

Where Is Concern Over Subliminal Messages?

In response to your Oct. 6 editorial concerning the recent **rock music exposure**, how ironic it seems that a few years ago when razor blades and pins were found hidden in the Halloween candy of kids across the country, parents, law enforcement and media joined together in an effort to protect our children and preventive measures were undertaken.

Now, when it is exposed that there are dangerous subliminal and satanic messages concerning sex, drugs, alcohol, suicide and Satan worship hidden in the records our kids tune their minds in to for hours and hours, where is the parental concern, or could it be that we don't know what our kids are listening to, or could it be that we don't care?

It is amazing that in a country which claims freedom of speech and religion, when two men take a stand for the truth and proclaim God's word they are shot down by the public, misrepresented by the media, and compared to the Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan. However, almost 2,000 years ago a man came and proclaimed the truth, and he was crucified.

We thank God for the Reverends Clark and Gasquez who care enough about the youth of today — tomorrow's leaders — to have the backbone to risk opposition.

Often people become so preoccupied with an issue they neglect to search to see if there be any truth to the issue. In this case so much publicity has been given to the "burning of records" we wonder how many parents have taken the time to read the album jackets or listen closely to the words of the music. ...

Why are we willing to declare that it is a "healthy release" to have nearly nude dancers at a local bar, and yet criticize and condemn the proclaiming of God's word which states "The thief (Satan) comes to steal, kill and destroy, but Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly?"

DIANA KRIESEL
Shelburne

Revival of Idealism

On Oct. 4 a large crowd of young people gathered on the campus of the **University of Vermont**. For two hours they listened intently to warnings about the present dangers posed by addictive drugs, unemployment, child-abandonment, repression and social injustice.

The young people not only listened, but cheered, clapped, waved their arms in the air, and



Forum

danced as they absorbed this inspiring message and its implied call-to-action.

Such enthusiasm on the part of young folks today is sadly rare in a cynical age, and many older citizens may wish to applaud this idealistic resurgence as they ask just who it was that revived the pride, excitement and moral courage that had too long been dormant in these youngsters.

In fact, the "preachers" at that particular youth-assembly were none other than the rock musicians known as **The Clash**. At such concerts, and through their many recordings, **The Clash** have for several years spoken directly to rock fans about the crucial moral and political issues facing our society, and their popularity has continued to grow.

While **The Clash** performed at **UVM**, not far away a well-meaning spiritual leader stood before a gathering of young people and their parents. Pronouncing that he was about to save his followers from "evil messages," the preacher set afire a stack of books and rock recordings and then stood by smiling smugly as the noxious fumes rose to the heavens.

Very likely, **a Clash record** or two was melted that night.

Concerned observers of contemporary youth should be thankful for the emergence of **The Clash** on the musical scene, and for the timely appearance Monday night of the South Burlington fire department.

BILL NEVINS
South Starksboro

Misplaced Blame

The burning of the records, tapes and books which took place on Oct. 4 proves, beyond any reasonable doubt, that McCarthyism is alive and well and living in the guise of God in South Burlington.

I am a strong believer in God and an avid follower of some of the more progressive rock bands. When the Rev. Clark burned the records, tapes and books, he showed how one individual, crusading for a cause, can incite other individuals to inculcate

negative values and displace the blame for the decline of Christianity from people to music.

I will admit that some of the music from the late 1960s did promote pleasure-oriented behavior. But in thinking of the music, one must think of the world events that the music attempted to portray. For example, the song, "Pusher-Man" by Steppenwolf promulgated that drugs help alleviate some of the external pressures that were prevalent during the 1960s (i.e. the military draft, parental overbearingness, the rush for success, etc.)

One of the albums burned on Oct. 4 was **Paradise Theatre** by the group Styx. If Clark listened to the album before destroying it he would have heard the song "Snowblind." The lyricist in the song tries to tell people how drugs interfere with one's perception of one's state of affairs. The song is definitely an anti-drug song and is trying to reach people to warn them of the pitfalls of drug usage.

I am an avid reader of history and cannot help but draw the parallel that the behavior of the individuals the other night is very similar to the behavior of the followers of Hitler in the 30s and 40s and to McCarthy in the 40s and 50s. ...

