

AGGIELIFE

The SOUND Files

Onyx
"I'm a bald head with a wife / I want your money or your life / throw ya gunz in the air / And buck buck like you just don't care"

Dr. Dre
"Bitches ain't s--- but hoes and tricks" / "If your bitch is talkin' to me, I'll have to put the smack down"

Ice Cube
"Just like Waco, I can take four ATF to their death" / "Knock you out like Nyquil / I'll kill you quick"

Spice 1
"I blow the gat in his ass because it's all good / And now the boys in blue come after the motherf---kin' East Bay gangsta murder master"

2Pac
"Keep my s---t locked 'cause the cop's got a gloc too / What the f---k would you do? Drop him or let him drop you? I chose droppin' the cop"

Ice T (Body Count)
"I got my brain on hype / Tonight'll be your night / I got this long-assed knife / And your neck looks just right"

Snoop Doggy Dogg
"It's a 187 (murder) on a motherf---in' cop"

Geto Boys
"The sight of blood excites me / Shoot you in the head / Sit down and watch you bleed to death / I hear the sounds of your last breath"

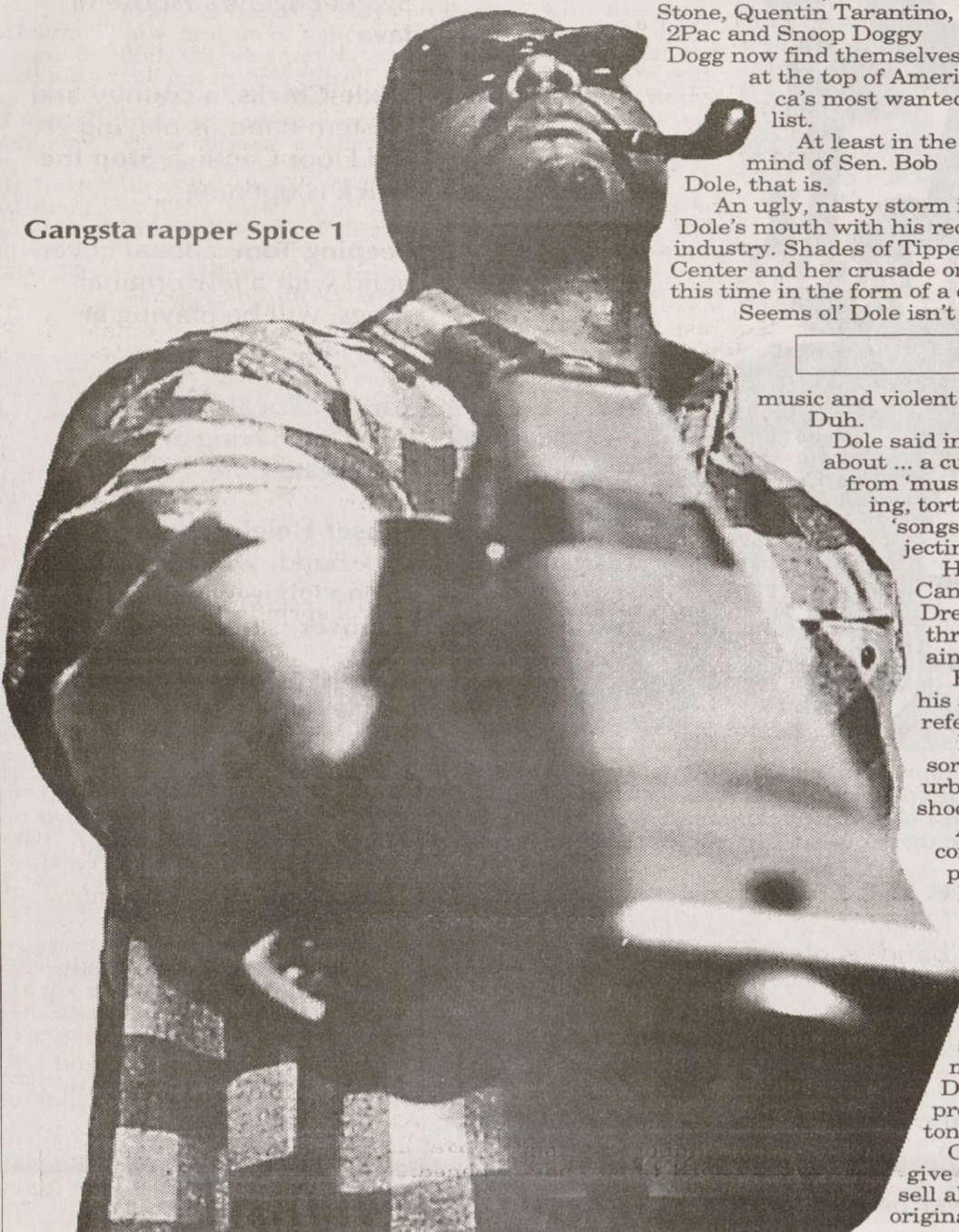
Dole's duel with entertainment is misguided

