

Group Protests Record Album

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A BOYCOTT against Cymbaline Records for selling an album which depicts an apparent rape on the inside cover may force the store out of business, the owner said.

Ron Prilliman has been under attack since a protest in front of his store Saturday by the group Media Watch. He refused to take the record off the shelves, although he said business has been "really affected."

Prilliman has charged protesters with attacking his reputation and promoting censorship.

"It's an issue of censorship," Prilliman said. "If I allow them to force me to take it off the shelf, then anyone can force me to do the same thing. It goes for absolutely anything."

The painting in question is in the best-selling album by the rock group Guns & Roses. A reproduction of a work by artist Robert Williams, the painting "Appetite for Destruction," depicts a young woman whose clothes have been ripped open and who has apparently just been raped by a skeletal-looking robot. The woman's underwear is pulled down and her breasts are exposed.

Media Watch maintains the cover promotes rape and violence against women.

"Our goal is not to ruin his business," said Ann Simonton, leader of Media Watch which organized the protests and boycott. "We want to be able to shop there. We're asking him to take the album off the shelves so that we can in good conscience shop there."

Several other local record stores agreed to take the record off the shelves after being asked to do so by Media Watch, but at least one — Andy Lenz of Lenz Arts — said he "was debating putting it back on the shelf" due to the protesters' excessive tactics. •

— Tracie White