

# Editorial

## Soviet Union realizes value of universities

**T**oo bad Nebraskans aren't as interested in NU as the Soviets are.

The university was one of 60 targeted for surveillance by the Soviet Union, according to a Pentagon document released last week. The report, titled "Soviet Acquisition of Militarily Significant Western Technology: An Update," said the Soviets are monitoring the universities in a campaign to steal U.S. military secrets.

Besides UNL, the Soviets are monitoring research at four other Big Eight schools, as well as Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. At UNL, the Soviets could be interested in any of the five Defense Department research contracts, but the specific area of interest is unknown.

Unlike the Soviets, most Nebraskans have little knowledge of the research and worthwhile work being done at UNL. Instead of focusing on contributions to the state or budget dilemma, state and local newspapers have reported incidents such as:

- A UNL fraternity's panty raid at a Nebraskan Wesleyan sorority.

- A lawsuit filed against the Daily Nebraskan by two Lincoln homosexuals over the refusal to print advertisements including a person's sexual preference.

- NU President Ronald Roskens' visit to the college newspaper to point out errors in a story.

If Nebraskans base their perceptions of UNL on events reported in the media, they must wonder why the Soviets are wasting their time on this university.

Maybe the Soviets are looking at projects such as:

- Research into the basic understanding of the laws of engineering, chemistry, physics and related sciences.

- Research to improve civilian and military communication.

- Research in biotechnology and other fields and agricultural research.

Perhaps Nebraskans should look to the Soviets to find out about their university's contributions to the state and nation.

## Editorial policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the fall 1985 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Vicki Ruhga, editor in chief; Jonathan Taylor, editorial page editor; Ad Hudler, news editor; Suzanne Teten, campus editor and Lauri Hopple, copy desk chief.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents.

### The Daily Nebraskan

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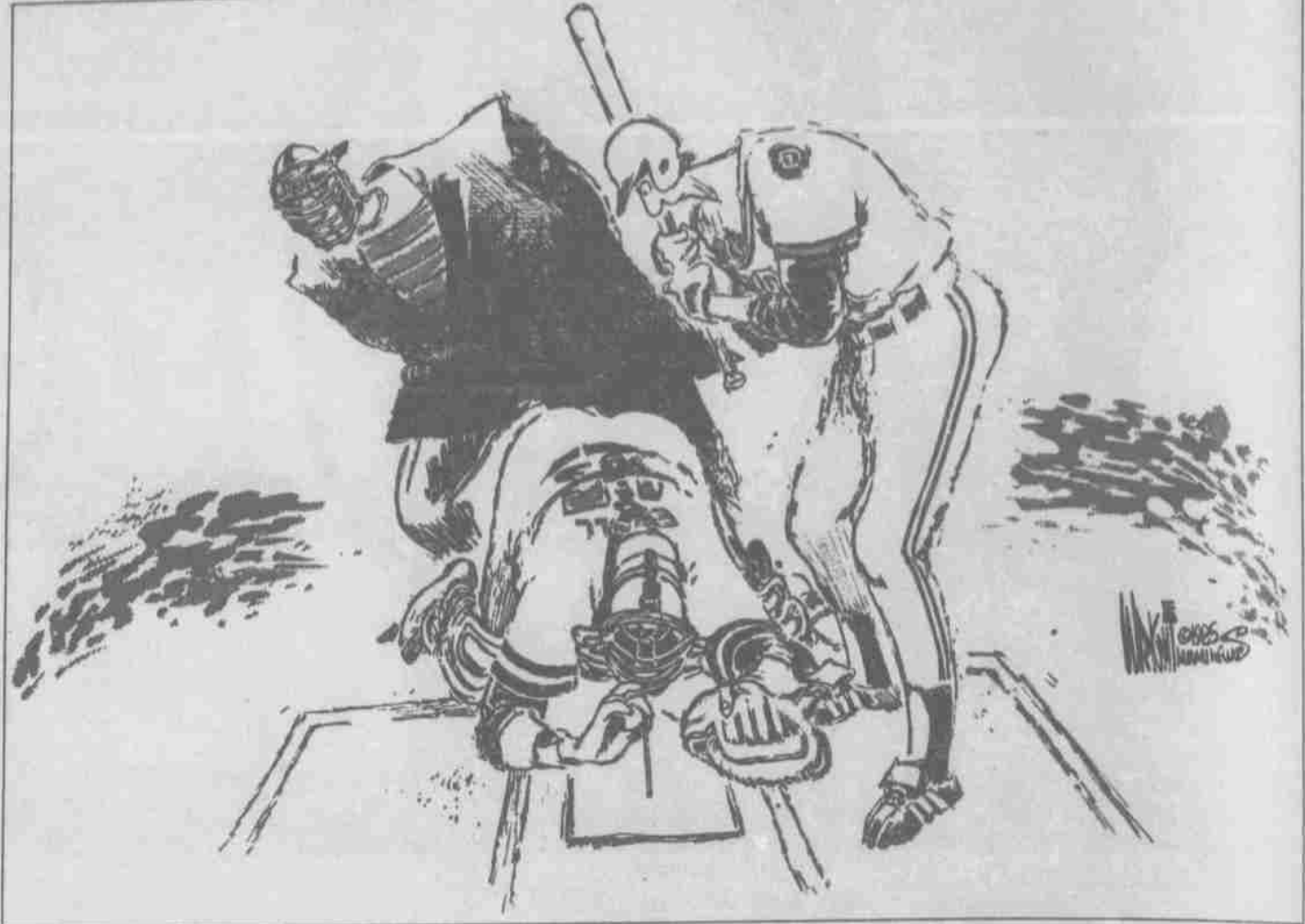
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### Dirty lyric labeling