Artists everywhere, run for the hills! The censors are coming! The censors are coming! Instead of finding themselves at the top of the movie and music charts, Oliver Stone, Quentin Tarantino, 2Pac and Snoop Doggy Dogg now find themselves at the top of America's most wanted list.



ROB CLARK
MANAGING EDITOR

Gangsta rapper Spice 1



At least in the mind of Sen. Bob Dole, that is. An ugly, nasty storm is brewing from the depths of Dole's mouth with his recent attack on the entertainment industry. Shades of Tipper Gore's Parents Music Resource Center and her crusade on explicit lyrics have resurfaced, this time in the form of a crabby, old Senate majority leader. Seems ol' Dole isn't too fond of hardcore rap and rock

music and violent movies.

Duh. Dole said in a press conference "I'm talking about ... a culture business that makes money from 'music' extolling the pleasures of raping, torturing and mutilating women; from 'songs' about killing policemen and rejecting law."

How familiar is he with this music? Can you imagine Dole putting a Dr. Dre CD in his car stereo, rolling through D.C. and hearing "Bitches ain't s---t but hoes and tricks?" He would probably have to ask his advisers why women were being referred to as garden tools.

Rap is an easy target for the censorship brigade. Disturbing tales of urban violence and drug use are a shock to the system.

A rapper like 2Pac or Ice Cube isn't concerned with lyrical morality. Rappers are painting a picture of the harsh realities of life in the ghetto. And it ain't pretty.

But how can it be? If Dole doesn't like the classic N.W.A. album *Straight Outta Compton*, maybe he should head on over to Compton, Calif. and walk the streets for a while. I'd give him two minutes, tops. It's doubtful that Dole has ever encountered such problems in his posh life in Washington D.C.

Of course, some rappers just try to give more shock for the buck. Gangstas sell albums, and they know it. But the original gangstas - Ice T, Ice Cube, Dr.

Dre and Snoop Dogg - are products of their environment. They rap about what they know.

It may not be what people know in Kansas, or in College Station. We don't see drive-by shootings on Texas Avenue. We don't see police brutality every day. But our world is a world away from South Central L.A.

And what is that lurking behind Dole's attack? Why, it's censorship of course. The Bill of Rights states Congress cannot abridge the freedom of speech.

Yet this debate continues. Albums with controversial lyrics already have parental warning stickers slapped on them. Stores won't allow a 6-year-old child to buy a 2 Live Crew album.

Some of the shocking violence in rap is disturbing and disgusting. When dollars start coming through the door, responsibility is often thrown out.

But they still have the right to say what they feel, whether Dole likes it or not.

And haven't we been through all this before? Two recent cases of attempted crackdowns on rap come to mind.

In 1990, a Miami court declared 2 Live Crew's *As Nasty As They Wanna Be* album to be obscene. Anyone selling the album or performing its songs was subject to arrest. Members of 2 Live Crew were arrested after a performance at an adults-only club.

A record store owner was arrested for continuing to sell the album. The members of 2 Live Crew were acquitted and the record store owner received a fine.

In 1992, rapper Ice T sparked a national storm of controversy with his hardcore-metal band Body Count and the song "Cop Killer."

