

Letters

Brief letters are preferred, and longer letters may be edited. Writer's address and phone number are needed for verification.

Senate praised for supporting Smith residents

The support ASUN is giving Smith Hall in its investigation of the newly built women's athletic study area is commendable. The ASUN Senate met in a residence complex (Harper-Schramm-Smith) for the first time ever Wednesday night and unanimously voted to support the UNL Residence Hall Association in its protest of the athletic study area in Smith Hall.

The HSS Complex Senate and RHA had approved a resolution criticizing the decision to place the study area in Smith, and 232 Smith residents had signed the resolution.

This is a major issue in the residence hall community. Many Smith residents are upset about the loss of their piano room and lounge study space to this closed athletic area with computer access.

In past years, ASUN has been attacked for its unwillingness to get involved in real issues that affect UNL students. It's heartening now to see ASUN's eagerness to defend the interests of Smith Hall, answer the many questions that surround the construction of the study area and seek a solution that will be acceptable to the stu-

dents involved.

I'm confident the new spirit of concern in ASUN will continue throughout the year. I sincerely hope the new ASUN ad hoc group studying the Smith Hall issue, together with Smith President Sydney Warner and her investigatory committee, will successfully get to the bottom of this issue on behalf of the women of Smith Hall.

Dave Edwards
state president
Nebraska Association of Residence Halls

Warnings on albums will lead to censorship

If the Parents Music Resource Center and the National Parent Teachers Association are successful in their attempt to enact federal legislation, record companies would be required to label, rate and warn potential buyers of sexually explicit lyrics, occult messages and lurid graphics contained on or within record albums. The action initiated by the PMRC and NPTA is prompted by the notoriety of such bands as Twisted Sister, AC/DC, Motley Crue and the like.

Although I am not a fan of the above-mentioned rock groups, I am familiar with the "music" they produce and confess I find it nauseating. I do not, however, condone the potential "labeling" of such forms of expression by anyone.

What frightens me is this: warning

labels on controversial record albums eventually will lead to the labelling of controversial books. This will lead to the imminent banning of them both.

I'll admit there's a copious amount of trash on the shelves of bookstores and the racks of record shops. But that does not give anyone the mandate to deem such forms of expression unfit for the masses.

If such legislation is ever enacted, how far will this McCarthyistic witch-hunt of freedom of expression go?

If you want to eliminate violence and demonic subject matter, certain passages in the Bible would have to be censored. If sexual explicitness is your gripe, Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" would have to be pulled from library shelves and literature classes.

The only way to solve this apparent

problem is through the family unit. Parents must be more aware of their children's habits and take the initiative of modifying such habits if they find them objectionable and deal with the problem...within their own home. Parents who foist this duty on external institutions are irresponsible.

The actions of the PMRC and the NPTA have brought the problem of offensive music to public attention. What has been done by them already is sufficient. If further action is taken they will not be operating in the best interest of this country because of inevitable constitutional violations.

Remember, the Bill of Rights protects freedom of speech, press, and yes, the subject matter on vinyl discs.

Gary A. Pleskac
Lincoln

Radical changed

WILL from Page 4

Richard Nixon.

Driving a Toyota van on one of the freeways that has made this city a symbol of Dixie transformed, Jamil reached behind him for a plastic carrying case, removed from it a cassette, slipped it into the dashboard tape deck and the van filled with the almost musical sound of passages from the Koran recited first in Arabic and then in English.

Members of Atlanta's large black middle class are driving all around him on the freeway. But H. Rap Brown, a boy from America's South, has become a man of a distant East.

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Will is a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and contributing editor for Newsweek magazine.

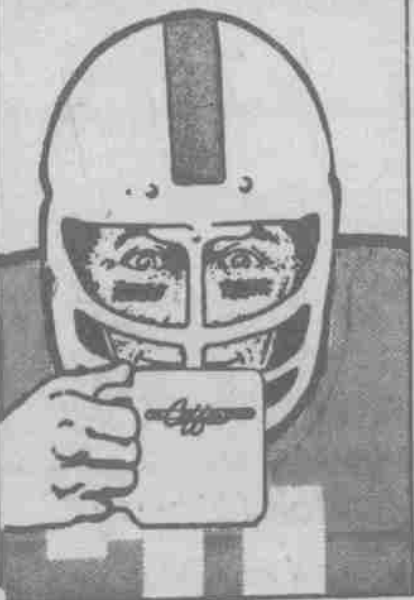
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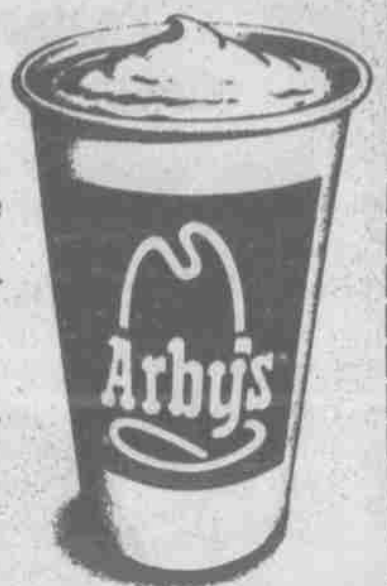
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