

Center for Parent/Youth Understanding Youth Culture Hot Quotes 2008 Archive

As we review various media we often come upon quotes from celebrities that address a variety of issues related to youth culture. These quotes are provided in order to give insight into the lives of those people to whom our kids are listening. The quotes also make great discussion starters to get your teens thinking and talking.

Added November 19, 2008

"You know, we never got the "40 acres and a mule," and we didn't get a lot of other things promised. So, we'll take this one and maybe we'll clean up the lyrics now."

- Sean "Diddy" Combs, speaking on Obama getting elected, *Real Time with Bill Maher*, HBO, November 14, 2008

Added November 18, 2008

"The non-edited version actually included nudity. We couldn't play that on TV, but we could on Playboy. So we thought we'd get the publicity from it."

- Jared Weeks, lead singer of Saving Abel, speaking about the original music video for the band's hit single *Addicted*, USA Today.com, November 18, 2008

Added November 6, 2008

"I'm too scared. I hate needles, knives and blood, and I like the way I look," she said. "But I don't have anything against people who want to do it. I'm just too scared."

- Paris Hilton, answering whether or not she'd consider plastic surgery, like her character in the horror musical 'Repo! The Genetic Opera,' MTV.com, November 6, 2008

Added October 15, 2008

"How could I (doubt God)? My mom had a 10 percent chance of living when I was 10 – she had an aneurism. Doctors said she'd be paralyzed. She survived, and the only thing wrong was that she couldn't move one of her eyebrows, and eventually she worked *that* out! My dad has had seven heart attacks, quintuple bypass surgery, eight strokes...he's on dialysis, had diabetes, high blood pressure, and he's still alive. I have terrific friends. I've experienced what love is, and I've been given so many chances in my life that I, of all people, could never question Him, ever."

- Actress Shannen Doherty, *Radar*, October/November 2008, p. 63.

"I think my impulsiveness got me into a lot of trouble. I mean, it was impulsive to confuse a crush with love. And impulsiveness makes you lack diplomacy. Somebody says something you don't like, you don't sit there and go, hmm, let me mull that over. You go, 'What did you just say to me?'"

- Actress Shannen Doherty, *Radar*, October/November 2008, p. 64.

"I definitely took my hits, and I definitely got punished for the bad things I did. And you know what? Some of those I deserved. Having been given a second, third, whatever chance, I don't think that's being a magician. Maybe it's about having an absolute blind faith in a higher power. Maybe there's something I'm supposed to do that I haven't done, and that's why I keep getting chances."

- Actress Shannen Doherty, *Radar*, October/November 2008, p. 64.

"The newer religions – Scientology and Mormonism – they had to raise the bar on crazy. Because once you've done the talking snake, and the man who lived in the whale, and God having a son who lived through a suicide mission to Earth because he's really his own father, where do you go from there?"

- Bill Maher (*Religulous*) answering the question, "Do you find the tenets of religions like Scientology any more absurd than those of Christianity?" *Radar*, October/ November 2008, p. 68.

Added September 24, 2008

"As you go through the divorce, your heart hardens a little bit, and it takes a lot of strength to knock down that wall you've built and be yourself again."

- Singer/actress Jessica Simpson, *Entertainment Weekly*, September 19, 2008, p. 36.

"I got it in Vegas, when I was, like, 20. The design is from some wallpaper—sailboats and a nautical theme—from my childhood room. I had to get my mom to rip a piece off and FedEx it to me."

- Bright Eyes frontman Conor Oberst speaking about the tattoo above his heart, *Rolling Stone*, September 18, 2008, p. 32.

"It's hard work to follow your heart, because you have to be able to hear it. And so many people can't hear it, because they're listening to the things their parents or friends say. And you can't help but listen to them, because they love you, and it seems like they know what's best for you. There are so many moments like that in school or in life when you have to make those decisions."

- Actress America Ferrera, *Seventeen*, October 2008, p. 130.

"Real friends are hard to come by—but they're so important. You need those people in your life who make you feel safe. You need a place you can go back to and be exactly who you are—and be loved and accepted for that. Real friends are like the family you choose."

- Actress America Ferrera, *Seventeen*, October 2008, p. 129.

"Where I'm from, you don't touch a million dollars. If you get it, you feel like that's enough to live a lifetime. But with the new finances, you get new luxuries and it'll eat it up."

