

## Nasty

Detective's 'interpretation' of tape questionable at best

2 Live Crew are now being tried on misdemeanor obscenity offenses in a Fort Lauderdale court. The charges stem from the band's Fort Lauderdale performance earlier this year, which police claim contained excess amounts of obscenity and sexual innuendos.

Whether or not the performance or the band's banned album, *As Nasty As They Wanna Be*, is too obscene is a question that should be left to the decision of each individual, not the U.S. court system. People can either buy the record or not. It's as simple as that. Unfortunately, some children will hear the music despite their parents' attempts to keep them from it. But children hear about these things whether 2 Live Crew sings about them or not. It's a fact of life in today's world.

Anyway, the band is on trial, and the latest trial procedure is ethically questionable.

A tape of the Crew's Fort Lauderdale show is now being presented as evidence for the prosecution. The tape, however, is terribly distorted. The band's lyrics and between-songs spoken words cannot be heard clearly. Therefore, one of the detectives who aided in the band's arrest is now translating the tape into the foul language he claims it is.

The problem is, he is interpreting the words 'from memory.' Now, just how good this man's memory is of a show that happened in June is about as questionable as how obscene 2 Live Crew really is. There are very few people who can remember, word-for-word, something they heard four days ago (let alone four months ago). And unless this detective wants to claim superhuman ability, he probably falls in with the rest of us forgetful types. In addition, the judge ruled he could not refer to or even look at the police transcript of the show to 'jog his memory.'

Members of the band object to much of the 'interpretation,' saying the words they used and the words the detective is using are not the same. The defense attorney called for a mistrial because the testimony at this point is simply the detective's recollection of what he thinks he remembers was said. Not exactly proof positive, is it?

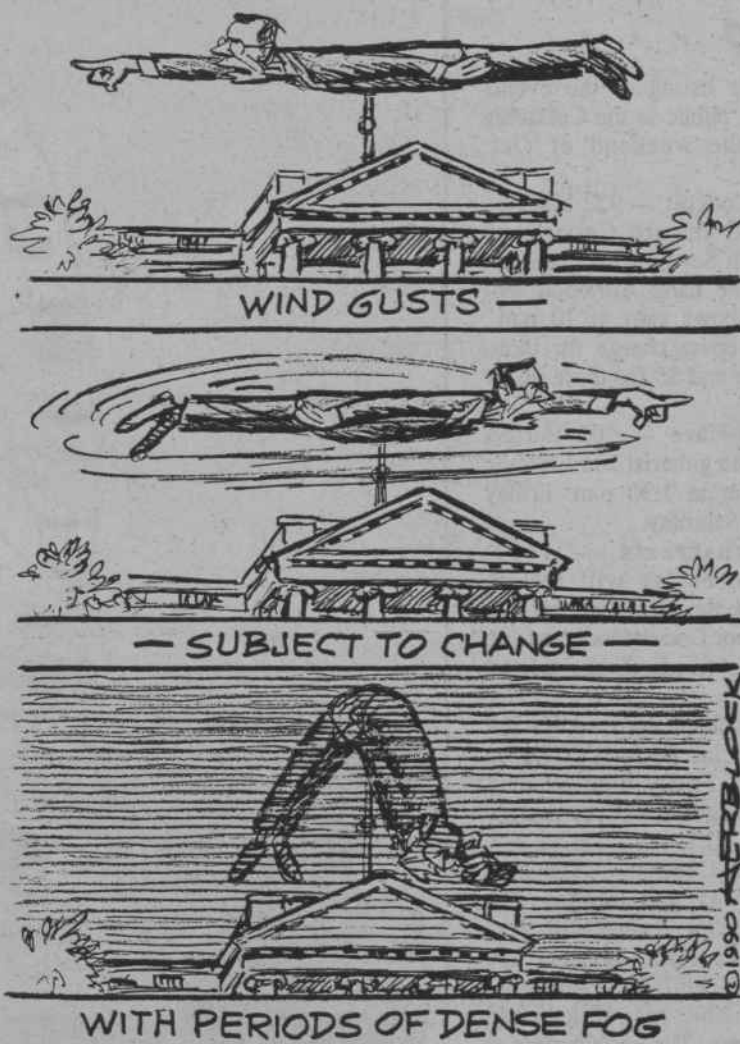
Not only is the judge allowing this kind of questionable testimony to take place, but she also denied the defense's call for a mistrial.

