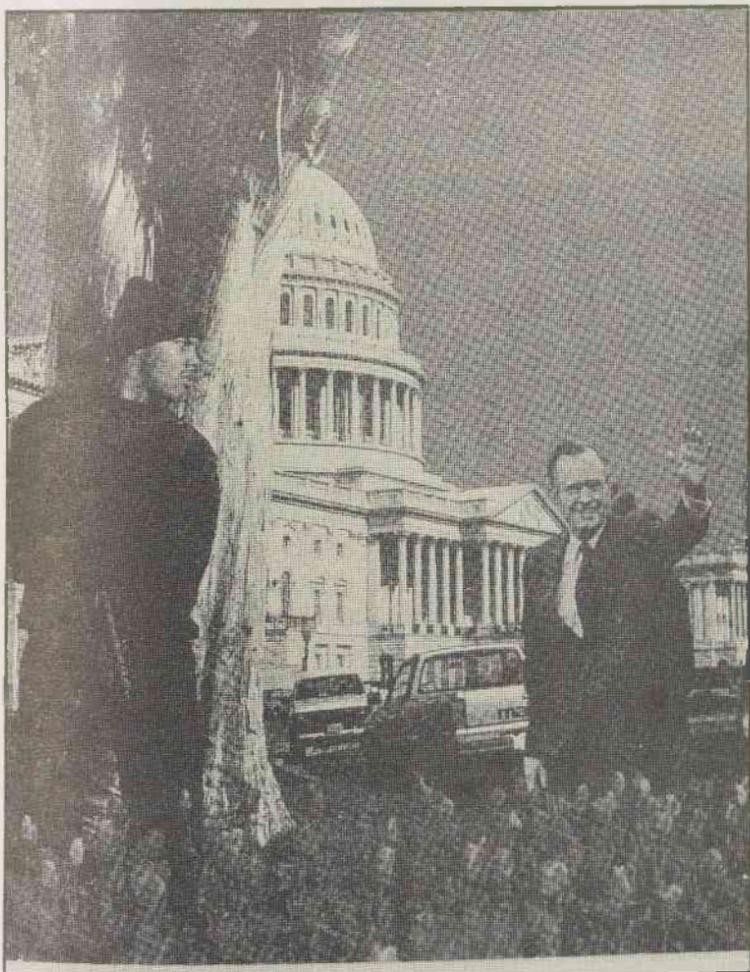


## Paris comes back strong; Pharcyde debut is hype



The Black Panther of hip hop, Paris, is looking to get due respect with *Sleeping With the Enemy*.

continue your collection with this album, but don't say you weren't warned. If you're white, you'll love this, because Ice Cube's lyrics on this album (This album only, hip hoppers!) are aimed for you and are about the equal of Marly Mark. If you aren't a Cube fan, and are thinking about trying him, buy a casingle, *Death Certificate*, or watch his movies! C-

**Paris**  
*Sleeping with the Enemy*  
Scarface Records  
Reviewed by TJ Stancil

Paris, the Black Panther of Hip Hop, is back on his own label with *Sleeping with the Enemy*. Censorship problems and record company delays of this album led to his leaving Tommy Boy records, mostly over the album's anti-government and anti-police lyrics. Paris may be known to BET and YO! MTV RAPS viewers from his videos for

his previous releases "Break the Grip of Shame" and "The Devil made me do it." He also appeared in Public Enemy's "Anti-Nigger Machine" video. Paris is perhaps one of the only rappers who is a true follower of the Nation of Islam, as his often militant lyrics would suggest.

This album is highlighted by the track "Bush Killa" which lets Paris give his spill on problems in America today as well as his suggestions for solving them. He describes his assassination of President Bush, which is sure to get him in trouble with the FBI. The inset in the cover of this album shows Paris hiding behind a tree in front of the White House with a rifle as President Bush walks by.

This album is full of knowledge, as Paris and his brothers give their philosophy over some funky beats, samples and live guitar. "Make way for a Panther" introduces Paris and his ideology to those who do not

already know him, as he describes the white man's plot to destroy blacks and urges brothers to unite because the time of revolution is near. Like other rappers, Paris uses the LA riots as an example of his predictions, and defends looters and brothers who strike back against the system. "Coffee, Donuts, and Death" is a shot at the police of America, and how they use their power to oppress people of color. "Think 'Bout it" gives us more revolutionary thoughts to a funky beat, much like Public Enemy used to do. "Guerrillas in the Mist" is coincidentally the same title as the Lench Mob's album, but this track is actually part two of "Break the Grip of Shame." "Guerrillas in the Mist" refers to the four LA police accused of beating Rodney King's documented description on police radio of King and his car passengers after the beating. "The Days of Old," "Conspiracy of Silence" and "Check it Out Ch' All" are more of the same, but due to their informative nature definitely deserve a listen.