- Rapper Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, *Vibe*, September 2008, p. 27.

"I wouldn't say my race has been a liability because that would be an unfair and unbalanced thing to say in American society. But what I will say is that doors are closed."

- White R&B singer Robin Thicke, *Vibe*, October 2008, p. 115.

Added September 17, 2008

"I had no religion growing up, but I think it's important to believe in a faith that is bigger than you. It helps you stay grounded with your work."

- Pussycat Dolls' Ashley Roberts, *Blender*, October 2008, p. 63.

"He was a violent man, and violence toward my mother was the last straw. We were teenagers. It makes me fervently believe in the cosmic law of karma...."

- Oasis's Noel Gallagher answering why he doesn't speak to his father, *Blender*, October 2008, p. 48.

"Acting is what I do and I love it, but it doesn't define me."

- Actress Mila Kunis, *CosmoGirl*, October 2008, p. 122.

"Look, I'm not a lesbian. I just think that all humans are born with the ability to be attracted to both sexes."

- Megan Fox, *GQ*, October 2008, p. 122.

Added September 3, 2008

"I'm very much about 'no sex before marriage.' When I was 12 years old, I said to my mom, 'I want to follow what the Bible says—would you buy me this ring? I want to wear it and promise it.' She got it for me, right then and there, and it was awesome. And I've worn it ever since. I think it's easier when the guy believes the same thing as you do, so you're not always fighting a battle."

- Actress/pop star Miley Cyrus speaking about her purity ring and whether guys she dates have to share her beliefs, *Seventeen*, September 2008, p. 198.

"Sometimes it's hard, especially when it comes to my body. I have big boobs and curves, so I hear things like, 'Watch your body—you need to wear this and that.' You can't be voluptuous because that's not the image. So I do struggle—I feel like everyone's always looking at me."

- Actress/pop star Miley Cyrus answering if she feels pressure to be as perfect as her *Hannah Montana* character, *Seventeen*, September 2008, p. 197.

"I took up yoga in rehab. I went about four months ago, because I had a problem with painkillers. Now I can connect with the crowd and not just be a f---ing drug addict onstage, wandering around trying to remember lyrics."

- Gym Class Heroes frontman Travis McCoy, *Blender*, September 2008, p. 38.

"I've just always been interested in heaven...Sometimes you do think, 'Jeez, it'd be great if there were an afterlife.' Especially if you're sixtysomething, like I am, and you meet someone who's religious, and you think about how they have that faith. I mean, it doesn't make you want to run out and hold up a banner for atheism."

- Songwriter Randy Newman, *Rolling Stone*, September 4, 2008, p. 64.

"What's strange is people can't separate a movie from who I am."

- Rapper/actor Ice Cube, *Spin*, September 2008, p. 46.

"Considering my background, I've turned out pretty well. If I didn't have my art, I would probably be killing people. Instead, I just make art about killing people."

- Stanton LaVey (grandson of *The Satanic Bible* author Anton LaVey), *Spin*, September 2008, p. 86.

Added August 19, 2008

"I'm sure they opt out of singing 'Ur So Gay' and 'I Kissed a Girl,' but they're singing along to every other song on the record. I tried to change them for so long, and finally, I'm like, 'You know what? I ain't gonna try to change my parents.' They're happy and they love what they do. They're just glad I'm not strung out, doing centerfolds and s--- like that."

- Pop singer Katy Perry (born Katheryn Hudson) speaking about her minister parents, *Rolling Stone*, August 21, 2008, p. 30.

"I think the two most inspiring life forces are anger and joy. I could write six zillion songs about those two forces alone."

- Singer/songwriter Alanis Morissette, *Entertainment Weekly*, June 6, 2008, p. 20.

"Songwriting is very emotional for me. It's sacred, almost like prayer. It's as personal as it gets, which is why I have a hard time with cowriting. I mostly write in my bedroom, which is a total sanctuary for me...It's a very Zen place."

- Singer/songwriter Sara Bareilles, *CosmoGirl*, September 2008, p. 92.

"I think we're more nihilistic. I think to be an atheist is to be indifferent, to the point where you just don't care. If you're nihilistic, there's still some passionate anger in there."

- Roots' Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, *Spin*, June 2008, p. 86.

