is open to all students of Penn State University at Harrisburg. Staff membership is not a prerequisite for consideration for an award. The only criteria considered will be overall excellence of your submission. Details of this program are available from the student activities office in room 212 or from the *Capital Times* office, room W-129.

Students speak out: What do you think?

Jenny Cahill
Capital Times Staff

Students were asked the following questions about illegal drugs in America: What do you think about the drug problem in Colombia? In your opinion, what should America do about our drug problem? How should we approach drug education? How do you feel about the user?



Penny McDonald, Communications, age 20.

Colombia "I think we should legalize it (drugs) and tax it."

America "We ought to legalize it (here) and tax it too."

Education "Drug education starts in the home. If you have strong family values then there's nothing you can't overcome."

User "Any drug user is an addict...some addictions are deeper than others."



Jodie Whitekettle, Communications, age 21.

Colombia "I think its not just a Colombian problem."

America "America should concentrate on not letting drugs into the country. Also, more enforcement by the police."

Education "We should approach (drug) education in the home and the school."

User "I think a lot of people use drugs recreationally at first. They think they can't become an addict... then it happens."



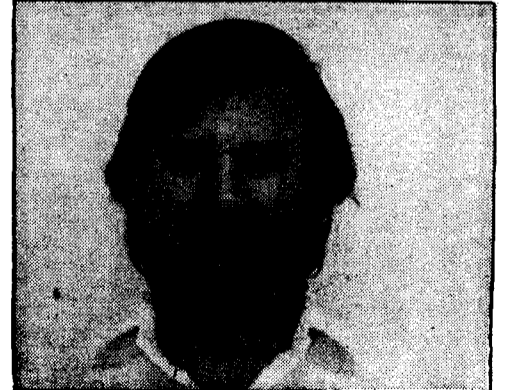
Mark Waters, Psychology, age 25.

Colombia "I think it's not just a Colombian problem, it's our problem."

America "We need to adress it from all sides, the supply side, the demand side, through drug and alcohol rehabilitation. Alcohol is a drug too!"

Education "We need to start educating kids at a young age."

User "There is no typical drug profile. It crosses all boundries. We need a multi-dimensional approach because people use personal reasons."



Michael E. Wynne, Engineering, age 34.

Colombia "I don't know much about Colombia."

America "I think back in the sixties and seventies America sent the wrong message to the people. By saying we're not prosecuting the casual drug user, we condoned drug use."

Education "I tell my four year old son about drugs."

User "I think there is a personaliy type... an addictive personality. They're born that way."