*Sleeping with the Enemy* gets a B-, which is good for a relatively unknown rap star like Paris. That may change after this album though, because Paris has taken the space

vacated by Public Enemy's Chuck D as the revolutionary of hip hop. Paris is legit, and he stands by what he believes, so the chance of him going Pop is doubtful. If you're looking for dance music, pass this one by, because this album is all message. Paris sounds like Rakim, but his lyrics and music will take him to the next level. B-

### The Pharcyde

*A Bizzare Ride II the Pharcyde*

Delicious Vinyl

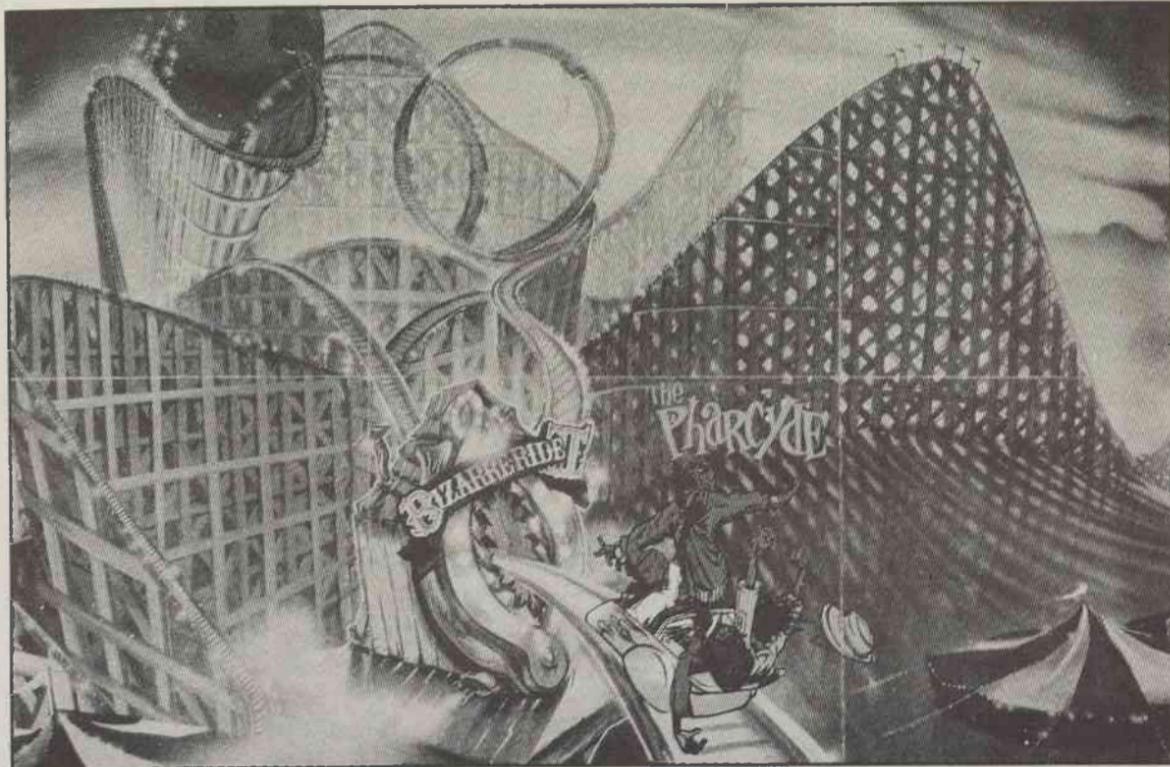
Reviewed by Scott Johnson

Remember back in the day when a funky new group named De La Soul came out with that wack rap that had everyone praising the D.A.I.S.Y (DA Inner Sound Yall)age. Or when A Tribe Called Quest followed up with their crazy styles on songs like "I Left My Wallet in El Segundo" and "Bonita Applebum." Well, welcome to the modern day version of these groups, the Pharcyde (pronounced Far Side). While groups like De La Soul and A Tribe Called Quest, have settled down on their second albums, The Pharcyde brings back that original funky style on their debut album *A Bizzare Ride II the Pharcyde*.

The Pharcyde made their debut

in the rap world on the Brand New Heavies latest album (which features Black Sheep, Gang Starr, Large Professor, etc.) with a track called "Soul Flower." If you haven't heard this song, check out the remix which can be heard on the Pharcyde's album. Another track which gets much props is "Officer," which begins with a bite off of PE's "Black Steel in the Hour of Chaos." Other notables are "Oh Shit," "I'm That of Nigga" and the funny "Ya Mama." "Ya Mama" is the funniest track on the album, and has begun to receive some radio play.

*A Bizzare Ride II the Pharcyde* is full of fly songs and funny skits. Unlike most rappers nowadays, the Pharcyde don't have the support of a major label or other boyz in the business; however, that makes this album better because everything is original. The samples are unique, the styles are fly, and the music is definitely in there. The Pharcyde is one of those groups that have to grow on you because of their unique styles, but before you know it you will be hooked on one of the better albums to come out at the end of '92. B+



Take the bizarre ride to the Pharcyde. This West Coast group has brought a new sound to rap.