"The reason I talked about going through certain pains or even cutting myself is that I was already out the other side. I knew there were people that do that—and somehow are happy that somebody admitted they did and discussed how they got out of it. I don't see the point of doing an interview unless you're going to share the things you learn in life and the mistakes you make. So to admit that I'm extremely human and have done some dark things, I don't think makes me unusual or unusually dark. I think it actually is the right thing to do."

- Actress Angelina Jolie, *Entertainment Weekly*, June 20, 2008, p. 24.

"The whole (Hollywood) obsession with beauty bothers me. It's like you become a brand that's bought and sold."

- Actress Megan Fox, *CosmoGirl*, June/July 2008, p. 44.

"[Being in the public eye] has taught me all the things I need to be grateful for. It makes you appreciate your real friends and family so much more. They were there when you were a dork in sixth grade, they're there when people you don't know are screaming your name on the red carpet, and they'll be there when no one cares again."

- Actress Lauren Conrad, *CosmoGirl*, September 2008, p. 148.

"I think at the core, everyone deals with similar things in high school: jealousy, people making up rumors, dating someone you shouldn't, or wanting to be with someone who's unattainable."

- Actress Blake Lively, *Seventeen*, August 2008, p. 125.

"I was wild for my age in high school. I wasn't into drugs or alcohol, but I was definitely experimental, which I don't necessarily think is a bad thing."

- Actress Megan Fox, *CosmoGirl*, June/July 2008, p. 42.

Added August 12, 2008

"I was a kid who got picked on in school, and now the guys beating up those kids were wearing red caps and using my music to fuel that aggression. But if they listen to the lyrics, the aggression is targeted at them."

- Limp Bizkit frontman Fred Durst, *Entertainment Weekly*, August 15, 2008, p. 36.

"I was really thinking 'I'm not going to be portrayed as a brat, I'm not like that.' But you don't even remember that cameras are around, and then you throw a fit and they catch it. When I saw the show, I freaked. They showed a lot of the negative stuff."

- MTV's 'My Super Sweet 16' Audrey Reyes, *Entertainment Weekly*, August 8, 2008, p. 37.

"I always thought *Superbad* would get made. There's historical precedent for that type of movie. But *Pineapple Express* is a stoner film but sort of an action film. And there's a scene where we give kids handfuls of weed. I thought this would never happen."

- Actor Seth Rogen, *Rolling Stone*, August 7, 2008, p. 86.

Added July 30, 2008

"To us, the rings are a constant reminder to live a life of values. It's about being a gentleman, treating people with respect and being the best guys we can be."

- Jonas Brothers' Nick Jonas speaking about the purity rings the brothers wear, *Rolling Stone*, August 7, 2008, p. 100.

"On a personal level, faith is extremely important, but I kid of cringe every time I read references to them being a Christian band, for the simple reason that they don't sing Christian music. Probably because of my background, the boys get lumped into the Christian-music genre. But it isn't their genre."

- Jonas Brothers' father, and former Assembly of God Church pastor, Kevin Sr., *Rolling Stone*, August 7, 2008, p. 100.

"I'm not exactly the poster child for anything religious, and I'm definitely not what I grew up in. But I got this Jesus tattoo on my wrist when I was 18, because I know that it's always going to be a part of me. When I'm playing, it's staring right back at me, saying, 'Remember where you came from.'"

- Pop singer Katy Perry (born Kathryn Hudson) and daughter of two pastors, *Entertainment Weekly*, August 1, 2008, p. 29.

"After leaving the nest and seeing some of the world and seeing all kinds of people, my brain has a little bit of a question mark about what I believe. I'm still searching."

- Pop singer Katy Perry (born Kathryn Hudson) and daughter of two pastors, *Entertainment Weekly*, August 1, 2008, p. 29.

"A lot of kids grow up terrified by religion, and I was one of them. It happens to Catholics all over the world. You're spoon-fed what you can and can't do. So I had to work that out. I don't know what I thought God would have done to me, but I could have used some tips from Him. I think when you're a 15-year-old guy, you should be taught how to give somebody an orgasm."

- Coldplay's Chris Martin speaking about "losing" his virginity at 22, *Blender*, August 2008, p. 38.

