

Liking Things Quietly

By: Olive Pfalz

Living in the modern day is weird. Controversies about celebrities come out left and right and feels like every morning there's a new #blandisoverparty. But just because celebrities, musicians or a creator did something bad it doesn't mean you have to stop enjoying what they create. Being able to separate an artist from the art is an important skill to learn, especially if you enjoy media that has a lot of controversies. Rap music is a very good example of this. But these are the artists that made mistakes and how I handled continuing to enjoy their art.

Harry Potter

If you've been on the internet for a while or like following celebrity drama, you probably know about JK Rowling's controversy over tweets she's made about trans men and women. She responded to an article called, 'Opinion: Creating a more equal post-COVID-19 world for people who menstruate' with "People who menstruate.' I'm sure there used to be a word for those people. Someone help me out. Wumben? Wimpoud? Woomud?" The article she was responding to was clearly referring to all biological women as "people who menstruate" as opposed to "women" to include trans men and non-gender-conforming afab (assigned female at birth) people. This tweet upset a lot of people. Some claim JK Rowling is transphobic while others explain that she was just a hardcore women's rights activist. Whether or not she meant to hurt trans men or not, she ended up losing a lot of support and made it hard to LGBT+ people to support Harry Potter.



But that brings me to my solution: Liking Things Quietly. Don't spend your money on merch that she will get profit from, don't go out of your way to show your love for the series. Of course that doesn't mean you can't spend money on a Hufflepuff sweatshirt. Everytime I end up getting Harry Potter merch, I just remind myself that I support the Harry Potter book series, not JK Rowling the person.

McCafferty

You might not know about this band but you might know a few of their songs; Alligator Skin Boots and Beachboy. I personally really like Beachboy and a lot of their songs. But a lot of allegations came up about the lead singer, Nick Hartkop. His fellow band members and other girls he was with came out with their negative experience with Hartkop. His ex wife ended up coming out with a testimony stating, "Sometimes [Nick's negative] behaviors would have triggers like jealousy, other times not at all. Calling me every name under the sun..., kicking me, and going from refusing to talk to me to harassing me nonstop..." ([Lindsey](#)). I don't know if any of these claims are true or not and Hartkop has yet to comment on them; I still don't feel comfortable supporting him. So I go back to my original solution; liking things quietly. I will still listen to Beachboy because it's still one of my favorite songs. But I wouldn't ever wear or even

buy their merch. I really like their songs, even if I don't like the lead singer. When I listen to McCafferty, I like to think about how talented Evan Graham, Wes Easterly, and Chris Joecken (former members of the band) are and not how controversial Nick Hartkop is.

Whether it's JK Rowling, Nick Hartkop, or a celebrity that has controversy. There is always a way to support the art without supporting the artist. You just have to disconnect the two. Like any media you like, just know who created it and whether or not you can like them.