

For The Record

No. 1 Rapped Up: Both the Sheep and the Cube Produce Winners

Black Sheep

A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing
Mercury Records
Reviewed by Scott Johnson

"I heard you got da fever for da flavor." Van Damn!!! I definitely got da flavor for the Black Sheep; this album is slammin'. Black Sheep is the newest addition to The Native Tongues (which already include De La Soul, The Jungle Brothers, and Tribe called Quest). This two member group combines funny skits with a smooth hip-hop style that makes this one of the year's best releases. The album contains twenty tracks and two bonus songs.

If you haven't heard it already, the Sheep have already made their mark in rap music with their first release, "Flavor of the Month." This song is typical of most of their songs, because it combines original sampling and an unusual rhyming style by front rapper Dres.

Other sure hits include "La Menage," which features a guest appearance by a Tribe Called Quest's Q-Tip, "Similak Child" and "Butt in the Meantime." These are just a few of the many tracks which

make this album a worthy addition to any collection.

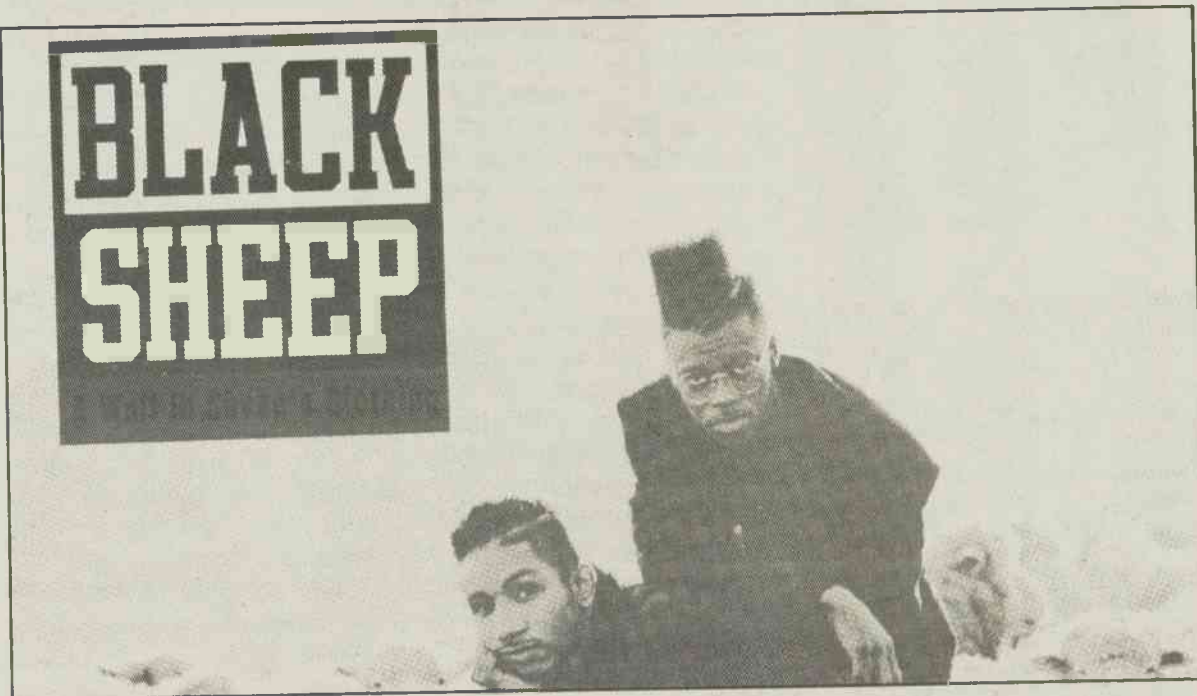
The album also possess a great deal of diversity which keeps the listeners on their toes. The opening track, "U Mean I'm Not," is a hard and fast cut which at first, makes people think they may have bought the wrong album however, the song abruptly ends with Dres waking up from a dream, and saying, "I dreamt that I was hard."

After that track, the Sheep fuse funny lyrics, like "Strobelight Honey" (which concerns lighting in clubs that make people seem better looking than they really are), with original samples that keep the album on point. If you are looking for something a bit different from the hard core jams of P.E. or the mellow, jazzy sounds of the Tribe, *A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing* is the way to go.