"Sometimes I do feel like I want to disappear. People judge you for all the wrong reasons. If you get any element of success or recognition, people want to hate you for it. I never made music to be hated. I don't do this for any reason other than the fact that I love music."

- Singer Duffy (born Aimee Duffy), *Spin*, August 2008, p. 62.

"He's how I was when I was younger—but a little sharper...I wanna be [a good father], but it's hard because of the things that I say and the things that I represent. I can only imagine how his teachers feel. Even though I'm talking to him, I'm still just off the other end of the phone. I tell him every time I talk to him that I'm not ashamed of who I am. My son's seen me locked up, f---ed up. I lay around and think maybe I'm sacrificing the wrong end. Maybe I should have sacrificed this for him. It crosses my mind a lot, but I don't know."

- Rapper Jay "Young Jeezy" Jenkins, *Vibe*, August 2008, p. 86.

"I absorb things, and they kind of emerge. That's how I find inspiration. Something affects you, but it takes a while to work into your subconscious and come back out through that weird creative process."

- Bright Eyes' Conor Oberst describing songwriting, *Blender*, August 2008, p. 74.

Added July 23, 2008

"I'm not somebody who thinks that popular culture should carry the whole freight; it both shapes and reflects what's happening in the country as a whole."

- Senator Barack Obama answering whether the influence of pop culture is healthy or harmful, *Rolling Stone*, July 10-24, 2008, p. 73.

"The quickest way to health is to be who you are and do that thing that you love to do."

- Rush singer/bassist Geddy Lee (born Gary Lee Weinrib), *Rolling Stone*, July 10-24, 2008, p. 68.

"I grew up with my pops the jazzman. He'd be in the house smokin' weed. He gave me weed when I was, like, nine years old. That was cool."

- Rapper Nas, *Rolling Stone*, July 10-24, 2008, p. 26.

Religion is an oppressive form of crowd control. But what I understand now is the idea that we are all one, that we come from this one higher consciousness and that we are here to create the kingdom of heaven here on Earth."

- Singer Melissa Etheridge, *Rolling Stone*, July 10-24, 2008, p. 20.

Added July 2, 2008

"I don't think being 13 to 15 is an easy time for any boy. It's like a big puberty race, and if you're coming in last, it's not such a great race to be in. I was a hyper-religious, quite naive and very judgmental kid. I was unpopular for three years, and then it all kind of switched when I was 16."

- Coldplay's Chris Martin, *Rolling Stone*, June 26, 2008, p. 55.

"I grew up with the prospect of heaven and hell looming ever large. What I grew up with was, if you even think about boobs, you're going to hell. It was drilled in: These things are wrong. It was black and white, the way it still is for millions of right-wing Christians in the middle of America. I spent a year thinking I would be punished if I sang, 'Sympathy for the Devil,' by the Rolling Stones."

- Coldplay's Chris Martin, *Rolling Stone*, June 26, 2008, p. 55.

"When I was about 14, the first band I was in wanted to play 'Black Magic Woman.' And I was like, 'I can't sing that, because I will get bad karma.' As a kid, you don't know any better. But then as you go on, the cracks begin to appear and you're like, 'I'm not sure about this hell thing. And I'm not sure whether it's really wrong to be gay, and I'm not sure whether we're right and they're wrong.'"

- Coldplay's Chris Martin, *Rolling Stone*, June 26, 2008, p. 55.

"All this talk about happiness and sadness and darkness and light. Both things always exist concurrently. I am a happy guy, but I'm also a very sad guy. It just happens to be at the same time."

- Coldplay's Chris Martin, *Spin*, July 2008, p. 60.

"Politicians must be so happy about how crazily over-the-top celebrity society is at the moment, because it means they can get away with murder. Literally, murder. Because everyone's following around a 26-year-old girl obsessing about her life instead of what's really going on in the world."

- Coldplay's Chris Martin, *Spin*, July 2008, p. 60.

"You and I are living in the time when revenge is the most dangerous thing, because the stakes are so high and weaponry is so advanced."

- Coldplay's Chris Martin, *Rolling Stone*, June 26, 2008, p. 55.

"I always think about some regular 16-year-old [imaginary friend] called Dave who's on his bus trip to school: Is he going to want to listen to this?"

- Coldplay's Chris Martin speaking about songwriting, *Spin*, July 2008, p. 58.

