

Ice-T yields to economic pressure, removes song

by Debra Bass

After being barred from two rock concerts in the Los Angeles area, Rapper Ice-T conformed to the politically-correct view rather than be ostracized for his freedom-of-speech crusade. Lately, promoters have been less than enthusiastic about soliciting his appearance because of the controversy surrounding "Cop Killer" for obvious reasons.

On Friday, a nervous stadium director in San Diego told reporters that Ice-T was scheduled to perform at a rock concert event which included Metallica and Guns N' Roses Wednesday. Consequently, the 230 members of San Diego Police Officers Association, who were assigned as part of the security team at the concert were offended that Ice-T and his metal group Body Count were hired to perform, especially since their act still included "Cop Killer" (a song about a young kid who guns down a police officer with a sawed-off shotgun).

Because of Ice-T's last-minute addition some officers who volunteered to

"If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear"

— George Orwell

work overtime at the concert suddenly remembered a prior engagement and pulled out of the event. Of course, the concert promoters expressed their genuine concern for the city's fine police force because they do a dangerous job and they deserve more respect and they go beyond and above the call of duty and they do a dangerous job and they deserve much more respect and—well, you get the picture. Needless to say, the police officers didn't buy it, which forced promoters to hide behind the fact that contractual obligations had to be kept.

In response to the outcry over Ice-T, Bill Silva, the concert promoter, issued this statement:

"We are extremely sensitive to the issues raised by the city's police. (However), we had contracts in place with (Ice-T)

prior to being notified of these concerns."

Silva sounds as if he was surprised that police officers might object to a performance which includes lyrics like, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" answered by a chorus of children's voices gleefully yelling, "A cop killer." Give us a break. What's next? Are they going to book Tipper Gore and Jack Thompson as an opening act for 2 Live Crew?

So now, conveniently, Ice-T is dropping "Cop Killer" from his act. Could it be that he was strong-armed by those same contractual obligations. Of course not. The promoters would have us believe that after offending thousands of police and law enforcement officers nationwide, Ice-T developed a conscience and dropped the song out of consideration for the 230

police officers working as security for the event. Who are they trying to fool anyway? A man who calls himself the O.G. (original gangster) didn't make this decision because a few officers with hurt feelings were scheduled to work the event. If anything, he did it in spite of them.

Officers shoot and kill black youths daily, justifiably and unjustifiably. "Cop Killer" is supposed to be about how one youth reacts to the daily trauma of growing up as a born suspect. It is a song of one person's form of rebellion against the system. How ironic that the man who dared to voice that point of view has now been whipped into submission himself, by none other than a group of disgruntled police officers.

George Orwell, a satirist author who explained the big-brother-is-watching-you concept once said, "If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear."

Debra Bass is
opinion page editor
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Student Spotlight

How do you feel about security on campus?



Araceli Lopez,
freshman,
accounting

"I feel that we have a good security system on campus because we get assistance to whatever we need. For example, I feel safe when security takes me to my car and also shows me where my classes are."



Pat Mulhollen,
freshman,
undeclared

"In general I feel that UNLV is a fairly safe campus. It is in a city that is full of crime while it remains relatively crime free."



Kelly Gaughan,
freshman,
biology

"I live in the dorms and the parking lot conditions scare me to death. They have no lights and strange people are always hanging around. I'm not always with a buddy and at these times I feel unprotected. I wish it was safe enough so that we didn't have to use the buddy system."



Iguanadon Saussy,
junior,
marketing

"I have both night and day classes. Every time I come on campus, I always see the campus police patrolling. Also, the men in blue are sometimes present. Security measures are adequate but this does not stop the criminal minded."



Kimberly Smith,
senior,
communication

"Personally, I think it's fine. Maybe because I've always been in the practice of walking with someone when it's dark and I try not to stay here too late by myself. With the student shuttle service on campus and other things, I feel that UNLV is a pretty safe campus."



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