## Help defend sleaze? No way!

**I** was asked by some sincere civil libertarians if I would help them defend the right of record companies to produce rock records with raunchy lyrics.

When I declined the invitation, one of them said: "But you're against censorship, aren't you?"



Mike Royko

Most of the time, yes. But it's always been my policy that if some creep is determined to make a buck by producing or selling something that is obscene, disgusting, offensive and of no social or artistic value, they should have to fight for the right to do so. And without my help.

That's what's been happening to some elements of the recording industry. They are being hounded and harassed by a Senate committee, wives of congressmen, the PTA and other influential groups.

These groups want to bully the record companies into putting labels on jackets that would warn purchasers that they are buying sleaze.

The idea is to protect children from hearing songs that hail the joys of incest, sadism, masochism, suicide, rape and other subjects that inspire some of today's lyricists.

I doubt if such labeling would help. More likely, it would make it easier for youthful record-buyers to do their shopping. They wouldn't have to worry

about inadvertently buying a record that sounds good and has something worthwhile to say.

Nor do I believe that members of Congress or any other politicians should start deciding what people should read or hear.

So far, nobody has proposed any laws that would prevent record companies from producing junk. They just want the junk labeled as junk.

But that's been enough to cause great anguish at some of the record companies and bring cries of outrage from some of their better-known stars.

Which is fine. Nobody ever guaranteed that the path of the creative artist would be smooth and easy.

Mozart had to deal with royal patrons who were demanding and restrictive. Beethoven started losing his hearing while still a young man.

So, it isn't unreasonable to expect a few recording executives and musicians to face some adversity while they strive for the artistic fulfillment that comes with producing songs that describe the joys of getting it on with one's sister or schoolteacher.

Actually, nothing is going to come out of all of this. Any new laws trying to censor musical lyrics would probably be shot down by the courts.

But I see nothing wrong with somebody putting the heat on the record companies and musical groups that can't find anything more interesting to yowl about than the joys of rape.

That's one of the useful, informal systems of checks and balances in our society.

Somebody writes a creepy song, hoping to make enough money to buy a California house with a swimming pool and hot-and-cold running groupies. Some

record executive punches his desk calculator and sees the song increasing his bottom line.

Then along comes the blue-nosed ladies, forcing the songwriter and the record executive to hire lawyers to defend their right to be public nuisances.

Eventually, the creeps will win their battle. But they have to sweat a little and spend some money on lawyers.

Well, as so many businessmen have said: You have to spend money to make money.

That's been the history of all dedicated porno dealers. When they first opened stores, they knew they'd be busted and have to go to court. They didn't whine about their rights. They just called their lawyers.

Flashers get arrested. So do peepers. And hookers, B-girls and pimps. It's part of the business.

So, the peddlers of creep-rock should just accept this as part of the price of success, the struggle of the creative artist, the pain of the pioneer.

But, please, do it on your own like any self-respecting creep.

When I explained my position to the civil libertarians who asked me to defend their cause, they said: "Today it is rock. Tomorrow it could be your column."

That's what they always say, but I don't believe it.

But if it does happen, I won't wait around for some dope-sniffing guitar banger to help me.

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Royko is a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for the Chicago Tribune

## Letters

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

### If you have proof Bill, please share it

This letter is in regard to Bill Allen's column (Daily Nebraskan, Sept. 30) on the panty raid at the Nebraska Wesleyan campus.

We have not seen any basis for Allen's total condemnation of the Greek system.

First, the Greek system does not strive to create a foundation of machoism vs. feminism. We recently took a test over the 22 objectives of our fraternity and this principle was not mentioned.

We strive to be polite to sorority women and little sisters. We have been taught this from the beginning and even have a section in our handbook dedicated to good manners.

We are not sure why Allen thinks

fraternity men like to "parade around the chapter house" in women's undergarments. We have never had such an urge nor have known any fraternity men who have.

As for wearing leather or denim jackets and listening to Barry Manilow and Air Supply, we have never had an urge to do these things either. We do not, however, condemn those who do not understand what this has to do with Allen's accusations against Greeks.

We do not think his information has a proper founding. We cannot speak for other fraternities, but we can for ours. Allen's accusations are not at all correct and can be classified as slander. If Allen has statistics, facts or firm information, please share it with us.

Gray Dobbins  
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The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.