

The 2 Live Crew-- Bringing Negative Representations of Blacks

By Christopher Bracey
Contributor

"There's only one way to have a good time/F**k that p***y and make it mine/Lay a b***h on the bed flat on her back/Hold her legs up high and make that p***y "smack"/ You can put it in the buck on the kitchen sink/ Wrap your legs around me and take this d**k."

—This is 2 Live Crew—

If only you could have seen the look on my face as I listened in utter disgust to the 2 Live Crew's controversial album "As Nasty As They Wanna Be." I'm sorry, but the time has come for us, as African Americans, to stop pointing the finger at the "White Man" and give up the empty rhetoric used to justify Luther Campbell's exploitation of the black community. Instead, we need to take responsibility for our community and work to remove the negative influences within our community in hopes of creating a stronger Black America. Here we have a group of talented black men (I must admit they do lay down some rough rhythm tracks) that are making a fortune on portraying the black community as nothing more than a bunch of trifling, sex-crazed, Malt Liquor possessed, savages. More importantly, however, is that our young brothers and sisters are listening to it, enjoying it and finding it funny. Yeah, black brothers calling other black brothers "nigger". Ha Ha Ha. Black brothers rapping with pride about violent sexual conquests over their sisters. Hee Hee Hee. Black brothers justifying these things in the name of representing the black community — OUR black community. It is so funny I could puke.

We need to learn to take control of our people and our destiny. We need to silence our cries of racism and stop to think for a minute about what is going on in our community. The black community is decaying faster than we can

rebuild it. Black boys and girls are scoring lower than ever on standardized tests. There are fewer African Americans going to college today than in the last twenty years. Both white and black sociological "experts" are calling us the lost generation. I think it is time for us to take care of ourselves rather than having our future dictated by the actions of others. We need to take responsibility for ourselves and our younger black brothers and sisters and protect them from the negativity of society (a precaution which most other ethnic groups take). We need to and weave strong moral fibers into the black community. We need to stop worrying about what "The Man" is doing and focus our energies on taking care of us

Now I realize that in censoring the 2 Live Crew, we would be taking away the rights of many people by denying them the freedom of choice. But with the freedom of choice comes the responsibility and it is this aspect of responsibility which the black community seems to lack. We, as a community, know what is best for us and, deep inside, I believe that most blacks believe the 2 Live Crew's music to be vulgar, sexually explicit, false representation of the black community, and demeaning to black women. And that is plenty enough for it to be damaging to the black community

But why do we find it so hard to admit that the 2 Live Crew is a catalyst to the moral decadence of the black community? Why do we allow ourselves to be blinded by cries of racism when the real issue is the exploitation and degradation of the black men and women. I'm all for supporting independent black businesses and artists like the 2 Live Crew as long as their products are not damaging to the black community. But when the negative effects begins to outweigh the positive, it is time for the black community to re-examine these institutions and decide whether or not we want them to continue to corrupt our children and destroy the black community.

Shahrazad Ali

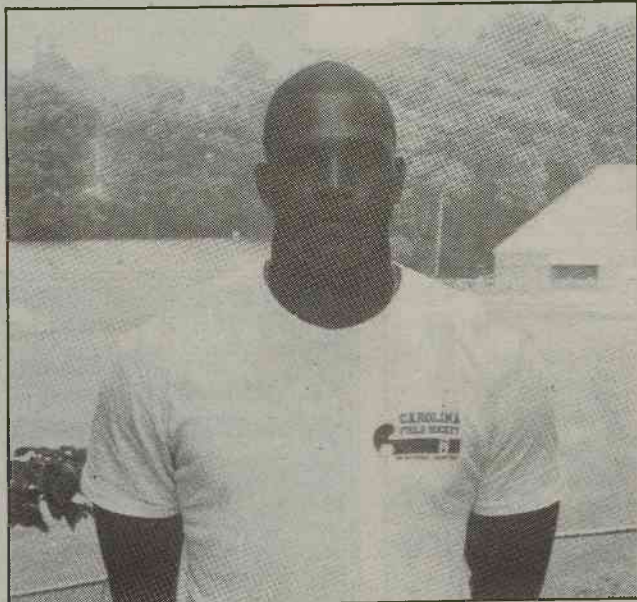
Shahrazad Ali's book *The Black Man's Guide To Understanding The Black Woman* has enraged many. Across the country, people are denouncing her novel as a hateful untruth. On shows such as *The Sally Jesse Raphael Show* and various shows on Black Entertainment Television (BET), members of the African-American community have denounced her book as being ridiculous and irrational. However on these same shows, some are claiming that the book says what a lot of people have been thinking and some proclaim that Ali has captured their thoughts exactly.

In the next issue of Black Ink, FORUM will explore the controversy surrounding Ali's book and find out what the UNC community has to say about her beliefs. If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to the Black Ink office in Suite 108-D in the Carolina Union. Black Ink welcomes all opinions and comments.

Next Week:

The Black Man's Guide To Understanding The Black Woman

Black Talk / What limitations, if any, do you think should be placed on the music of the "2 Live Crew"?



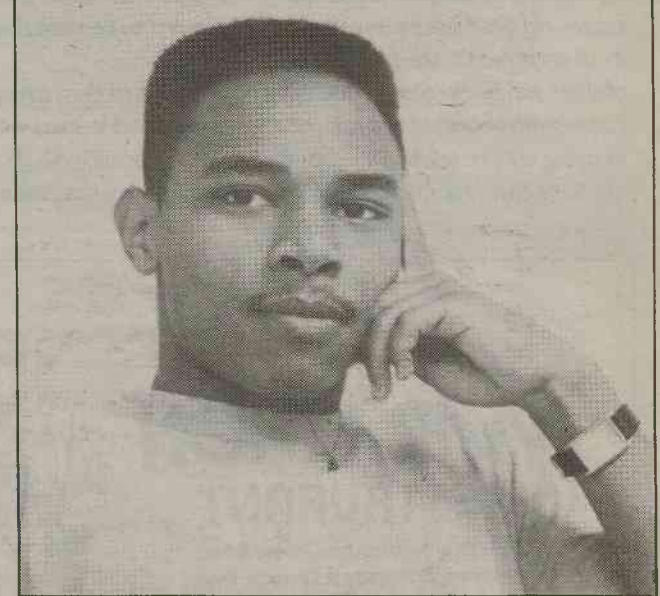
Russell Gibson
Junior, Political Science
Lenoir, NC

I feel that this music and the like should be banned to the deepest pit of hell. It is of no artistic merit whatsoever. Music has always been, and always will be an important part of the African-American cultural experience. We should have no association with 2 Live Crew-- they hurt us.



Tiffany M. Scott
Fourth Year Medical Student
Brooklyn, NY

I feel that a special rating or label should be placed on this and all other albums alike. It should not be banned and should be allowed to sell in stores.



William Hawkins
Junior, Health Policy Administration
Murfreesboro, NC

Alot of today's music is much, much worse than that of the 2 Live Crew's. All such types are indeed obscene and should be labeled as such so that children under a certain age cannot purchase it. By no means should any of this music be banned.