

Arts

Area churches unite to 'knock rock'

Dot Hayes
Special to The Pendulum

We're not saying that if you listen to rock music you'll go to hell or that all rock groups worship the devil," said Dan Peters of the standing-room only crowd in the Winley Auditorium on the evening of Jan. 31.

Elon by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, have appeared on ABC's *Nightline*, CBS News, *PM Magazine* and several other television and radio programs nationwide.

The Peters brothers, along with Cher Merrill, have written a book entitled *Why Knock Rock?* on the spiritual effects of rock music on young people. They pointed out that parents should not be quick to advocate country/western music as an alternative to rock or heavy metal on their children. Alcohol, drugs, sleeping around and leaving the family behind are common themes for such music, they said.

The major portion of the lecture—supported by many audio-visual displays—dealt with rock music, particularly heavy metal bands like Ozzy Osbourne, Ratt, Black Sabbath and AC/DC. Other rock bands like The Rolling Stones, The Who and Madonna were discussed. At one point the brothers displayed on a large screen a photograph of Bruce Springsteen kissing Clarence Clemons, the E Street Band's saxophonist; although the Peters did not describe this as a homosexual act, the implication was clear.

brothers is sexually suggestive and violently oriented album covers. They cited the example of Ratt's *Out of the Cellar* LP, which shows a crying woman whose hands are tied together and whose clothes are torn, suggesting a struggle or rape. The cover of Ozzy Osbourne's *Speak of the Devil* shows the singer with a mouthful of bloody flesh jagged between his pointed teeth.

The Peters' speech was not limited to showing the visual impact of rock music on young people. They also discussed lifestyles of rock stars, such as Madonna's appearance in *Playboy* and *Penthouse* magazines, as well as a lesbian scene she did in an X-rated film. Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones was shown wearing a T-shirt displaying the word *DESTROY*, and an upside down crucifixion. The brothers quoted Jagger as saying that he didn't mind his daughter having sex at an early age; they did not identify the source of the quote.

The Peters put special emphasis on suicides that parents have blamed partially on the rock music that their children had enjoyed. Peters showed the audience a tape he had made entitled "AC/DC: Responsible for Murder," which told the story of

a 14-year-old who committed suicide in 1981 after listening to the song "Shoot to Thrill." They also offered a similar story involving a 16-year-old who survived an attempted suicide. The speakers claimed that the cost of the surgery to reconstruct the teenager's face has totaled a third of a million dollars.

However, "this young man has reformed," according to the Peters. "He now helps others to avoid allowing rock music to rule their lives."

No program about the evil influences of rock music could be complete without mentioning alleged "backward masking" in rock music. The Peters began by showing the audience allegedly satanic messages on the screen before playing some songs backwards. "Another One Bites the Dust" by Queen, played in reverse, supposedly says "It's fun to smoke marijuana" according to the Peters brothers. Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" is supposed to include "my sweet Satan" where the vocals read "there's still time."

However, the sound quality in the auditorium was not clear enough to convince everyone present that the reversed songs contained what the Peters said they did.

The Rev. Peters concluded by insuring the audience that his crusade, which has included the burning of offensive albums, is for the benefit of young people. Peters summarized his philosophy by saying, "If rock music is going to take you to Hell, throw it away. Discard whatever hinders your life."



most of their evening "seminar" to reasons why people should "knock rock." The Peters brothers, invited to



Guthrie, Prine to play in Chapel Hill tonight

Recording artists John Prine and Arlo Guthrie will perform a sold-out concert tonight at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

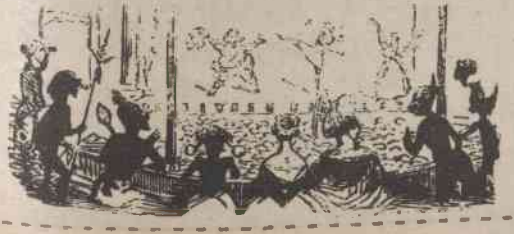
John Prine, best known for such songs as "Dear Abby," "Illegal Smile," and "Paradise" has recently released a new album entitled *Aimless Love* on Old Boy Records.

Arlo Guthrie's best known work, *Alice's*

Restaurant, has been followed by seven albums including *Hobo's Lullaby* and *Brooklyn Cowboy*.

Both artists have a reputation for presenting exciting, humorous, and entertaining live performances.

The concert, which is being produced by Blue Quail Productions in association with WXYC-Radio at UNC-Chapel Hill and *Spectator Magazine*, sold out soon after tickets went on sale.



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