"Rock'n'roll is, you've gotta follow your own beliefs; it's all about freedom."

- Coldplay's Chris Martin, *Spin*, July 2008, p. 62.

"The spirit of rock & roll is freedom. It's about following what you believe in and not caring what anyone else says."

- Coldplay's Chris Martin, *Rolling Stone*, June 26, 2008, p. 55.

Added June 10, 2008

"I was going out night to night, having a different woman in my bed every time I chose, and I began to wonder: Am I really being a playa or am I a whore?"

- 29 year-old R&B singer Usher (born Usher Raymond IV) speaking about his life as a 27-year-old, *Entertainment Weekly*, May 30, 2008, p. 30.

"I never had a relationship with my father. He was a drug addict. He wasn't there by choice."

- 29 year-old R&B singer Usher (born Usher Raymond IV), *Entertainment Weekly*, May 30, 2008, p. 30.

"I was exposed to the lifestyle of a young, fly A&R who was the man in New York. He took me to clubs. I was around women. It was like swagger camp. I said, So this is what I do when I finally make it....But you have to be very careful about what you allow your kids to be around or see. I'm a product of the environment."

- 29 year-old R&B singer Usher (born Usher Raymond IV) speaking about his relationship with Sean "Puffy" Combs, *Entertainment Weekly*, May 30, 2008, p. 30.

Added May 28, 2008

"In Hollywood there is no such thing as being a nice girl. Or being, you know, not messed up. If you're not, they'll (the tabloid press) make you that way."

- Actress Hayden Panettiere (ABC's *Heroes*), *Teen Vogue*, June/July 2008, p. 145.

"We're really family guys. When you're on tour, you miss mom's home cooking. At least on the bus, she can make the perfect bowl of cereal."

- Joe Jonas (of the Jonas Brothers) speaking about life on a bus with his entire family while touring for the past year, *Teen Vogue*, June/July 2008, p. 150.

"When I first signed with an agency in Dallas three years ago, I was instructed to lose weight. That was easy enough, because I'd been following the normal Texan teen diet of fast food and junk. But when I began working with my agency in New York, I was told to lose more. It started out with me just being aware of my caloric intake, and eventually becoming a vegetarian. But before long, I had become obsessed with slimming down. . . I started to feel like my whole self-worth was based on fitting into a size 00 jean."

- Model Ali Michael, *Teen Vogue*, June/July 2008, p. 152.

Added May 13, 2008

"When I was 11, I did a lot of Ecstasy. I used to rob houses, steal cars and stuff. And it just got worse in high school."

- MySpace model and MTV reality TV star Tila Tequila (born Thien Nguyen), *Entertainment Weekly*, May 16, 2007, p. 40.

"This lifestyle is fun and I worked hard for it, but I think in the long run, it's a lot. I just wanna be in love for the rest of my life and move to an island and have kids."

- MySpace model and MTV reality TV star Tila Tequila (born Thien Nguyen), *Entertainment Weekly*, May 16, 2007, p. 41.

"I wanna do meaningful stuff. After a while you reach your goals and then what? You just prance around like Paris Hilton all day long and feel like you have to find the next scandal to stay big."

- MySpace model and MTV reality TV star Tila Tequila (born Thien Nguyen), *Entertainment Weekly*, May 16, 2007, p. 41.

"The only way you can be successful in reality television is if you're OK with it ending. A lot of kids [on *Laguna Beach*] had a really difficult time when the cameras went away. One second you have people screaming your name, and then a few months later, they don't recognize you."

- Reality television star Lauren Conrad (MTV's *The Hills*), *Rolling Stone*, May 15, 2008, p. 46.

"Creatively, in the beginning, I think heroin helps a lot of artists for a while. It gave me confidence, it took away pain, and it just did something. Eventually, though, it destroys what it helped...It's like a self-injected cancer."

- Stone Temple Pilots' Scott Weiland, *Entertainment Weekly*, May 9, 2007, p. 39.

Added May 6, 2008

"My kids will never go in and take an R-rated DVD and play it. But there is something very compelling and different about the artwork on the box of what might be an M game that could tempt my kids."

- Movie director Steven Spielberg speaking about video games, *USA Today*, May 6, 2008, 1D.

"I think it happens to everybody at some point in her life, where you're completely on the outside of things. It happened to me when I was in seventh grade."

