

DETOUR

BY OSCAR KNIGHT

WORLD, YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE

EIGHT
REASONS
WHY MILLI VANILLI
IS THE
BEST BAND
EVER.

MY HAUSBOYS, Milli Vanilli, have taken a lot of guff lately for daring to declare on MTV what the teen universe already knows—that they are far better than such moldy retreads as the Beatles, Bob Dylan, and the Rolling Stones. As Cassius Clay once said, bragging ain't bragging if it's true.

In less than a year, Rob "Milli" Pilatus and Fab "Vanilli" Morvan have conquered the pop galaxy like dreadlocked storm troopers, parlaying their God-given cheekbones into a corporate empire that includes Saudi banking interests, a clutch of beauty parlors, and a lucrative chain of Wiener-schnitzel/soul-food emporiums. Yet old goats continue to deny these two German/West Indian heartthrobs their proper due. Consider:

1. Neither the Beatles nor Bob Dylan has ever placed a song in the MTV Top 20 video countdown. Milli Vanilli has done it three times.

2. Milli Vanilli has never canceled a concert because of a drug arrest, pregnancy, or mysterious neural infection. Can the Rolling Stones, or, for that matter, Neneh Cherry, say as much? And the Beatles have not made a single concert appearance in 20 years. How professional is that?

3. Milli Vanilli can speak—and possibly sing—in more than one language. The Beatles' two attempts at German language crossover were clumsy phonetic remakes of previous hits.

4. Milli Vanilli looks really cool. With a simple swish of braids, they can have their choice of many fine foxes. Bob Dylan is poison to the babes of today, and Paul McCartney would look obscene in the kind of bicycle shorts that make Milli Vanilli look so righteous.

5. With samplers and sequencers, Milli Vanilli is at the cutting edge of music technology. The Beatles' supposed masterpiece, *Sgt. Pepper's Mystery Tour*, was recorded on a primitive eight-track machine. Dylan has done entire albums with just acoustic guitar and harmonica, while the Stones continue to play in the archaic blues style.

6. Milli Vanilli's adoption of universal themes of romance is a much



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better role model. It's a well-known fact that the Beatles experimented with hallucinogenic drugs, and Dylan openly agitated for class warfare in his grammatically sloppy song, "It's a Hard Rain Gonna Fall." Mr. Pilatus and Mr. Morvan should be applauded for thumbing their noses at the pessimistic Mr. Dylan with their clever answer song, "Blame It on the Rain."

7. Unlike Dylan, who insists on screwing up his songs by singing them himself, Milli Vanilli refuses to subject its fans to the uncertainty of bad sound systems or sore throats. Instead, they use prerecorded vocals to ensure seamless performances. Twelve-year-old girls in the audience can sing along to their songs just like they do to their records at home—and just like their idols do on stage.

8. And, finally, you can bet that Milli Vanilli will never be caught at age 40 regurgitating hits in Vegas. Nor will we ever see Milli Vanilli impersonators at the Holiday Inns of America. The truth is, the best impersonation of Milli Vanilli is already being done by Rob Pilatus and Fab Morvan.