

# MUSIC REVIEWS

## De La Soul is back... 'Buhloone Mindstate' blows up with style

By Rob Clark

THE BATTALION

De La Soul  
Buhloone Mindstate  
Rap  
Tommy Boy Records

De La Soul is back with "Buhloone Mindstate," which marks yet another change in their already eccentric style.

They've been called the "hippies of hip hop" by just about everyone in the rap industry. But the peaceful rhymes of De La Soul have undergone many changes since their 1989 debut "3 Feet High and Rising." Their style at that time was known as The Daisy Age, which stood for "Da Inner Sound Y'all."

But group members Posnuous, Trugoy, and Mase killed that era with their 1991 sophomore effort, "De La Soul is Dead." Despite the change, the album was another critically-acclaimed success.

In their new album, the title's meaning is repeated throughout as, "It might blow up, but it won't go pop." This means that as their odd technique gains more popularity, they won't sell out to the mainstream.

"Patti Dooke" displays the group's displeasure with rappers' desire to cross over. In the song, there are samples of a fictional dispute over an album cover to en-

hance the pop appeal.

They say, "We decided to change the cover (of the album) a little bit because we see the big picture: Negroes and white folks buying this album." The response comes with the statement, "How many of them crossed over to us, huh?"

The problems of affection with infection are confronted in "3 Days Later." The song is reminiscent of Kool Moe Dee's old hit about unsafe sex, "Go See the Doctor," and even contains some samples from it.

The humor of the group comes out on "Area," when they describe their fight with someone who trashed their style. The song goes, "They instigated a brawl, so we set our knuckles on stun, and made 'em all fall."

A variety of guest stars are on the album, including: Guru from Gang Starr, Dres from Black Sheep, Biz Markie, and jazz musician Maceo Parker.

Posnuous makes a bold statement to those rappers who slam De La Soul's style for not having gangster lyrics on "In the Woods." He said, "F-k being hard, Posnuous is complicated."

"Buhloone Mindstate" marks the first time De La Soul has really examined the world around them for inspiration. While it is not as satisfying as the introspective style of their previous two efforts, "Buhloone Mindstate" is another good album. And it won't go pop.



De La Soul



Bennett

## Bennett's 'Steppin' Out' puts new touch on old favorite showtunes

By Chris Whitley

THE BATTALION

"Steppin' Out"  
Tony Bennett  
Showtunes  
Columbia Records

The songs of Irving Berlin and the Gershwin brothers are scarcely heard on the radio nowadays, and Tony Bennett tunes are hardly ever found playing on MTV.

But combine these classic tunes with Bennett's classic voice, and you get a terrific compilation of music.

"Steppin' Out" is Bennett's latest work, paying tribute to Fred Astaire and the great songs that he introduced on stage and screen. His last album, "Perfectly Frank," paid tribute to the music of Frank Sinatra, and it earned

See Bennett/Page 6

## The Underground clowns around

By Rob Clark

THE BATTALION

Digital Underground  
"The Body-Hat Syndrome"  
Rap  
Tommy Boy/TNT Recordings

On their new album, "The Body-Hat Syndrome," hip hop humorists Digital Underground continue their self-described style of "Funk-a-rilla, hip hop-a-hilla, psychedelic relic thrilla they call dope-a-delic or better known as the D-Flow Humpty funk." Got it?

The album's first single, "The Return of the Crazy One," showcases the crazy tongue-twisting rap of Humpty Hump. The lyrics don't mean a thing (no Public Enemy here), but that's the point. It's just a silly, funny song.

Another of the hilarious tracks is "Bran Nu Swetta," in which Shock G tells the tale of a woman who couldn't get enough and even made him a sweater. Money B's child-like voice mixes well with Shock's sly vocals. But the best part of the song is a playful joke on Arrested Development's "Tennessee." Instead of saying, "Headliner, I challenge you to a game of horseshoes, a game of HORSESHOES," Shock says, "Humpty, I challenge you to a game of dominoes, a game of DOMINOES."

"The Humpty Dance Awards" is a mock awards show hosted by 2Pac and Humpty Hump (who is introduced as Edward Ellington "Humpty Hump" Humphrey). The song is a tribute to all the rap and soul groups who have sampled the Underground's breakthrough hit, "The Humpty Dance."

A rare political side to the group is shown on "Holly Wanstaho," which describes a lazy woman who turns to prostitution for some quick money. Shock says, "Curiosity is gonna kill that cat."

The politics continue with the surprisingly effective "Wussup wit the Luv," which examines the racial and social problems of society. 2Pac raps about street violence and says, "It's like a curse and it hurts 'cause it's worse/Mama's crazy 'cause her baby's in a hearse/Wussup wit the luv."

Back to the humor, the Underground tackles a different topic - sexually transmitted diseases. On "Jerkit Circus," Shock G and Money B rap about the alternatives to having sex with a partner by saying, "He's got a date with his left hand," and "I took my destiny into my own hand." While it is a very nasty song, it is very humorous and only intended to be funny.

Digital Underground may not perform typical rap, but they are one of the most interesting and comical groups in music. And while the public will focus on their humor, "The Body-Hat Syndrome" proves there is a future for their funk.



Digital Underground's new album "The Body-Hat Syndrome" is the hip hop humorists fourth release.

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