

Debate crowd favors uncensored obscenity

Pornography free of censorship was argued by four debaters at the fourth annual International Student Debate Monday evening.

Alissa Sandin of UNL and Stephen Kos, of the University of New Zealand, took the affirmative stand. In opposition were Barb Pickering of UNL and Tim O'Brien, also of the University of New Zealand.

Kos and O'Brien are touring the United States giving such debates. The UNL debate was sponsored by the University Program Council, the UNL Speech Department and Air New Zealand.

Before the debate began, the audience was separated into those for and those against, and the members were encouraged to switch sides if they changed their minds during the debate. By the end of the debate, an estimated two-thirds of the audience had taken the pornography side.

Miss Sandin began by saying that the government cannot determine what is good or bad for citizens and that it was the Founding fathers' intent to keep ethics and morality separated from government.

She added that the Supreme Court has determined that it is all right to have pornography if you write it in the attic, print it in the basement and read it in the living room, if it isn't taken outside and circulated.

She concluded by saying that she believes people are bright enough to decide for themselves what they want to read.

Miss Pickering then gave her rebuttal saying that sex has its place in the bedroom and not on the book racks. Kos later disputed that statement, saying he had heard of sex in the bedroom, but has yet to experience sex on a book rack.

Miss Pickering said 1.2 million children from five to 15 have been forced into acting in pornographic films and photos. These children, she said, are emotionally and spiritually murdered.

Kos also opposed child porn, but not because it is distributed.

"Censorship deals with the result, not the cause. We say there should be laws against child abuse. Simply stopping distribution will not prevent harm to the child," Kos said.

He added that censorship is a cop out; it is society failing to determine its own morality.

Kos said they don't deny there are books that harm, but that greater harm comes from not letting people look at them. It is a greater evil by letting only one view out, he said, citing present day dictatorships and communist nations.

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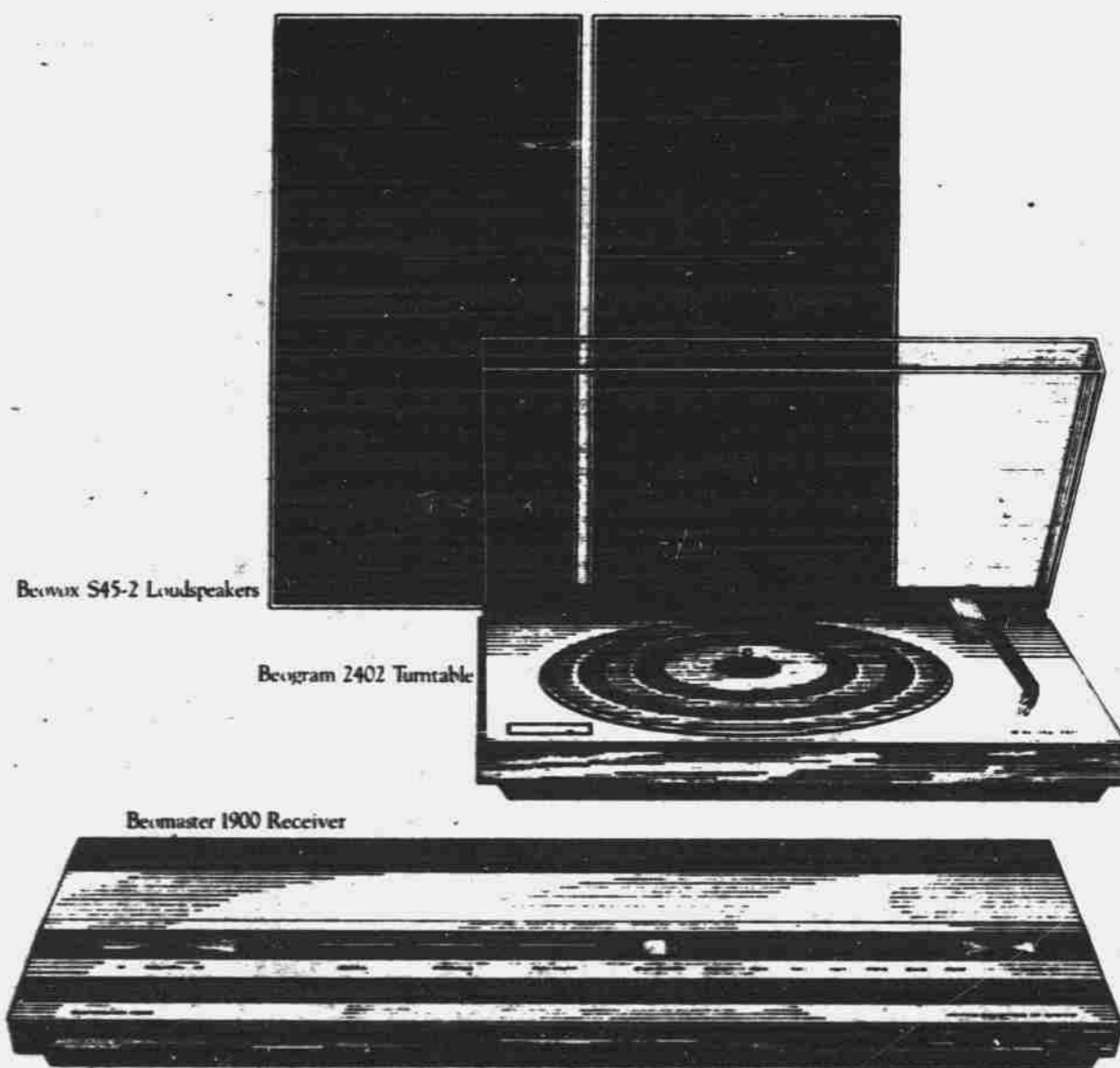
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