Further criticisms came from George Bush and Dan Quayle. Ice T and Time Warner eventually pulled the song from Body

Count's album after months of media pressure. On the film side,

Dole lashed out at movies like *True Romance* and *Natural Born Killers*, both written by Quentin Tarantino. Somehow, I don't think Quentin is shaking in fear. No doubt those movies, plus *Pulp Fiction*, are violent, but it's funny how other gore fests escaped Dole's wrath.

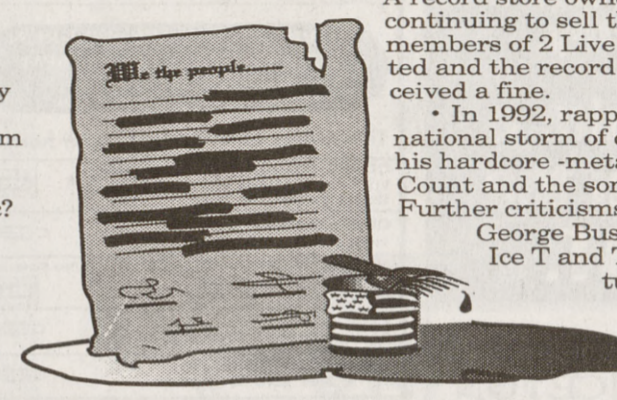
I guess killing someone in a *Terminator* fantasy movie is fine, but in a clever *Pulp Fiction*, it's "mainstream deviancy."

In Dole's perfect world, we'd all be watching *Free Willy* instead of *Reservoir Dogs*.

The bottom line is there is an enormous generation gap between Dole and, say, college students. Most young people hailed *Pulp Fiction* as an extraordinary movie, and it's difficult to see a politician doing the same.

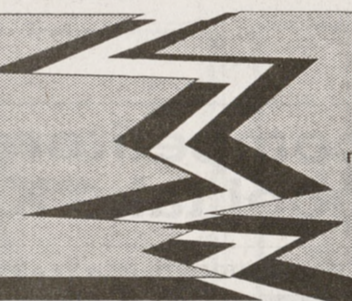
He doesn't get it. Nor is he supposed to. These movies and albums aren't intended for him. I'm sure Ice Cube doesn't sit in a recording studio and say "Oh s---t, my man Dole is gonna love this beat!" Of course not - it's not for Senate majority leaders.

Just think, if Dole has his way, we'll be stuck watching "Golden Girls" reruns and listening to Rick Astley. That would be more frightening than any rap lyric could ever be.



"People say I glorify gangsterism on my tapes. I don't glorify it, I just talk about it. I'm not saying, 'You go do it.' I'm just saying that's what I've done - this is what it's all about around here ... when the rap thing came along, it pulled me out of the streets completely."

- Spice 1



"I'm talking about ... a culture business that makes money from 'music' extolling the pleasures of raping, torturing and mutilating women; from 'songs' about killing policemen and rejecting law."

- Bob Dole
Senate majority leader



In previous interviews with The Battalion, Spice 1, Digable Planets, A Tribe Called Quest and De La Soul talked about controversies surrounding rap music lyrics

Digable Planets

"Like this gangsta s---t - it's so bulls---t. I'm not saying there are no gangstas out there, but it's getting to the point of them bein' pimps. It's a f---ked up game and I don't like it. It's taking the fun out of rap ... Everybody's a cutthroat, everybody wants to kill each other just for a spot on the Billboard charts. Who gives a f---k?"

- Doodlebug (front)

A Tribe Called Quest

"I could never talk about shootin' nobody or smackin' a bitch in her face. That s---t is dead to me. I refuse to come out and talk about bustin' a cap. The generation of today is f---ked up and the generation of tomorrow is gonna be even worse, so we gotta look out for them."

- Phife Dawg (middle)

De La Soul

"Rap is an entity like anything else. There can't be a positive side without a negative side. There's a lot of stuff said withing rap that I don't agree with, but I don't think it's right to censor them. You hear a lot of reports downing a Snoop Dogg or a 2Pac, but they don't come behind them and say, 'Here are some rappers that are doing something positive. They don't talk about that at all.'"

- Posdnuos (seated left)

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