

# Protest causes too few changes

Continued from 4B  
he said.

Hollywood's heightened sensitivity to race began well before Jackson's protest, says Jesse Rhines, an assistant professor of political economy at Rutgers University and author of "Black Film-White Money." Black reaction to O.J.

Simpson's 1995 murder acquittal "was such a huge shock to white people," Rhines said. "They realized there's something so fundamentally different, not just in terms of skin color, but in the cultures, the perceptions of the world." Rhines says he feels an unprecedented optimism that

in this post-Simpson world Hollywood is finally ready for the black perspective. He points to director John Singleton's "Rosewood" as one proof. "This is an African-American view of the way blacks have been treated historically," he said.

## Sounds..... 'Assassins' come together for CD

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and Mobb Deep join KRS-One, Dr. Dre, MC Eiht and LA Darkman offer a number of gritty and sometimes insightful performances. The Goodie Mob's "Decisions" is one of the best exposes on the music industry I've heard in a long

time. Dr. Dre and B. Real deliver a chilly "Puppet Master." The Fugees' Wyclef is plain scary on "John 3:16," and no, it doesn't have much to do with the Bible verse. The rest of the stuff is OK. This would play a little better if it wasn't so dark and depressing. Still, it is an inter-

esting CD.  
**Rating:**  
☆☆☆☆ Classic;  
☆☆☆☆ Excellent;  
☆☆☆ Good;  
☆☆ Fair;  
☆ Why?;  
No stars given - A mess

## Isleys keep up with '90s sounds

Continued from 4B

methodical about the song selection. We've always listened to what's going on out there. That's why we're able to fit an album into the '90s. Mission To Please is a '90s sounding kinda record.

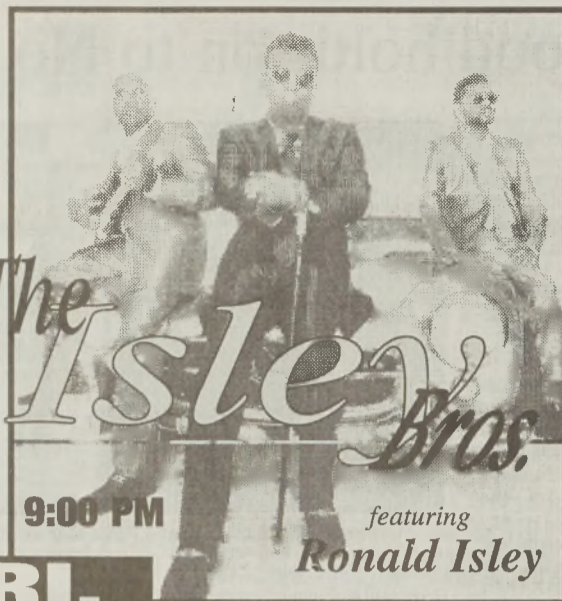
group while recording his CD R. Kelly, all was smoothed out. "He gave up a lot of props to us," Ernie said, then laughed. "He told us how he liked our music a lot. He had this song he wanted Ron to sing on

called 'Down Low.' He heard the tape and was like 'yeah.' When R. Kelly was doing the video he told Ron that no one could do Mr. Big but him. He's like a member of the family now."

The group used '90s producers Angela Winbush (Ronald's wife), R. Kelly and Babyface, who wrote the current single "Tears."

"He's a very big fan," Ernie said. "We had asked him for a song for some time now. It was a matter of scheduling. He told us he loved our music and couldn't believe he was working with us. After we recorded 'Tears' he got emotional. He said he had no idea the song would sound that good." Ernie said working with Kelly was fun, but it could have been a tense situation. "We heard his stuff and thought it sounded familiar," Ernie said. "But I was driving down the road and heard the remix to 'Bump & Grind' and I said 'that ain't right.' I told Ron he needed to hear it because it was a direct copy of (one of their songs)." But once Kelly met with the

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