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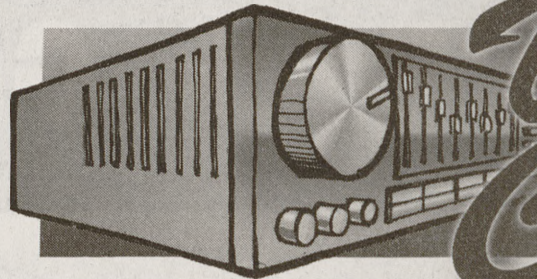
BEHAVIORAL INTERVIEWING

Thursday, Sept. 28, 2000
1 p.m. MSC 225

Featured Company: Target

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Volume Control

Bridging the Gap
Black Eyed Peas
CD Courtesy of Interscope Records

The CD's name (Bridging the Gap) is meant to represent the Black Eyed Peas' attempt to fuse hip-hop music with its jungle and trip-hop offspring, said lead rapper will.i.am.

"I'm trying to bridge the gap to those closed-minded people who think hip-hop is only a certain way because they have just been listening to it for so long," will.i.am said. "They fell in love with it when it was about gun-toting."

The Black Eyed Peas have dedicated their latest album to showing a new side to hip-hop, and they succeeded. This album combines classic, downtempo hip-hop tracks with Latin ballad introductions, '70s funk guitar riffs and cameos by

some of the genre's hottest rappers. The CD includes cameos by De La Soul, Mos Def and Wyclef, among others.

"Lil' Lil," the sixth track on the album, combines a hard, but slow, vocal style with music suited to a lounge singer and backing vocals that would not be out of place in an Earth, Wind and Fire song. While it might seem as though these competing elements would sound terrible together, they combine to make one of the best tracks that will never be heard on the radio. "On My Own" is an excellent track with slightly dark background music that sounds more like a slow Wu Tang song than one would expect from Black Eyed Peas.

However, it does not go hardcore but combines haunting vocals by Les Nubian and the classic rapping skills of Mos Def with Black Eyed Peas' resident talent to make an in-missable track. This album is a must for anyone who enjoys innovative but classically influenced hip-hop. (Grade:A)

— Jason Bennett



The Paper Route
Mack 10
CD Courtesy of Priority Records

Enhanced CDs are meant to provide the listener with a view into the musicians' lives and perhaps give them a glimpse of some unreleased video material. Mack 10's new CD, The Paper Route, does exactly that.

Including videos for the tracks "Tight to Def" and "From tha Streetz," this CD gives buyers a chance to see

the videos before they hit mainstream rotation on MTV. However, the real gem of this CD is the interviews with Mack 10 and Ice Cube. These take the viewer behind the scenes and show how the artists really feel about rap, and, specifically, their own music.

The music is classic West Coast gangsta' rap, straight from the mold created by Dr. Dre and company. Mack 10 manages to do a decent job with it, and numerous all-star cameos do not hurt. Westside Connection, Timbaland, Too Short and T-Boz are among the Who's Who of rap who appear on this album.

"Tight to Def" and "From tha Streetz" are excellent tracks and their accompanying videos heighten their appeal. Unfortunately, this CD gets old quickly. The songs do not vary from beginning to end.

By the time the listener gets to the eighth and ninth tracks of the album, he or she should be thoroughly tired of the sound. "Pop X," the eighth song, is the worst track on the album — which is only saved by the appearance of Techiniec and Ice Cube. Unfortunately, the album manages to crash and burn again at the end of this song by going into an obnoxious refrain that should never have been allowed onto the album.

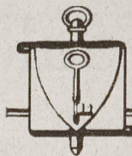
"Keep it Gangsta'," the ninth track, is only slightly better, and the album does not return to a decent sound until the last track of the album — which is only saved by the appearance of Techiniec and Ice Cube. Unfortunately, the album manages to crash and burn again at the end of this song by going into an obnoxious refrain that should never have been allowed onto the album. (Grade:C)

— Jason Bennett



A = instant classic B = a cut above C = average
D = don't buy it F = burn in effigy

Whassup Aggies???



Golden Key National Honor Society

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for members and those interested
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If you have any questions, call 845-8770 or visit our website at <http://ltjordan.tamu.edu>

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