Rating: A-

Ice Cube

Death Certificate
Priority Records
Reviewed by Stefan Tyson



Black Sheep steps onto the scene with their debut project, *A Wolf In Sheeps Clothing*.

Ice Cube will again turn heads with his third album *Death Certificate*. One glance at the front cover tells us that this album will be chock full of controversy. Like his first two solo efforts, *AmeriKKKa's Most Wanted* and *Kill at Will*, the former N.W.A. member Ice Cube gives us his typical hard-core lyrics and music in *Death Certificate*. In this album however, people should be ready for the social message that Cube is bringing, which is something he had not concentrated on previously.

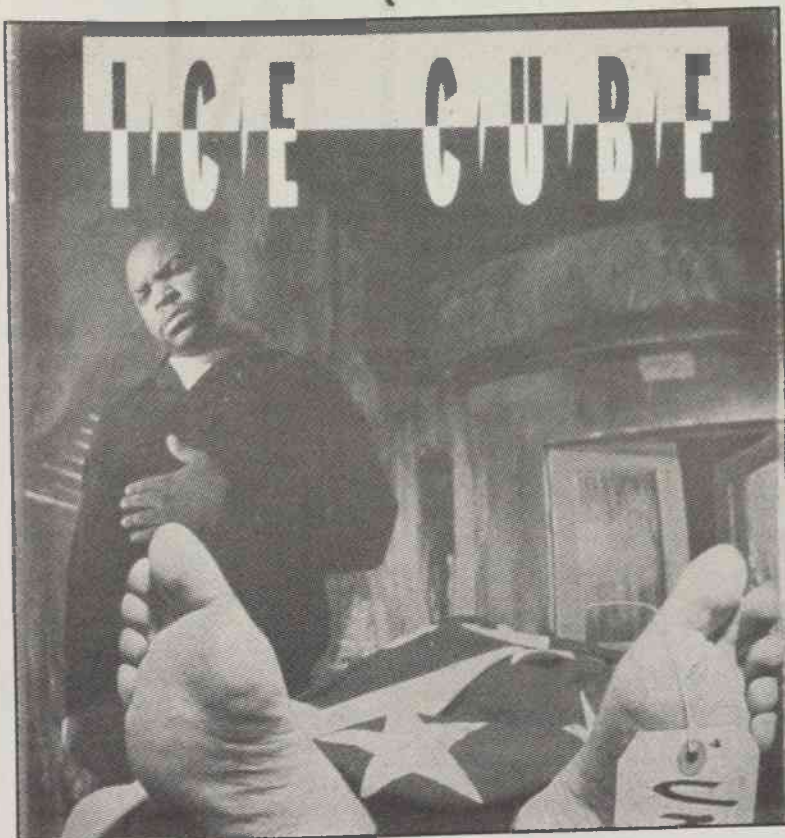
In *Death Certificate* Ice Cube gives his views on how things are being run in this country. This is not new, except that his present views are based on his life experiences as well as the philosophies taught in the Nation of Islam. The influence of these views are apparent in the songs "I Wanna Kill Sam" and "Horny Lil' Devil." The former speaks on the break up of African-American families, and the latter relates Ice Cube's thoughts on inter-racial mixing.

On the anti-violence tip, Cube gives us "Color Blind," which encourages young African-Americans to stop gang-banging (gang violence). In "My Summer Vacation," Ice Cube focuses on the migration of the L.A.-based gangs to the softer,

midwestern cities. Then Cube comments on the inability of African Americans to stop gang-bangin, telling us that it is not necessarily other people's fault for our continuous violence.

Now, for those of you waiting on Cube's response to N.W.A's latest media attacks against him, you'll love "No Vaseline," in which Ice Cube gives them what they deserve, and much, much more. These two groups might as well fist-fight after they hear his response.

I loved this album and was impressed by Ice Cube's latest awareness of self. Everything is still typical Cube however; his lyrics are hard and complemented by fitting music. If you were an advocate of Ice Cube before, your opinion should not change after listening to *Death Certificate*. Way to go, Cube!
Rating: A+



Ice Cube's back and stronger than ever.

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