

Happily ever after isn't really

GOODMAN from Page 4

go out and get pregnant. . . . This song is really about a girl who is making a decision in her life."

All of last year's Madonna Wannabees are not, I know, gonna wanna be pregnant this year. But if you think that rock stars have no influence on teenage behavior, I can tell you where to find a whole lot of used lace gloves. If this is a song about "a girl making a decision in her life," part of her

decision-making comes from the endless romantic messages like this one.

My own personal fantasy is to see just one movie in which the passionate male lead looks deeply into the eyes of the exquisite female lead as they sit before the fire in the lonely cabin, kissing soulfully, and asks whether they should use his contraceptive or hers. Just once I would like to hear a rock'n-roll song in which the lead singer pants huskily, "No, no, no."

I don't, however, expect to ever hear an upbeat ode to the diaphragm. Or a

lyric to the midnight feeding. Indeed, if you want an antonym for romance in our multi-media show, try "realistic" or "responsible." Responsible romance is an oxymoron. True lovers are not planners; they are carried away. Just ask pregnant teen-agers, almost a million a year.

Adolescents are fed the pop image of a love that is zipless and parenthood that comes without bills or diapers. But even Madonna, 27, and a lady in control of her life, knows better. Asked what she imagines as postscript to the happy ending of her first-trimester video, she says, "Of course, who knows how it will end?" The realists among us do have a pretty good, or should I say, pretty bleak, statistical idea. In poverty.

Does that sound like a sermon? The song says, "Papa Don't Preach." Let's make a deal instead. Papa and Mama will call off the preaching, if pop stars call off the propaganda.

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Goodman is a Pulitzer prize-winning columnist with the Boston Globe.

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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.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not run, is left to the editor's discretion.

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Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names from publication will not be granted.

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