- Singer/songwriter Taylor Swift, *Seventeen*, June 2008, p. 99.

"It's disappointing if people expect the characters I play to relate to my real life or my music."

- Actress/singer Scarlett Johansson, *Spin*, May 2008, p. 40.

"People were seeing shots from my movie on computer screens all over the world before I got a chance to see the shots on a film-lab screen! Global dissemination at light speed—at warp speed."

- Movie director Steven Spielberg speaking about the upcoming Indiana Jones *Crystal Skull* movie, *Entertainment Weekly*, Apr 25-May 2, 2008, p. 34.

"This record is weird. I wrote a lot of the songs when I'd just met someone and was falling in love...But then the relationship disintegrated, and by the time that happened, it was time to make the record. So some songs that started out in a really positive space now seem desperate to me."

- My Morning Jacket's Jim James, *Spin*, May 2008, p. 62.

Added April 16, 2008

"Throughout so much of it, I didn't really realize what was going on. I was so focused on being perfect and wanting to get to perfection, which I now realize is not reality."

- Actress Brittany Snow speaking about her battle with anorexia, *CosmoGirl*, May 2008, p. 111.

"I absolutely adore doing this, but I also know that this is a fragile industry, and I don't want to attach my happiness to it."

- Actress Ellen Page speaking about her career, *Teen Vogue*, May 2008, p. 151.

"Sometimes when you're blinded by your wants and desires, your family members actually have more insight and know you better than you know yourself. Plus, it's hard enough being in a relationship. Having a boyfriend your family doesn't like is just stupid."

- Actress Spencer Grammer (ABC Family's *Greek*), *CosmoGirl*, May 2008, p. 75.

"I'm more afraid of life than death. 'Cause life...I don't know where you going when you die, so I ain't too scared of that. I already know what's poppin' 'round here. It's scary out here."

- Rapper Lil Wayne (born Dwayne Michael Carter Jr.), *Vibe*, May 2008, p. 85.

"My Muslim faith is the most beautiful thing in the world. I was born Muslim, but it wasn't a strict Muslim household. My faith is kind of like the inspiration for my music, but very subtly."

- Rapper Lupe Fiasco (born Wasalu Muhammad Jaco), *Vibe*, May 2008, p. 91.

"My father was Sunni Muslim and my mother was not. I don't smoke, I don't drink. I pray five times a day. The problem, which I didn't know when I started, is that music is a sin—it's *haram*. I had to make a decision, and I decided that I was going to continue with hip hop. That's what I love. I pray for forgiveness from God for what I am doing every day."

- Rapper Freeway (born Leslie Pridgen), *Vibe*, May 2008, p. 90.

Added April 10, 2008

"Looking back, I realize that it's a good thing [my parents] didn't give me that car because I got into two accidents! But I thought I knew everything. I'm dumb now—but I was even dumber then!"

- Actress Amanda Bynes (22 year-old) reflecting back on when she wanted a BMW for her 16th birthday, *Seventeen*, May 2008, p. 108.

"So I went into my parents' bathroom...and asked my mother, 'Am I pretty?' She looked at me and said, 'You will be when we get your nose done.'"

- Actress Tori Spelling *Stori Telling* book excerpt, *Time*, April 14, 2008, p. 76.

Added April 1, 2008

"I think a lot of bands these days dwell on the negative."

- Panic at the Disco's Ryan Ross, *Spin*, April 2008, p. 44.

"It's no joke, I had a rough upbringing. Not with family—my mom, dad, and sister are amazing—just otherwise. But music was golden to me; it was my teenage therapy, man."

- Deerhunter frontman Bradford Cox, *Spin*, April 2008, p. 82.

"We're not trying to shock people. We deal with sex and drinking in an honest, real way, but never in an exploitative way."

- ABC Family's *Greek* creator Patrick Sean Smith, *Entertainment Weekly*, April 4, 2008, p. 54.

"When I was drinking, it was like, go to the bar for eight hours or get the 12-pack at the house. It was exactly the same thing over and over again every day—it was the most boring thing. If it was really fun and exciting, I would still do it."

- The Breeders' Kim Deal, *Spin*, April 2008, p. 74.

Added March 13, 2008

"The cool thing about being a songwriter is, whatever you go through, you can write a song about it and turn it into something good for your career."

