US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 10, 2004

In matters prosecuted by the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of West Virginia:

Charleston, West Virginia – A Federal Grand Jury returned an Indictment today against **Harold Foote Hoffman, II, 31, of Nitro, West Virginia,** charging him with two counts of interstate transportation of obscene material. A copy of the Indictment is attached.

The Indictment charges Hoffman with using a common carrier to transport obscene digital video disks from West Virginia to Alabama in September and December of 2003. Each count carries the possibility of a prison term of up to five years and a fine of $250,000.

The indictment also contains a forfeiture charge which could require Hoffman to forfeit to the United States any property connected to the production and transmission of obscenity and any profits and receipts flowing from the production, transfer and sale of obscenity.

The Indictment stems from a long-term investigation conducted by the United States Postal Inspection Service in connection with the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of West Virginia, and the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the United States Department of Justice in Washington, DC.

An Indictment is merely a formal accusation, it is not proof of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless he is found guilty.

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