

Born-again...

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Slow Train Coming is his most ambitious effort musically, incorporating the gospel sound of the female back-up vocalists used on *Street Legal*, and the innovative, guitar work of Dire Straits' Mark Knopfler. Knopfler certainly deserves a healthy amount of credit for the musical bite that carries through the album.

Lyricaly, Dylan produces some triumphs and some annoying tendencies. There is a string of social protest returned to Dylan's vocabulary, some anger and concern that rings like a breath of fresh air into the title track. If you see Dylan as the voice of the apocalypse, "Slow Train Comin'" is undoubtedly the album's most effective product. For sheer lyrical power, the only other challengers are "Gonna Change My Way of Thinking" and the especially evocative "When You Gonna Wake Up."

But occasionally Dylan threatens to sound cliché, as when rhyming "foreign oil" with "American soil", or getting into a cute but demanding parody of the Ray Jay

Johnson monologue on "Gotta Serve Somebody." When he sings of his deep religious convictions, it can be hard to know how to take his attempts at converting the listener. As a friend pointed out, we might just have difficulty relating to this humble side of Bob Dylan.

But *Slow Train Coming* is not a collection of little sermons, it is an entire statement of belief, with every song containing strong Christian overtones. While the album is often musically repetitive and takes some settling of the mind as to how to accept Dylan's conversion, the direction of purpose displayed on *Slow Train Coming* sparks faith in Dylan's abilities as an artist and philosopher.

The album still does not have the poignance of much of his early work, nor the flash of brilliance he showed in 1975's *Blood On The Tracks*. But holding someone so strongly to what they have done in the past is something that we would not wish upon ourselves. And this is the Golden Rule which Dylan extols thoroughly in a particular cut on the album.

Watching the once acoustic folksinger become a musically complicated, born-again Christian is an almost haunting way to round out the 70s, full of premonitions and social curiosity. It also brings to mind the lack of musical philosophers this decade has produced. Bob Dylan is just warming up for a new generation.

Horror films scheduled

"Tonight should be an exciting night," said Anita Johnson, chairperson of the Campus Activities and Programs-East film committee. Three of the horror industry's standard classics will be presented in the Great Plains Room beginning at 7:30 p.m. on East Campus Union.

"Village of the Damned," "Isle of the Dead," and "The Green Slime" will be shown. Cost will be \$1.50 and free popcorn will be served, Johnson said.



Photo by Tom Gessner

Up With People

Up With People, a singing and dancing troupe, performed its first show of a new tour Tuesday in the Nebraska Union lounge.

Halloween...

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Modern fashion has taken the curse out of this monthly transformation. Thanks to new trends in hair styles, werewolves are no longer self-conscious, and as a result are not nearly as anti-social as they once were. Inspired by the success of fellow lycanthrope Ted Nugent, a number are seeking careers in rock music. Others, not quite so well-adjusted, can often be found lingering in dark corners at R.J. Willy's on cold Saturday nights.

Ghosts: Another group of supernatural creatures for whom modern living poses difficulties, many ghosts have given up haunting altogether. As one of them puts it, "There is no such thing as a spooky old condominium." The housing crunch has driven some to drink, which explains the many alcoholic spirits around town these days.

Banshees: These loathsome creatures are known for their hideous screams, mindless shrieks, and senseless streams of obnoxious gibberish calculated to drive unwilling listeners mad. Many currently find successful employment as newspaper humor columnists.

NETV schedules

Gordon Lightfoot

Gordon Lightfoot—the self-proclaimed "traveling folksinger"—launches the sixth season of SOUNDSTAGE Sunday at 10 p.m. on the Nebraska Educational Television Network.

"Early Morning Rain," "Cotton Jenny," "If You Could Read My Mind," "Sundown" and "Don Quixote" are among Lightfoot's most famous ballads that are part of his SOUNDSTAGE performance.

Other artists scheduled to appear on SOUNDSTAGE throughout the season include the Temptations, The Doobie Brothers, John Prine, Elvin Bishop, Joan Armatrading, Southside Johnny and the Ashbury Jukes, Chick Corea and Al Jarreau, and Ella Fitzgerald with Oscar Peterson.



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