

Notebook Entry 1-60

A Playlist for the Century

1. The Message – Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five

In an early hit of the emerging hip hop era Grandmaster Flash writes a catchy tune reflecting on his surroundings. The opening line “broken glass everywhere, people pissing on the stairs you know they just don’t care” introduces the dilapidated urban environments that generation of Americans have called home.

2. Major Tom – Peter Schilling

Peter Schilling sings the tale of an astronaut sent out to space with high hopes and thousands of eyes watching. As the story unfolds from chorus to chorus it becomes more apparent he will not be returning, adding weight to the repeated words “Coming home”. Considering the era of its release, this song reflects the pressures of the space race, and the people caught within it.

3. We Appreciate Power – Grimes

This future pop hit released in 2018 sees artist Grimes reflecting on an authoritarian world, speaking to the lust for power within us all. Grimes often considers matters of eternity, divinity, and a cyber future, in her work. We Appreciate Power, provides an anthem for the coming technological era, where as Nietzsche predicted, we kill God.

4. Fortunate Son – Creedence Clearwater Revival

An anthem of the Vietnam war CCR’s Fortunate Son is an unforgettable reminder of unjust wars and foreign imperialism. Its opening notes will forever remind audiences of the proxy wars across the world fought on behalf of superpowers with warring ideologies. The unfair “get out of jail free card” that wealth in the U.S. provides is sung with passion.

5. Lie, Cheat, Steal – Run The Jewels

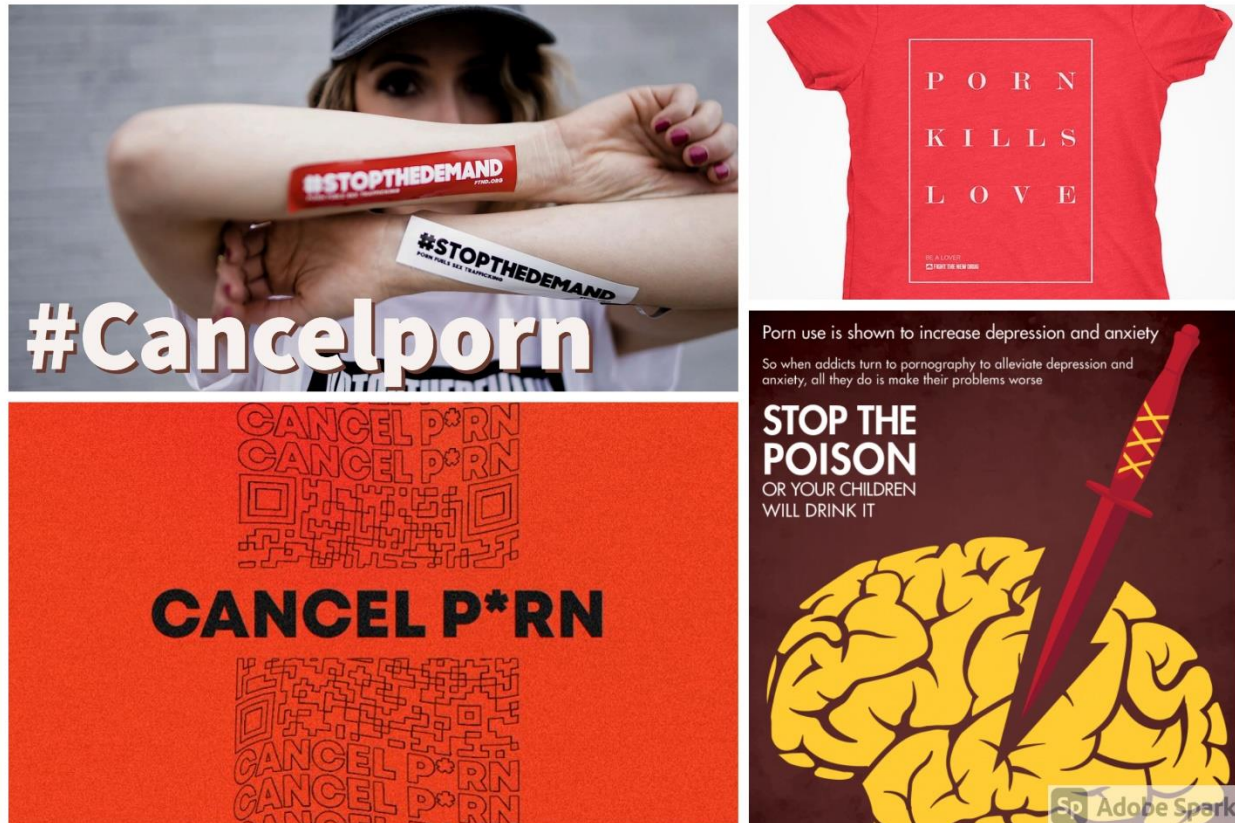
Run The Jewels bring their trademark power and impact in a homage to the dirty trade secrets of big industry in America. The three tenets of these industry being, “Lie, Cheat, Steal” and ultimately, win. The duo reflects these industries in raw fashion, little separates these industries from any other criminal organization.

6. Hard Luck Blues – Roy Brown

One of the most mesmerizing and fascinating voices of the 40s and 50s Roy Brown serenades the listener with a tale of tragedy. The narrator, having been kicked out of his house is left to set out with little to his name and the same pair of clothes. As the song changes pace the narrator turns to religion for solace, yet doesn’t seem to find any escape, “in this mean old world”. After a tiresome and lonely life the narrator concludes he’ll find his mothers grave, “follow the tombstone and die”. Struggles of wealth, respect and negative treatment are found universally in the experiences of Black Americans during this era in particular.

I usually have music running in the background as I do homework to write about some of the music I regularly listen to was almost like breaking the 4th wall. I love considering the stories the artists write into their pieces which may not often be received by a casual listener.

Notebook Entry 2-6r



Social media has been a great method for spreading the fever of a movement. This collage allowed me to compile many of the posts and hashtags I have seen in my personal time online, and their attempt to fire up a movement. Nothing is a legitimate movement until it has merch right?