

RETROGRADE INFOCYCLE ARTIFACT TRANSCRIPTION

10/29/2032 SOURCE: WGBZTVHD - Channel 2007 - CUMULUS KIN-STATION NEWS

When a worldwide theological survey in the late 20's found that the generalized global religions had begun to fracture at an exponential rate in westernized zones, many clergies began to panic. Creators of Christian media, their work having been thoroughly archived by social media-based ironists, doubled down on their attempts to be hip. These attempts went about as well as someone trying to say they're "hip" to the younger generation: They were broadcast to even larger audiences, who are generally said to have recoiled even harder at music like *angelpop* and semi-local trap gospel albums. At the same time, the notion of an ever-bleaker future seemed to put Gen Alpha in a position where being vaguely "spiritual" was no longer enough to ease their existential anxieties. Faith once again became a necessity, one way or another.

Today, we're reporting from Flat Rock Cemetery in Clayton County, Georgia, on a new trend in mourning, which the kids are calling "playing respects." It involves playing music, both new and old, at a loved one's burial site. Many of those who participate choose to use cassettes, a medium that has died and been revived on multiple occasions. Thomas Fallow Williams, a local photographer and meal delivery driver, gave us his reasoning for sitting at his grandfather's tombstone and playing the entirety of Michael McDonald's album "No Lookin' Back" when he came to visit.

[CHYRON GRAPHIC TRANSCRIPTION:

THOMAS FALLOW WILLIAMS
Driver, Uber Eats]

"There's no telling whether we can hear music after we die. It's just vibrations in the air, and all we can do is hope that these changes in air pressure are felt by our families."

Others have satirized the act, claiming that it's "just a way to comfort yourself, while your family members have been feeling warm nothingness in a place where time doesn't exist," according to Kayla Mansfield. When we came up to her for an interview, she was holding her phone over a grave marker as "B.S.D." by Tyler, The Creator rattled out of her device's speakers.

[CHYRON GRAPHIC TRANSCRIPTION:

KAYLA MANSFIELD
Representing the American Post-Atheism Association]

"You should love the people in your life -- your *life* -- with every ounce of effort you have in you. Because when they're gone, people are going to pollute the air with poison. Poison fumes and poison sounds. That's what I'm trying to show everyone else here with their TASCAMs they bought online for \$400."

Because of declining congregation growth across the country, some churches are beginning to accept the practice, and in some rarer cases, encourage it. The Rock Church

of Asheville, NC aroused controversy when it hosted one of its worship rock music services in a privately owned but publicly accessible cemetery. A sister station of ours interviewed several attendees, who had this to say:

[CHYRON GRAPHIC TRANSCRIPTION:

DOUGLAS BOSKOVICH
Realtor, RE/MAX]

“I know some people aren’t okay with this, but I miss my mom more than anything. She loved bands like Switchfoot and Son Lux so much. She isn’t buried here, but I brought my Zoom recorder and I’m going to play the bootleg for her later tonight when this is over.”

[CHYRON GRAPHIC TRANSCRIPTION:

KEVIN HELLER
Manager, Chipotle]

“My band Scarred was supposed to play this show. I was really excited to let those passed hear some of our tunes, we do hardcore and reggae fusion in His name. The Lord is paradoxical, both intense and chill at the same time just like our sound.”

[CHYRON GRAPHIC TRANSCRIPTION:

KARA TAYLOR
Teacher, Buncombe County Schools]

“I just think it’s nice. It’s nice that there’s a lot of people here. And it’s nice that we’ve got more kids coming to the youth group now. If God didn’t want us to adjust with the changing world He created, we’d still be smearing lamb’s blood on our doors.”

Over in Los Angeles, the “Sleep” concert series hosted its annual show in Evergreen Cemetery, locally known as “the graveyard with the jogging track and pull-up bars.” Kali Malone and Ellen Arkbro preformed a 90-minute piece together, titled “Entering/Exit”. The event’s press release describes how listeners were encouraged to imagine themselves dying, as they lay in cots set up parallel to headstones. Our team interviewed new age spiritual leader Sadie Hinson, who was in attendance. They provided us some insight into the new beliefs circulating the nation.

[CHYRON GRAPHIC TRANSCRIPTION:

SADIE HINSON
Representing the Temple of Eternal Tones]

“It’s a very relaxing event, an important reminder. A reminder that death isn’t the end, it’s just a place we go to hear the eternal tones, a concept our organization has attempted to circulate throughout the digi-culture ecosystem. You see, when we die, we live on within an unending chord progression. What you will hear will be a reflection, a reflection

of the shape you allowed your life to take. If you sought to harmonize the world, you will hear precise, minimalist arrangements like [Ellen] Arkbro's. If you sowed discord, you can expect an eternity of free jazz with no reprieve. If you lived a life of passivity, you will hear nothing, and your successors will have to bring you physical music, the finite tones. What you see as a contextually motivated trend may very well be the result of our collective labors, but there's no way to be certain."

Another kin-station reported on Art in Stone, a custom memorial design firm in San Francisco, that began offering headstones with waterproof, solar-powered Bluetooth speakers installed. According to the owner, Landon Rader, many cemeteries have banned his modified memorials, but the locations that approved of them have been transformed.

[CHYRON GRAPHIC TRANSCRIPTION:

LANDON RADER
Owner & Lead Sculptor, Art in Stone]

"I've been told people are calling them alt-cems, like, alternative cemeteries. I've been to a few since I started getting a lot of orders for the speaker stones. The act of mourning looks different, like a jazz funeral that could be reignited whenever someone comes to visit. I've seen people dancing on graves, but as an expression of their love for the deceased and their gratitude for life."

There's no telling if these new rituals will stick, but many are optimistic that this spiritual experiment will become tradition.

In statewide news, vigilantism is on the rise as police officer resignations reach historic

[END AUTOTRANSCRIPTION]