

Hip pioneers or hacks?

HARRAH from Page 12

sheet." Tama always makes the gossip columns and the celebrity press loves to show pictures of her with her flowing mane, slitted eyes, vampy outfits and her two doggies, LuLu and Beep Beep, who pose with her on the cover of "Slaves." She's not just a writer — she's a glamour goddess with two funky little pooches who has lunched quite often with McInerney and the late Andy Warhol.

There's really nothing wrong with a writer getting the same treatment as a film star. Writers work just as hard as actors — sometimes harder. However, it becomes difficult to value the veracity of these novelists' angst when they continue to wallow in the self-indulgent hedonism they pretend to eviscerate in their books.

Perhaps the main glitch in the Inevitably Hip fabric is their dated themes and trite streams of wealth that induce guilt. And the venues themselves. We already know that New York and Los Angeles are intense and demanding salacious, so why do we need these writers to tell us that once more? How about a novel about the "sleazy netherworld" of Peoria and Omaha? No. The Midwest isn't hip, the Tama Janowitzes of the world think.

Jack Kerouac exposed his generation and got it some publicity, but he never condescended to it.

And as for originality, are the Inevitably Hip truly genuine pioneers of the

underground? Their prose may be dolorous and cumbersome, snaking along the gutters of stream of consciousness anti-socialism, but their demons just aren't all that interesting when you compare them to William Burroughs, Tom Robbins, Kathy Acker, Kurt Vonnegut and similar roe.

Janowitz's New York and Ellis' Los Angeles just don't seem as intriguing as Christopher Isherwood's Berlin, Armistead Maupin's San Francisco or Dorothy Parker's New York, which is much more satirical than Janowitz's cartoon camp sketches of the Big Apple could ever hope to be.

The Inevitably Hip are talented, but is their work literature? In a dorm-room world of parties, yes, but in the terms of substance, no. They're glossy, but peel back all the overdone dramatism, band names, designer anguish and art deco sets and you'll find Harold Robbins begging to be included on intelligentsia reading lists.

But leave it to Hollywood to tell the real truth about the Inevitably Hip society. Michael J. Fox, a bubble gum guru in a bubble gum world, is slated to star in the lead role of the film version of "Bright Lights, Big City." Or is it the film version of "Less Than Zero"?

It seems that their hip demons are really angels after all under all those literary klieg lights.

Harrah is a senior news editorial and English major and Daily Nebraskan night news editor.



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