- 18-year-old country music star Taylor Swift, *Blender*, April 2008, p. 52.

"It's just where the music led us. I think we can make a bigger impact in the Top 40 world."

- Jonas Brothers' Nick speaking about the transition from their Christian roots (father Kevin Sr. is an ordained minister), *Entertainment Weekly*, February 29, 2008, p. 34.

"It was a personal conversion. After 38 years of being an atheist, faith came back to me. I had to stop writing about vampires, because they had been a metaphor for lost souls. Instead, I made up my mind to concentrate on Jesus Christ."

- Author Anne Rice explaining the evolution from writing about vampires to Jesus, *Time*, March 17, 2008, p. 6.

"Americans like to believe we turn to religion because of an accident or the loss of a loved one, but in my case it was simply the culmination of searching. I wrestled with a lot of theological questions, and then one afternoon, I thought, I love you—I want to go back to you."

- Author Anne Rice explaining her conversion back to Christianity, *Time*, March 17, 2008, p. 6.

"Yes. I want to be with that special person. I think the decision to have sex before marriage is an individual one, but if you're just with one person, it's only for one good reason, and (waiting to have sex) will strengthen the relationship. I'm not trying to preach consequences here, but I think when you say no, down the line it will be a better decision."

- *Dancing With the Stars* champion Julianne Hough (19 year-old Mormon) answering if she is a virgin, *CosmoGirl*, April 2008, p. 106.

"I try to talk about struggles and imperfections and even questioning your faith at times. I don't have anything figured out that the next kid doesn't. It's the people who shove their faith down people's throats who create the stigma against artists with religious backgrounds."

- Paramore singer (and Christian) Hayley Williams speaking about how she approaches faith in her lyrics, *Rolling Stone*, March 6, 2008, p. 20.

"I felt overwhelmed by fame—I thought it had destroyed my connection to other people. I was completely lost. I didn't know how to find a life that would be meaningful."

- Veteran actress Mia Farrow, *Entertainment Weekly*, March 7, 2008, p. 20.

"A lot of things affect people's views if they let their views be affected. A weak-minded person who was going to do something negative or be vain was going to do that whether it was the music or somebody else that affected him."

- Rapper Sean Combs, *Time*, March 3, 2008, p. 8.

"As a kid you're not as willing to be open with your mother just because you're younger and not as mature and you don't realize that it's actually a good thing to do."

- Actress Rachel Bilson, *Seventeen*, March 2008, p. 143.

"I recorded a lot of things when I was drunk—because I was drunk. I felt I could deal with life more easily with a few drinks. Problem was, few turned into many. Living sober was difficult."

- Beatles' drummer Ringo Starr, *Blender*, March 2008, p. 44.

Added February 18, 2008

"We created technology that enabled people to steal music really well; however you slice it, if you didn't pay for it, you're stealing it. You don't walk into a restaurant and take food off the table."

- Veteran rocker Lenny Kravitz, *Spin*, February 2008, pp. 88-89.

"I don't go to church so much, the way my life is, but it's in me every day."

- Veteran rocker Lenny Kravitz answering if he attends church after professing his religion is Christian, *Spin*, February 2008, p. 89.

"Used to smoke a *lot* of weed. I'd smoke an ounce in two days. I was high from age 11 until I was 35."

- Veteran rocker Lenny Kravitz, *Blender*, March 2008, p. 120.

"Smoking and drinking, that stuff was never a problem because I never had a genuine interest in it. Females were different because I had a genuine interest in females."

- Rapper Lupe Fiasco (born Wasalu Jaco) answering if he ever rebelled against his Muslim faith, *Entertainment Weekly*, January 18, 2008, p. 58.

Added February 12, 2008

"I think songwriting is the ultimate form of being able to make anything that happens in your life productive."

- 18-year-old country music star Taylor Swift, *Entertainment Weekly*, February 8, 2008, p. 40.

"I wrote that about the scariest feeling I've ever felt: going to school, walking down the hall, looking at all those faces, and not knowing who you're gonna talk to that day. People always, How did you have the courage to walk up to record labels when you were 12 or 13? It's because I could never feel the kind of rejection in the music industry that I felt in middle school."

- 18-year-old country music star Taylor Swift speaking about the inspiration for the song "The Outside", *Entertainment Weekly*, February 8, 2008, p. 42.

