



## Album Review

*Mediocre marks for Ice Cube and Ralph Tresvant*

By Corey Brown  
Staff

**Ice Cube:**

*Kill at Will*

In this world of non-talented, cold frontin' pop sellouts such as Vanilla Ice, it's good to have a

total contradiction in Ice Cube. With the release of *Kill at Will*, his second solo project, Cube brings much of the same controversy and violence, but adds an unexpected twist.

This album contains a remix of two cuts that were on his

*AmeriKKKa's Most Wanted* LP: "Endangered Species (Tales From The Darkside)" featuring Chuck D from Public Enemy and "Get Off My D\*\*\* and Tell Yo B\*\*\*\* to Come Here." I question why this was done due to the fact that there are only seven grooves on

the album. Regardless of that mistake, Ice Cube makes up for it with "Jackin' for Beats," which is my favorite song on the album. Six different beats including samples from D-Nice, EPMD, Public Enemy, L.L. Cool J, Digital Underground and X-Clan are all molded into one and put on the serious gangsta tip when Cube raps over it.

The most evident difference in this album from most of Cube's projects is that he finally shows he has half a heart and maybe even some social consciousness. "Dead Homiez" is a tribute to some of his boys in the 'hood that have met senseless deaths. He also makes

At last, the final member of New Edition goes solo. In his album, Ralph T. surrounded himself with the production and direction of Jimmy Jam, Terry Lewis, Timmy Gatlin, Kayo and Darryl Simmons, to name a few. These are all some of the better producers in the industry today, but they are to blame for making this record too broad.

Of course his first release, "Sensitivity," was a smash. But if you expect more of the same in the line of slow-tempo songs, this album isn't very thorough. It seems as if Rizz was searching for a style to identify with. For instance, he gives rappin' a try in "Rated R"

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the comment, "Something ain't right/when there's a tragedy that's the only time the family's tight." *What?!?* Cube talkin' about more than drive-by shootings and police on his jock? True, it's hard to believe, but don't expect him to soften and start making love songs or anything like that.

In viewing it as a whole, I think most people will be satisfied by its quality but upset with the number of songs on this album. For this reason alone, *Kill at Will* can get no higher than a B.

**Ralph Tresevant:**  
*Ralph Tresevant*

but then tries to slow it down with "Do What I Gotta Do." He just about attempts every type of music. In "Girl I Can't Control It," he reverts to the old New Edition style of basic beats and simple melodies. It leaves the listener wondering what the true Ralph is.

This is one of those albums that really has to grow on you before it can be appreciated. The lack of identity really hurts Ralph in his debut project. Unless you are a diehard N.E. fan, I suggest you wait for his second album release. It should be better than the first—we hope. GRADE: C

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## The Slam-A-Jam '91

*Queen Latifah, A Tribe Called Quest, Big Daddy Kane and K-Solo to be featured in upcoming concert*

By Tim Little  
Assistant Editor

The new year is starting off right as far as concerts are concerned. First, the big Bell Biv DeVoe tour rolls through North Carolina, while St. Augustine's College presents its homecoming show, "Slam-A-Jam '91," on Saturday, Feb. 2.

Featured on the bill are Big Daddy Kane, Queen Latifah, A Tribe Called Quest and K-Solo. The concert comes right on the heels of the success of Kane's third album, *Taste Of Chocolate*, and single "Cause I Can Do It Right." (I don't know anything about those rumors, and I have yet to hear

anyone say that they *officially* were watching the program he was on!)

Big Daddy first "stepped" on the scene in '88 with "Ain't No Half-Steppin'" and "Raw" on his first album, *Long Live The Kane*. He has recently been a guest on several other artists' albums including Public Enemy's *Fear Of A Black Planet* and Quincy Jones's *Back On The Block*.

Queen Latifah is known for songs such as "Dance For Me," "Ladies First" and "Come Into My House." Latifah's talents have been shown on brief appearances on *The Arsenio Hall Show* and *In Living Color*.

A Tribe Called Quest recently performed at N.C. Central Uni-

versity and have had a good deal of success with their debut album, *People's Instinctive Travels and the Paths of Rhythm*. Singles from it include "I Left My Wallet In El Segundo," "Bonita Applebaum" and "Can I Kick It?"

"I'm really anxious to see the Questers," says Randy Kincy, an avid Quest fan. "I think they might be the highlight of the show."

Show time is scheduled at 8 p.m. at the Dorton Arena on the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. Tickets are \$14 in advance and \$16 at the door, and are available in Chapel Hill at Schoolkids Records on Franklin Street. For more information, call (919) 755-0750.