

## Daily Nebraskan

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## Free speech fizzles

Jury's ruling violates First Amendment

Album review:

"As Narrow-minded As They Wanna Be"  
6 Blind Jurors, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

A jury in Fort Lauderdale has convicted a record store owner on obscenity charges for selling the rap group 2 Live Crew's album "As Nasty As They Wanna Be."

E-C Records owner Charles Freeman could get up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine when he is sentenced Nov. 2. That's a sad fate for a shop owner simply responding to the demands of his neighborhood. Especially when the jury had nothing in common with those consumers.

"It doesn't represent my community where E-C Records is," Freeman said as he left the courthouse. "It's unfair. The jury was all white. They don't know where E-C Records is. They don't know a . . . thing about the ghetto."

The jury also doesn't seem to respect the First Amendment -- that's the one that protects freedom of speech, an all-American virtue. It doesn't say the only protected speech is that which is all-American -- just that freedom of speech is desirable.

Clearly, 2 Live Crew's music is not all-American. It's downright offensive -- even violent, degrading and sexist -- to some. The songs contain descriptions of intercourse and have been criticized as promoting violence against women.

But that doesn't mean the music should be banned.

Letting individuals make up their own minds is one value of a free society, even when those choices are unpleasant.

Whether one likes it or not, music is a form of art. When government -- not the individual -- decides what types of art are acceptable, free speech has fallen on its ass, er, fanny.

-- Eric Pfanner  
for the Daily Nebraskan

## Exxon hits new low

Attempts to evade liability show greed, gall

As if big oil companies aren't making enough money hiking gas prices in the wake of the Persian Gulf crisis.

Now Exxon wants more. Its claim: The U.S. Coast Guard was responsible for the 1989 oil spill that washed 11 million gallons of oil onto the Alaskan Coast.

Apparently corporate greed and gall have reached new lows. Exxon's claim could cost the government billions of dollars if granted, the Coast Guard said Monday. Exxon's shipping subsidiary, whose ship struck a reef off Valdez, Alaska, last year, filed a similar claim.

Last week, an Alaska state court rejected one of Exxon's defenses against liability for the spill. Under state statute, Exxon could be held entirely liable for the damage from the spill, regardless of who was at fault.

That only makes sense. Exxon, not the federal government, stood to gain financially if the voyage of the Exxon Valdez had been successful.

Because the voyage ended in disaster, Exxon also has a responsibility to account for the damage it caused.

The oil company in its federal claim maintains that the Coast Guard is "wholly or partially responsible" for the spill. So Exxon is asking the federal government to reimburse it for any damages awarded to environmental groups that are suing in Alaska and in federal court.

Exxon said the Coast Guard was negligent in granting mariners' licenses to crew members -- including the captain and helmsman.

That's an irresponsible claim to make. Even a corporate giant should be responsible for the actions of its key employees. Obviously, a large company can't minutely scour the record of every employee. But the captain and helmsman of one of the shipping company's largest oil tankers are not insignificant crew members.

Anyone who steers the course of 11 million gallons of crude should be screened thoroughly before awarded a mariners' license.

But if negligence was involved in giving licenses to Exxon Valdez crew members, the shipping company should have known why before sending the tanker out on its voyage of destruction.

-- Eric Pfanner  
for the Daily Nebraskan



## Everyone's life includes stress

Students should learn to budget time now, in order to face life later

It was 10:23 a.m., giving Dave seven minutes to find a parking spot and a place to park his body in his art history class.

"Parking on this campus always stinks," he said as his fists banged the steering wheel.

As he drove past the Temple Building he saw red parking lights and a car pulling out.

Dave whipped into the spot. After plugging the meter, he headed to class, smiling. He got a close parking spot.

But the luck wouldn't last long, after Dave walked into the classroom. A test.

"Oh crap, if I wouldn't have had to bake pastries for my mom's bridge club, I would have had time to study art," he thought.

Mumbling curses, he plopped down in the first empty seat he found, pulled out a pencil and wrote his F ticket.

After cursing his mother some more he walked slowly out to his car, only to realize the keys were locked inside.

After denting the passenger door with his shoe he called the police. Dave cursed them for not treating his call like an emergency.

Krista, like Dave, was a bit stressed out. She had run out of money and Mommy's and Daddy's check had not arrived. The phone company had sent her several notices and promised to disconnect her line for a delinquent account.

"My parents don't care about me; they don't care if I have to go without a phone," she said.

Krista also had a paper to write, but she felt too traumatized to even think about writing at a time like this. She was having a crisis.

"Without my phone I'll lose my link to the outside world. How will I order out of J. Crew?"

These two college students are exhibiting typical symptoms of the "pity me, I think I'm stressed," syndrome.

College students use a wide assortment of excuses to keep studying at the bottom of their priority list.



Robert  
Richardson

"I'm going to study at the library, or maybe I should wash all those dirty turtlenecks. Yeah I've got time for one. But just one, then I really need to study."

Or how about, "Hey (insert roommate's name), I think the milk is sour, so I'm gonna run and get some more for tomorrow."

"But (other roommate's name), you hate milk."

College students don't hold exclusive rights to make excuses. Some of the most responsible people we know use excuses to get out of tight spots.

Dan Quayle: "George, you know that little red button in the Oval Office? Well I was leaning against the wall and . . ."

Kay Orr: "I haven't had time to play governor. I've had to run around finding real dirty mud to sling at Ben Nelson."

Ben Nelson: "I haven't had time to play candidate. I've had to run around finding real dirty mud to sling

at Kay Orr."

Saddam Hussein: "All right, all right, the real reason I invaded Kuwait was because they have great bars."

So everyone has problems. And everyone gets stressed out. But why shouldn't they?

Architects who build buildings in San Francisco have stress. Stock brokers in New York have stress. Doctors who do heart transplants on newborn babies have stress. And Jose Canseco, down two runs with two outs in the ninth inning, has stress.

But none of these professionals can quit. They can't throw in the towel or call home for help. They've got to keep plugging through the earthquakes, operations and baseball games.

So this is what we as college students have to look forward to.

When we're out there in that big ol' real world we are still going to have to make decisions between ceramics, Tuesday night bowling league and what to do with Jimmy and Julie.

By learning to budget time now, we will prevent a lot of hassles later. So take advantage of the UNL environment. If you can get it together here, midlife crisis should be a breeze.

What would this Husker palace be without constantly teaching us, in and out of the classroom? UNL has football, checkers, tennis and every other extracurricular activity on campus for a reason. We have to make a conscientious decision between those activities or cutting up a frog in biology.

If we go around flunking tests we're going to flunk life.

Richardson is a junior broadcasting and English major, a Daily Nebraskan arts and entertainment reporter and a columnist.

## editorial

Signed staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1990 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are: Eric Pfanner, editor; Lisa Donovan, editorial page editor; Victoria Ayotte, managing editor; Diane Brayton, associate news editor; Darcie Wiegert, associate news editor;

Emily Rosenbaum, copy desk chief; Jana Pedersen, wire editor.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents.

Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author. The Daily Ne-

braskan's publishers are the regents, who established the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper.

According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its students.

## letter

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to sub-

mit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not to run, is left to the editor's discretion.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Letters should be typewritten.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.