

In Boston, Roman Catholic leaders urged that the offensive music be boycotted. In Hartford, city officials considered revoking the State Theater's license after several audiences got too rowdy during a musical stage show. In Washington, the police chief recommended banning such shows from the National Guard Armory after brawls in which several people were injured. In Minneapolis a theater manager withdrew a film featuring the music after a gang of youngsters left the theater, snake-danced around town and smashed windows. In Birmingham champions of white supremacy decreed it as part of a Negro plot against the whites. At a wild concert in Atlanta's baseball park one night, fists and beer bottles were thrown, four youngsters were arrested. The object of all this attention is a musical style known as "rock 'n' roll," which has captivated U.S. adolescents as swing captivated prewar teen-agers and ragtime vibrated those of the '20s. It does for music what a motorcycle club at full throttle does for a quiet Sunday afternoon.

Rock 'n' roll is based on Negro blues, but in a self-conscious style which underlines the primitive qualities of the blues with malice aforethought.

Characteristics: An unrelenting, socking syncopation that sounds like a bull whip; a choleric saxophone honking mating-calls; sounds; an electric guitar turned up so loud that its sound shatters and splits; a vocal group that shudders and exercises violently to the beat while roughly chanting either a near-nonsense phrase or a moronic lyric in hillbilly idiom.

Sample:

Long tall Sally has a lot on the ball
Nobody cares if she's long and tall
Oh, Baby! Yeh-heh-heh-heh, Baby
Whoo-oo-oo-oo, Baby! I'm havin' me
some fun tonight, yeah...

Does rock-'n'-roll music itself encourage any form of juvenile delinquency? ... Pop Record Maker Mitch Miller, no rock 'n' roller, sums up for the defense: "You can't call any music immoral. If anything is wrong with rock 'n' roll, it is that it makes a virtue out of monotony." For the prosecution, the best comment comes indirectly from Actress Judy Holliday in *Born Yesterday*: It's just not couch, that's all.

from Time (June 18, 1956), 54.

1. According to the reading what type of music was being blamed for all the trouble young people were causing in the 1950s?

- Ragtime
- Rap
- Rock 'n' Roll
- Swing

2. Which instrument was key to rock 'n' roll?

- Drums
- Electric guitar
- Trumpet
- Fiddle

3. In what year was the article written?

- 1920
- 1945
- 1950
- 1956

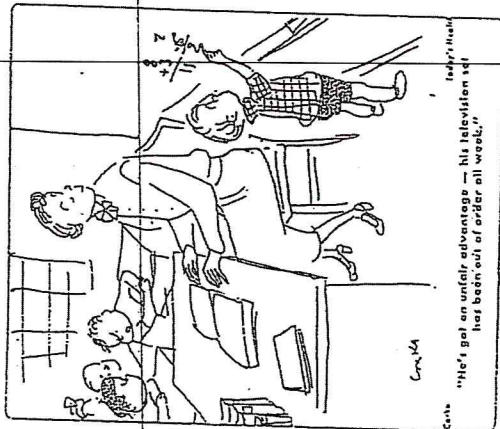
4. According to the article who didn't like the offensive music?

- Catholic leaders
- Hartford city officials
- Washington police chief
- All of the above

5. According to the reading give two reasons why people were against rock 'n' roll music?

5. What modern comparison could you make to this story? Explain what people are afraid of?

Directions: Use the information in the cartoon and your knowledge of U.S. history to answer the questions.



Today's Health from Best Cartoons of the Year 1958

1. What is the inference you can make from this cartoon?

- Most television sets didn't work very well in 1958.
- Teachers favor boys who wear checked shirts.
- Most schoolteachers were women in 1958.
- Children who watch less television do better in school.

2. The boy who is speaking is

- jealous.
- happy.
- sad.
- laughing.

3. The cartoon implies that

- most children watch television every day.
- children watch television instead of doing their homework.
- people blame television for children's poor school performance.
- all of the above.

4. Do you agree that TV is a factor causing children's poor school performance? Explain

5. What modern technology could be blamed for children's poor performance in school today?

-Would you agree? Explain