

THE **ALTERNATIVE PRESS** POLL

I remember thinking, "Shit. Maybe a Depeche Mode T-shirt *isn't* the best thing to wear to a Sepultura show." Actually, I never thought that. I was 17 and I didn't care what I was wearing. I would've worn a faded Styx shirt if I owned one and if it didn't reek at the time. But my fashion faux pas was unforgivable to everyone in line for the concert; and to the crowd inside; and to the guys in the bathroom. It's funny: After you hear the word "fag" barked at you 63 times in one night, it kind of loses all meaning—especially when you're not gay—but two songs into the opening act, I took off. For genres of music made up mostly of people who consider themselves outsiders—punk,

hardcore, emo, metal, etc.—it's surprisingly easy to feel like you don't fit in. Bigotry isn't just the stuff of After School Specials. Yeah, it happens every time someone is judged by their skin color and sexuality, but also every time someone is judged by their clothes, their tastes or their beliefs. But how much of that behavior is the band's responsibility? Can they help it if they attract a particular type of fan with specific values? Is P.O.D. to blame because I felt like I had to leave one of their shows when all the ultra-Christian kids started holding hands? Is it Sepultura's fault I don't wear the Depeche Mode shirt anymore? Nah. That's mostly Depeche Mode's fault.

SHOULD BANDS REJECT BIGOTED FANS?

36% OF AP READERS POLLED
SAID YES

64% OF AP READERS POLLED
SAID NO

THEY SAY >>> ROCKERS RESPOND

Here at Guttermouth, we reject all our fans. We canceled our subscription to *PC Punk News* ages ago. People in general are stupid: white trash, beaners, blacks, Jews, half and halves, 60/40s, chinks, cripples, queers, straight white male Catholics and Public Enemy No. 1. Hippies are just half the problem. The other half lies in the lap of the bands who honestly think they and their lyrics are Gospel. Tear down the walls of political correctness and let your innermost thoughts fly through the windshield of a cop car. Only then can we be true to the people around us and ourselves.

MARK ADKINS [below], Guttermouth

