

what's going on. They're doing a good job.

Fred Dale
Moon

Did they just give Mook an award?

I know nothing about hip-hop, but I read the awards show article ([Event preview: First annual hip-hop awards show aims to lift the local scene, Jan. 11](#)) and the accompanying Paradise Gray interview ([Paradise's vision: 'One city, one people, one 'hood,' Jan. 11](#)) with my always open mind, hoping to learn more. It all sounded cool, upbeat and fun till I got to the nominees.

Artists, songs, groups, producers, etc. -- all normal awards categories. Record store, clothing store, video store -- all neat.

Thewn: Best Graffiti Artist?

This is not art. This is crime.

Mook? Is he not the punk who cost our bankrupt city thousands of dollars cleaning up his messes? (*Editor's note: he won.*)

If any of these "artists" would like to decorate my barn, I'd be glad to demonstrate the "arts" of a hound dog treeing and a shotgun peppering.

We should expect better from every culture.

Carl Walter
Mercer

Oh, how they roll

Kudos to Bob Batz Jr. for his terrific (albeit tongue-in-cheek -- slightly chauvinistic) piece "Hot Wheels" ([Steel City Derby Demons put their bodies on the line for the thrill of the game, Jan. 18](#)).

Having a professional roller derby league in town would considerably lessen the trauma if someday the Steelers are seen permanently jogging out of town with a Pirate under one arm and a Penguin under the other.

It's time the distaff side of sports is given the publicity and fan support it deserves.

These female juggernauts are tougher than Shiite police officers who walk the night beat in a Sunni neighborhood.

The article's mesmerizing action photographs transform these rippling athletes into a pride of powerful lionesses honed by the hunt, and I can't wait to see the big can of whooping the Steel City Derby Demons are going to open on Jan. 27.

Women of Pittsburgh, unite and support your flat ring roller derby sisters while encouraging your boyfriends and spouses to temper their non-priapic man crushes on Pittsburgh's male professional athletes long enough to give these "Hot Wheelers" a chance to prove their mettle.

Xena and Gabrielle were the peers of Hercules and Iolaus; the Steel City Derby Demons will eventually rival the Steelers.

Robert Biller
Fombell

PSO in FLA

We are "snowbirds" in Florida. On Jan. 15, we went to see our Pittsburgh Symphony at Kravis Center in West Palm Beach. It was a sold-out event, so we had to get two separate seats. Around us were very friendly people, and in talking, we mentioned that we were from Pittsburgh. The concert went on, and it was so powerful, we thought that the entire orchestra would "rise from the stage" from the sound.

At the end, the people around us were so thrilled, saying, "This is as good as it gets!" The orchestra also played several encores. ... What pride! What an ambassador for our city!

Judi and Iz Rudoy
Boca Raton, Fla.

Life beyond the Steelers

Is it expecting too much for our local TV stations to report real news, other than the Steelers, during the first 10 minutes of their broadcasts?

With all the turmoil in the world and important issues in the region, must we forever be subjected to Steelermania for an inordinate amount of time that the "news" is on the air? Contrary to popular opinion, not all people are sports fans.

Carolyn Czapor
Oakmont

Here's Plan C