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Daily Nebraskan

Monday, December 6, 1993

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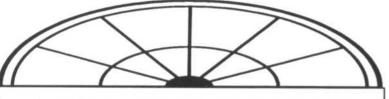
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KNOWLEDGE IS POWER





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Public Enemy "Whatever Happened to X" **German Records**

Chuck D and the crew are back again, kind of. Looking back, Public Enemy's"Greatest Misses" was just a remix album with just six new tracks, none of which blew up.

And although Jam Master Jay's remix of "Louder Than A Bomb' was slammin', these guys haven't really been heard from since "Apoc-alypse '91...," apart from Chuck's recent guest spot on the new Professor X album.

And with this release we still have nothing new from Chuck D. This live album was put out by the independent label German Records, obviously to capitalize on the popularity of the group and and not to further Public Enemy's career.

This album was recorded for the most part in New York City in 1992, except for the last three of the 22 tracks, which were recorded in Holland.

The material is 70 minutes of pure PE electricity, which could only be felt in a live performance. The album is also priced as a double length album, though with today's long-running CDs, twice the price seems to be very poor judgment

The only saving grace is that this is Public Enemy. Chuck D and Flavor Flav perform their most popular songs and the remix is live by the turntable master Terminator

Early on, Chuck rocks hard on "Bring the Noise," no Anthrax needed, and follows up strong on "Welcome to the Terrordome."

Soon the crowd gets excited as a superb version of "By the Time I Get to Arizona" rocks, followed by Fight the Power."

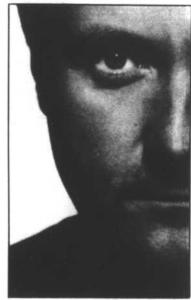
The crowd excitement peaks to-

wards the end with the performance of "Don't Believe the Hype" and "Shut 'Em Down."

The Holland-recorded tracks at the end seemed redundant and unnecessary except for "Rebel Without a Pause," an enormously popular song in Europe in 1989

For die-hard fans of Public Enemy, the album is probably a must. However, for those waiting for Chuck D to make the next big splash in the hip hop pool, the wait isn't over.

-Greg Schick



Phil Collins "Both Sides" Atlantic

"Both Sides" is, according to Phil Collins, the most enjoyable album he's ever made. The fifth solo album from Genesis front man and drummer Collins represents an evolution in style and substance.

His solo debut, "Face Value," was released in 1981 — in the wake of a painful divorce — and the songs reflected the agony of break-up. His follow-up, "Hello, I Must Be Going," in 1982, continued in much the same vein. "No Jacket Required" began the move from introspective songs to more upbeat, uptempo tunes. Unfortunately, it didn't last.

"Both Sides" is a lot like "But Seriously," his last release in 1990. Both are slower, heavy on synthe-

sizers and social consciousness. Collins fails to include any tracks on his latest that have the driving beat of a "Sussudio" or the jazzy feel of "I Missed Again." The title track, "Both Sides,"

tells of the despair of the ghetto. A black youth asks a rich white man "Would you respect me if I didn't have this gun?" Another track, "We Wait and Wonder," decries the IRA terrorism that Britons live with -'these brave heroes only know to hit and run/slowly my sadness turns to rage and we wonder/how can these scars ever heal, when all is said and done?" Collins asks.

To be sure, Collins does include a few good love songs, perfect for a bearskin rug in front of a roaring fireplace such as "Can't Find My Way" and "There's A Place for Us." Overall, "Both Sides" acquits itself well, but those with a hankering for a bit more energy may want to dig out their old tapes and belt out "Sussudio."

- Sam Kepfield

Various Artists "Zappa's Universe" Polygram

Do Frank Zappa's compositions really need Steve Vai, two acappella groups, a rock band and an orchestra to be played well? Nope.

But to celebrate Zappa's 50th

birthday, someone did it anyway. Zappa, ex-lead singer of "The Mothers" and a pioneer of bratty art rock, had little to do with this performance at The Ritz Theatre.

"Zappa's Universe" is an overdone onslaught of frivolous musical homage to Zappa, recorded at The Ritz Theatre in New York. This rash absurdity, just shy of a London Philharmonic tribute to the Ramones, stretches the limits of pop culture's unwavering self-adulation.

Zappa, the pioneer of bratty art rock and ex-lead singer of "The Mothers," had nothing to do with this album, and it's doubtful he would have allowed such a derogatory performance under his own supervision.

- Patrick Hambrecht

Overview

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ports human rights.

In July, Carlos organized a benefit in New York City to stop Hornell's distribution of Crazy Horse Malt Liincluding Helmet, Rage Against the Machine, Quicksand and Tribe After Tribe

"The purpose of the CD is not only to raise funds for the defense of Native American Leonard Peltier, but to also raise the consciousness of young happened to American Indians. They people about the continued oppres-

ple.

"But in the '70s, it was the kiss of death ... I never considered the lyrics political. Because it was American Indian, it was amplified. No one wanted to remember the holocaust that didn't want us to say anything.

Courtesy Atlantic

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quor. Hornell's advertising of Crazy Horse liquor degraded Indians, Carlos said.

Carlos also campaigns against the stereotyping of American and Canadian Indian musicians. His personal experiences with prejudice and stereotyping prompted him to join MARS, Musicians Against Racism and Sexism, he said.

He is also one of two American Indian contributors working on a compact disc to benefit the imprisoned Leonard Peltier, who was convicted of murdering two FBI agents in 1975.

The producer of the record, Van Riker, has been the program director of MTV's "Rock the Vote" for the past two years.

Riker said the CD, to be released in the spring of 1994, features 15 tracks by various individuals and groups,

an expression of a kind of quasi-

spirituality and the rebirth of a very

It has been called soulless, and

facile — and yet it holds a mysterious

fascination for many people.

Concert

modern "paganism."

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sion of Native Americans by our society and by our government," Riker said.

Tom Bee, a record executive and reservation rock legend, also strives to raise international consciousness.

Bee, the founder and president of Sound of America Records in Albuguergue, N.M., started life as a Dakota infant abandoned in a garbage can.

Now 49, Bee has been in the music business most of his life. He said his rock group, XIT, was inspired by the Woodstock festival. XIT disbanded more than a decade ago.

"We were the innovators of American Indian rock," he said. "We were the first to mix contemporary with a dash of traditional.

"Today you can make a living making political statements through song," he said, citing rap as an exam-

Bee's SOAR company internationally distributes American Indian music ranging from the sounds of new

age to adobe-grunge. Recently, Bee and his son, rapper Robby Bee, produced "Electric War-

rior," the debut of "rap-ajo," the mu-sic of actor Russell Means.

Like many Indian entertainers, Means' palette of talent includes a politically shaded past. He co-founded AIM and led the 1973 resistance to the U.S. government siege at Wounded Knee.

"Russell Means carries more weight as an actor and entertainer than he ever did as an activist," Bee said

"Now, more than any time in history, we have the opportunity available through the arts to speak our message.

Sunday night's performance was solid and enjoyable.

It showcased musical styles that seem diverse enough to fall in separate categories - yet all the musicians showed the influence of jazz, folk and what has come to be called "world music" that characterizes the new age.

If new age music is seldom pas-

sionate, it is almost never bombastic.

And when performed by committed and personable musicians, it can seem downright pleasant - especially as it grows colder outside.

All that was missing from last night's performance was hot cider and a fire in the hearth: loved ones not included, some assembly required.

- Mark Baldridge

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