

Maniac Returns To School

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someone else. Umit Karakis said he had a similar ordeal, adding that he got harassed simply because of the way he dressed.

Merchant, said she was overwhelmed by the lyrics the students read to her. "They're dealing with issues I didn't have to deal with."

Fourteen-year-old Bledy Capel-

lan wrote a song on war, derived from the images of the fighting in the Balkans and other conflicts he sees each night on television. "I see people caring about their family and friends, People trying to flee and ~~they find~~ are dead ends." MAY 15 1993

Scholastic said the study of popular song lyrics offers teachers a way to connect their curriculum with the media their students are tuned in to for so much of their lives.

One of Scholastic's first ventures with pop music lyrics in the classroom was the distribution of the lyrics from Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start the Fire," a song filled with 20th century historical references.

Merchant said there's a lot more good in rock music than many adults and educators may realize. "People put a blanket over rock music, saying it is all destructive. But there's a lot of activism in rock music."

She added, "One bone I'm chewing is racism. I've done three songs on it already, but I haven't been extremely direct about it."