

# The Trials and Tribulations of a twentysomething

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In my column two weeks ago I left you with a question that I am more than sure you lost sleep over. I realize it was one that challenged you to rise to new intellectual levels and you felt compelled to take a step back and re-evaluate your lives. The question I am referring to is the one concerning Sinéad O'Connor's actions on a recent airing of Saturday Night Live. If you are not yet aware of the topic at hand please pick up this progressive newspaper immediately and get a subscription to "Rolling Stone". There is no excuse for being uninformed in the nineties.

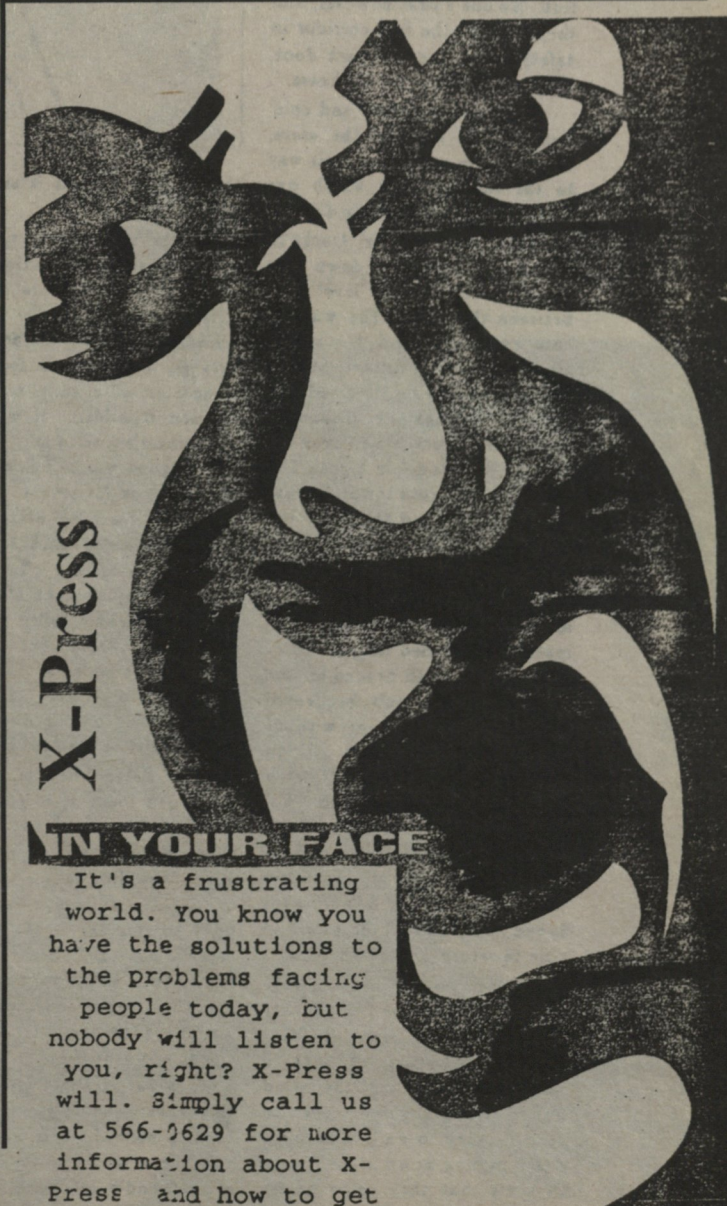
Now, it is somewhat understandable why Catholics were disconcerted by her post-performance antics. It was destined to become a controversy. What vexes me is the fact that she was kicked off stage at, of all events, a Bob Dylan tribute concert because of her actions on SNL. The majority of those in attendance remember a Dylan era in which his singing could be understood -- when one could hear genuine words in his lyrics.

These people should be understanding if not appreciative of certain forms of rebellion against the establishment. It is obvious that they forget what generation they were part of while they were busy getting rich in the eighties. I suppose that becoming a fortysomething and losing one's hair grants a right to support censorship while being cynical and unaccepting to a new generation. It is really sad that these people have lost the way they fought so hard to find. I guess bitter would be a key word in describing what many of them have become.

Maybe you think I am being too hard on an entire generation because of their collective reaction to a bald Irish girl at rock concert, but it isn't the fact that she was driven off stage in tears that offends me, it is the fact that those in the audience are of the same generation that two decades ago screamed "fuck" repeatedly at the request of Country Joe and the Fish during their performance of Woodstock. This may not compare to shredding a picture of the CEO of Catholicism, but it was unconventional and against the grain to say the least.

I would make a plea to our generation that when it loses control of the world that presently sits in the palm of its hand bitterness and cynicism will not be part of the vocabulary, but if history has taught us anything it just isn't going to happen. Sorry to say

baby boomers, but you have quickly become what you have always strived not to -- the establishment. And to all those who are so troubled by one rock star's public outcry for what she believes in, don't have a premature anxiety attack. The Catholic Church if you noticed has staying power and I am forced to conclude that it will long outlive one brief moment in rock history. The world is really messed up, so let's just move on.



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