DONALD W. LABELLE
Hinesburg

Parental Duties

My son has yet to bring home a school library book that has any other story of creation than "In the beginning there was a big explosion of gases ... etc." Thank God I live in the U.S. where I can give him my views of creation as taught in the Bible.

I also see to it that I know what television he watches and what books and textbooks he reads.

I support the Rev. Clark's stand (Free Press, Oct. 5) that as parents we should make it our business to know what recorded music our children listen to and also to listen with them to the songs (frontwards and backwards). I also agree on the importance of reading the scriptures with children each day.

May I suggest to other Vermont parents, whatever your beliefs, that you were chosen to raise your children. Don't let anything or anyone else do it.

Behind the Iron Curtain children are taken away from their parents if they are taught about God or any other "old fashioned" ideas against the state. Are we any more free if we don't exercise our rights and duties as parents? Jericho JONEE SMITH

Request for Apology

"The path to hell is paved with good intentions." For at least a year, groups have been burning rock records with "masked messages." I do not know how many purges involved Simon and Garfunkle or Kate Smith.

Few have given "glory to Satan" as the zealous behavior of the self-righteous people on Williston Road Oct. 4. In light of "vengeance is mine," the Lord, and Isaiah's admonition "since they have chosen their own ways and taken pleasure in their own abominations ...," no doubt about it, they did!

I believe a public apology is due each of us by the Community Bible Church (sic Rev. Wayne Clark). If they are of the "Father" we will get one. It is a necessary cleansing of the spirit for them!

CAROL BROWN
Winooski

No Help Needed

Predictably, there were a lot more books in the Community Bible's bonfire than there were TV sets or National Enquirers. The Klan doesn't have to move up to Vermont; self-righteous intolerance is doing just fine on its own.

STEVE EARDLEY
Winooski

Hidden Messages

The Oct. 6 Free Press editorial stated: "... to be vigilant in the defense of people's rights to read what they please, hear what they want to and think freely."

My daughter wrote a term paper on "Mind Control" and one of the chapters dealt with a study done in a shopping center where there was a great deal of shoplifting going on: When they used subliminal messages in the music that relayed to the minds of the shoppers "shoplifting is a crime," the instances of shoplifting decreased sharply. The mind responded to a message the ears never heard.

The issue here is not that a group of Christians heard a message on rock music and listened to records with backward masking with messages of "Satan is Lord," "Marijuana is good" and responded by getting rid of objectionable material.

The issue is indeed that we are not "hearing what we want" or what we think we are hearing. The minds of our children are being fed material that can implant thoughts that are unhealthy and not of God without their

knowledge.

The Free Press has reported the deaths of people who have taken Tylenol laced with an ingredient not listed on the label — it was added unbeknown to them and ended in death to their bodies. Why are Christians persecuted because they got rid of material that had messages that were hidden from their ears, but their mind can consume?

MARY WILBUR
Burlington

Rock Music Effects

The two-part teaching on Rock Music-Subliminal Messages was valuable. Mind programming via this media occurs in back masking, garbled lyrics and jacket cover symbols.

People object to this as a violation of the right to exercise the free will as to what the mind gets fed.

Kids ought to have the facts revealed — particularly the proven ramifications of this programming to their behavior and subsequent lifestyle.

NANCY P. BEHAN
Williston

Satan's Products

The Oct. 5 article, "Church in Spiritual Warfare Burns Recordings, Tapes, Books," was done poorly. I thought reporters were supposed to be objective. The one who wrote this article obviously was not.

Burning is the only safe way to dispose of that sort of material. That way we aren't responsible for the products of Satan getting into someone else's hands.

It's time for people to wake up and listen to the words of songs going over our airwaves and realize just what is being said. You don't have to be a Christian to figure them out — although we do have an advantage. If you can't understand the words, why do you listen to those songs?

Parents, you're responsible for your children; what they watch and hear. You may wonder why they won't listen to and obey you. It's because of what their music is telling them. Please screen your children's choices of music. One day you will be held accountable for those kids.

Those of you who believe in the power of prayer to God in heaven, please pray for the youth of today; for the families of today. Those of you who don't believe in prayer or its results — try it. You may be amazed at what it can do for you.

KAREN DANAHER
Colchester