

Public Enemy fights the powers that be

by Colin Trethewey

"This recording contains controversial material which may be offensive to some." Do you find this alarming, have you ever read anything so absurd? I was shocked when I saw this label on an audio recording. *Fear Of A Black Planet* by Public Enemy has censors cringing in fear at the implications of its message. Without a single obscenity in its content, what seems to be the problem? Censorship in the free world should not be based on concepts.

Public Enemy, an all black rap group, carries a reputation of militancy towards their cause; uniting blacks to combat what they feel is a conspiracy to eradicate their race. Black power is the underlying theme to their battle. "Black Power 1990 is a collective means of self defence against the worldwide conspiracy to destroy the black race. It's a movement that only puts fear in those that have a vested interest in the conspiracy, or that think that it's something other than what it actually is...." This is a quote taken directly from the album jacket.

The album includes "Burn Hollywood Burn", a typical track that describes black actors being cast in degrading roles. Big Daddy Kane sings "Like I guess I figure you to play some jigaboo on the plantation, what else can a nigger do".

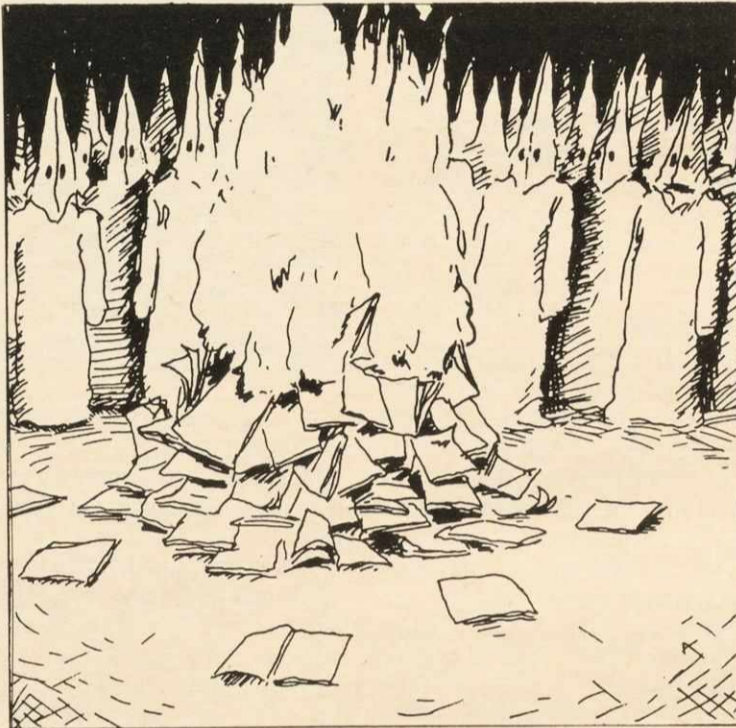
Other titles include Anti-Nigger Machine, Fight The Power, Revolutionary Generation, Final Count Of The Collision Between Us And The Damned, and Brothers Gonna Work It Out.

The music is hard-core rap. It is

thought provoking but more than anything else it ignites a rage to take up arms against the system. On the album jacket, "If you can't get what's rightfully yours you must try to capture it by any means necessary".

If you want motivation to join Public Enemy's fight against the plot to destroy the black race, then hop on the #1 bus down Spring Garden and purchase the album immediately. Ignore public opinion and buy this powerful album.

Public Enemy's symbol, (as seen on the album cover) the image of a black man in plain view of a gun site target, further emphasizes their conviction. Although they are being decimated, the representation of the black planet is methodically overshadowing the earth. Public Enemy offers one solution to save their race from the conspiracy. "United we stand, yes divided we fall, together we can stand tall."



continued from p.11

we're all used to performing on our own on the street [as buskers] it can get a little too tense sometimes". This tension, rather than tearing them apart, knits No Damn Fears into an extremely kinetic and talented onstage unit. The band was forced to play multiple encores until Pierce had to admit to the audience that "honestly, we just don't know any more songs".

The band seems to have turned the corner from grinding-out simple garage music to providing something exceedingly close to professional entertainment. Their

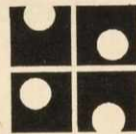
next concrete date is at the King's Watch benefit on the twenty-eighth of this month. I would strongly recommend it to anyone who is looking for a big dose of pleasure.

Rowan's label has performed a true service in giving this, and the other four bands the chance to play for their local audience. Especially since the evening didn't wind-up breaking even for DTK. This is the third such event they have promoted, and they hope to see more of the same, with an even stronger attendance, in the near future.

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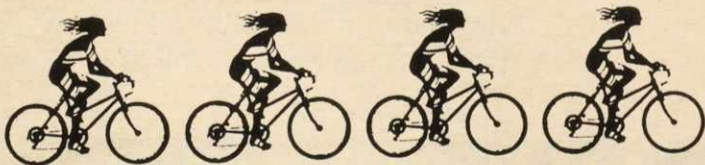
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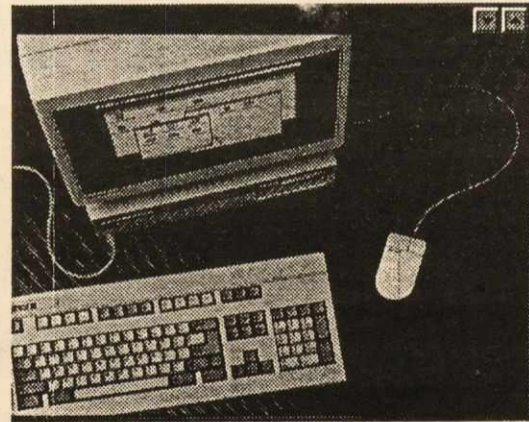
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