It all makes you wonder what 'freedom of expression' means and where justice falls in this 'free' country today.

"STRANGE HOW MANY OF THEM DON'T ANSWER"



## WHITE HOUSE WEATHER



## Oil dependence won't change overnight

Peace demonstrators have greeted President Bush at many of his stops in the American Midwest, and the President's speeches to Republican audiences have been interrupted by hecklers. Their message is that U.S. troops should not be in the Middle East.

In many cases, I fully support peace groups, but this is a situation I believe many of these people are being naive about.

They say it is our dependence on foreign oil that is causing all the problems, and all we need to do is develop other energy resources. So bring the troops back home, they say. What they don't seem to see is that, like it or not, we are more than 50 percent dependent on foreign oil. This situation is not going to change overnight, and we cannot have a majority of our foreign oil in the hands of one enemy.

There are, I agree, other forms of energy that could decrease our dependence on foreign oil. Solar and wind energy are preferable and, even with its downside, nuclear energy is not without merit. The thing is, setting up equipment to enable us to use these resources, especially in the volume required in the United States, is expensive. It can't be done effectively without years of preparation, and we need energy right now. I wonder just how many of these demonstrators



KELLY C. THOMAS

have solar panels installed to help heat their homes in the winter, and how many simply run the heater (at any level) from October to March.

They say we can't trade lives for oil, and war is bad. I think war is bad too. After all, can you really determine who's right by seeing who can destroy most of the other's people and property? I don't think so. BUT, and it's a sad thing, Saddam Hussein was fully prepared, after overtaking Kuwait, to overrun Saudi Arabia. From that vantage point, he could easily take the United Arab Emirates, Oman and other oil-rich countries on the Saudi Arabian border. This would give him control over more than two-thirds of the U.S.'s foreign oil needs — control over prices, amount of export and even whether or not to export.

Needless to say, the slowing or cutting off of

two-thirds of our foreign oil or the outlandish pricing that could occur could end up in the loss of many more lives than could be lost in a U.S.-Iraq confrontation. It could send the United States into a depression much worse than any the country has encountered. It could make today's Soviet Union look prosperous.

On the other hand, if you want to look at it

on the "bright" side - it could force the United States to find ways to decrease our ever-rising oil dependence. But that's hardly a bright outlook when seen in perspective with what else could happen.

Peace is one of the best things going, and it has its place almost everywhere. But it's hard to take a blind, rosy look at the United States, saying "we're too oil dependent" and "war is wrong," when so much is at stake — the livelihood of most of the U.S. citizens.

We are too oil dependent, and we would be wise to change that fact, but we can't just snap our fingers and solve all of our oil problems, pull our troops out of the Middle East and all live happily ever after.

Real life, unfortunately, doesn't work that way.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Paper rightly blames Israel

To the editor:

The *Gamecock* has rightly criticized the Israeli government for its endless human rights atrocities, and the American government for its continued military handouts and political cover for Israel.

For years, human rights groups critical of Israel have gone largely unreported in the American media. Swedish-based Save the Children laments in the more than 150 youths 13 years old and under gunned down by Israeli soldiers and heavily armed "settlers." Amnesty International documents on the world's most institutionalized and widespread systems of torture as being inherent to the Israeli secret police. The UN Commission on Human Rights condemns as "war crimes" Israeli breaches of the Geneva Conventions. The European Community has enforced sanctions against Israel for confiscating 89 percent of the water and 30 percent of the land in the Occupied Territories for exclusive Jewish use, and for so castrating the Palestinian economy that a permit is needed to plant vegetables in a home plot — another permit is needed to harvest them (another unsavory U.S. "ally," Turkey, is also under sanctions for their second attempt this century at genocide, this time against their Kurdish minority in Eastern Anatolia).