"There was a lack of authentic teen girl characters...I saw writing this screenplay as an opportunity to create an iconic female."

- *Juno* screenwriter Diablo Cody (born Brook Busey), *Entertainment Weekly*, February 8, 2008, p. 27.

Added January 29, 2008

"I'm a Christian, and those beliefs occasionally come out in the books. One thing you really have to watch as a writer is getting on a soapbox or pulpit about anything. You don't want to alienate readers."

- Writer John Grisham, *Time*, February 4, 2008, p. 6.

"I don't need anything except love. The rest of it can come and go. I know a lot of people who are extremely rich, and they're the most miserable people I've ever met. Money can't buy your inspiration. For me, I'm finding that the less I have, the happier I am."

- Singer/songwriter Lenny Kravitz, *Rolling Stone*, February 7, 2008, p. 28.

"My dad passed two years ago. I left home at fifteen, because he and I couldn't deal with each other. But in the months before he died, I took care of him. We made peace. The song is just saying, 'I wanted you in my life, why couldn't you handle it?'"

- Singer/songwriter Lenny Kravitz speaking about his song "A Long and Sad Goodbye", *Rolling Stone*, February 7, 2008, p. 28.

Added January 23, 2008

"As long as it's happening naturally, I'll ride it a little bit, but I'm not going to reinvent myself. I'm not going to fight for my celebrity."

- Singer/songwriter Jack Johnson, *Entertainment Weekly*, January 25, 2008, p. 45.

Added January 15, 2008

"With the Internet these days, you don't have a personal life. Nothing is private: Everyone knows everything."

- Actress/singer Vanessa Hudgens (Disney's *High School Musical*), *Seventeen*, February 2008, p. 85.

"Those songs are about my persona, the larger-than-life Fergalicious. It's a part of me, but expanded. It's very sexual, and I am a very sexual person, behind closed doors. I'm a freak. That's the part of my personality I'm playing with in those songs: flirty, sexual, but not promiscuous. I'm basically a tease—take it or leave it."

- Pop singer Fergie (born Stacy Ann Ferguson), *Blender*, Jan/Feb 2008, p. 50.

"My mom and my father split up when I was 17, and my mom remarried...They stayed together for the kids, because I was a drama queen and used to run out screaming when they fought: 'It's my fault!' I knew exactly what I was doing—I was trying to keep them together. But at 17 I had my fake ID, I was cool with it. I was like, 'Sure, split up if you guys want. Can I go out? I had about five fake IDs.'"

- Pop singer Fergie (born Stacy Ann Ferguson), *Blender*, Jan/Feb 2008, p. 52.

"My whole life, I never allowed myself to cry. Growing up, I felt like my life was so hardcore that if I cried it would all come crashing down on me. Now it's all coming out."

- Reality TV star Tila Tequila, *Blender*, Jan/Feb 2008, p. 120.

"When you have a hit song, boom! You're shot out of a cannon and the money just comes pouring in. If you're a famous musician who's surrounded by people being paid to keep you happy, you don't have those grounding influences anymore, and that's why people go bananas."

- Actor John C. Reilly, *Spin*, January 2008, p. 30.

"When there's something that's not at peace inside, it comes out in another way."

"Girls need to know that they can be sexy without showing skin."

- Actress Jessica Alba, *CosmoGirl*, February 2008, p. 72.

"First and foremost, we should be governed by common sense. But common sense should be based on moral principles first. And it is not possible today to have morality separated from religious values."

- Russian President Vladimir Putin, *Time*, Dec 31, 2007-Jan 7, 2008, p. 51.

Added January 10, 2008

"No one in my family was a believer. But I was very drawn to faith, even while doubting. I certainly had this need for something that I wasn't getting at home, so I was the one who went out looking for religion."

"I did not set out to convert anyone to Christianity. I wasn't trying to do what C.S. Lewis did. It is perfectly possible to live a very moral life without a belief in God, and I think it's perfectly possible to live a life peppered with ill-doing and believe in God."

- Harry Potter author J. K. Rowling, *Time*, Dec 31-Jan 7, 2008, pp. 100-102.

**For more information on resources to help you understand today's rapidly changing youth culture, contact the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding.
www.cpyu.org**