Israel is a country without a constitution giving its citizens rights enjoyed by Western democracies. There is no freedom of speech, of the press, of travel, of protection from unwarranted search and seizure, of association,

of trial by jury. Even churches and hospitals frequented by Arabs have been shot up and tear gassed.

Together with this lack of moral common ground, the present Gulf Crisis has shown that Israel is hardly a strategic ally of America, either. Egyptian and Syrian troops sweltered by side Americans in the desert, and Saudi Arabia pledged billions to cover the costs of American supplies. When General Schwarzkopf was asked how many times the U.S. military command in Arabia has contacted Israeli military officials, his answer was poignant — none.

American good intentions are not enough in foreign policy. We should have a clear understanding of regional problems and workable solutions. To our great regret, we helped create Saddam Hussein's Iraq. America has also helped sustain Israeli aggression through \$40 billion in handouts this decade alone, as well as vetoing (South Africa joined us. Hurray.) opposing more than 100 U.N. General Assembly criticisms of Israeli excesses.

I must disagree with (Student Government President) Benjamin's assertion that this campus lacks activism. The *Gamecock's* Wednesday editorial and front page article on Habitat for Humanity show that USC students are interested in helping the unfortunate and the oppressed. Keep up the good work, *Gamecocks*.

John R. Hanson

### Nose picking not isolated

To the editor:  
We think Tim Mollace was way

of course when he brought homosexuality into his argument against nose picking. Nose picking is hardly an isolated problem within the homosexual community. If homosexuals only compose 10 percent of the population, isn't it true then that by sheer number — let alone sheer volume — the "guilt" of nose picking lies far more on the shoulders of heterosexuals? Moreover, is Tim trying to deny that he, as a fellow human, picks his nose? How long has Tim been denying this "natural urge"? We think Tim should come out of the closet and admit that he, too, is a nose-picker.

Nicole Berry  
international studies senior  
David Knight  
international studies senior

### Free sexuality creates beauty

To the editor:

I would like to respond to Tim Mollace's letter against homosexuality and what he described as promiscuous heterosexuality. Thank you, Tim Mollace, for enlightening the Carolina population with your vision of the perfect society, which is one that squelches personal expression. In your vision, there is no homosexuality or promiscuous heterosexuality. Why not take your ideas one step further? Let's all look alike, dress alike and act alike. Isn't it scary that a seemingly educated person chooses to advocate this type of behavior?

Mr. Mollace is concerned with others' personal expression. Personal expression is responsible for the presence of the arts in society,

That is, the great works in music, drama, creative writing, dance and the visual arts are the products of personal expression. All of the factors, such as one's sexuality, that make a person unique contribute to the act of creating those things that make our world beautiful, and thus, bearable.

A world devoid of personal expression, which includes sexual freedom, is a world devoid of beauty. To bury one's identity in the oppressive society advocated by Mr. Mollace is to extinguish one's spirit. One's mode of personal expression is just that — personal. Let's keep it that way.

Amy C. Chapman  
art education junior

### New officers can be called

To the editor:

I would like to correct a mistaken impression that Larry Lichtenfeld may have left your readers with in his article "Military at USC is informed." He wrote that newly commissioned officers "would not be front-line troops."

In fact, officers commissioned through ROTC (or any other commissioning source) could easily be in the front lines, depending on their branch of service. Leaders at all levels in the military lead by example and are right up there with their soldiers, sailors and airmen. A brand-new second lieutenant in the Army would normally be assigned as a platoon leader, and would be in the front lines with his platoon, if that is where they are.

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