

A personal survey of Black music

by Eric Alper

I like surveys. They're a chance to see (or hear, for that matter) what others are listening to, what they feel and what they think. They're also the best way to get arguments and agreements happening.

For Black History Month, a questionnaire was given to various people around campus, including staff at *Excalibur*, who have nothing better to do around deadline than further confuse their minds, and DJs at CHRY and other radio stations.

The question was simple and thought-provoking: name three of your favorite Black songs or albums, and explain why. The reason could be historic importance, consensus-building or just because it's damn good music. Without limitations on genre, time or context, the responses are remarkably varied.

And hey, if you've got a list in your head but are saying to yourself, "I just don't know what to do with it," I've got a solution. Send it to the newspaper, and we'll publish your lists in a later edition. But, enough of my yakkin'. Let's take it to the bridge.

Eric Alper
Music co-ordinator, *Excalibur*

1. Ray Charles
The Right Time (LP)
Where it all began. The big bass arrangements come straight from swing and jump, the Saturday night ghetto realism from the blues and the Sunday morning transcendence and surging call and response from gospel. The music alludes to salvation and the subject of the songs to day-to-day existence, through such classics as "What I Say," "Hallelujah I Love Her So" and "Lonely Avenue."

2. Michael Jackson
Thriller (LP)
Let me guess. You've already got this one, right? Jackson's on my list only because he almost singlehandedly got other Black music on MTV, which in effect opened the doors of commercial success to rap and soul. It may be less "thrilling" to listen to now than it was in 1983, but nobody can touch him for style, his choice of producers ordancing, including an ex-MC Jacko may be Wacko. With 100 million records sold, Jackson certainly earned Rolling Stone's label as "The King of Pop." Not "pap."

3. Public Enemy
It Takes a Nation of Millions To Hold Us Back (LP)
Despite certain contemptible anti-Semitic lyrical sentiments, it remains theirs is not only an authentic Black

inner-city voice, but easily the most powerful. Their red-alert pile-up of chants, samples and diatribes is a long way from Brother Ray, but then, we're a long way from 1954. Turn It Up — Bring The Noise!

Arlene Shapiro
The Live Show, Friday afternoons at 12:30, or after *Bread and Butter* ends!

1. Louis Armstrong
Hot 5 (LP)
"Heebie Jeebies" (song)
Louis Armstrong is a major influence on many young artists of all colours (Wynton Marsalis, Jeff Healey). Also, "Heebie Jeebies" is the first recording of scat singing ever (1925-26).

2. Robert Johnson
CBS Complete Recordings 1 and 2 (LP)
"Stones In My Pathway" (song)
Johnson's guitar style is much imitated. He influenced many artists, including Eric Clapton, Robert Cray, Ry Cooder, and anyone who picks. Also, he was a great songwriter and stylist. Colin James used the song as intro to "Just Came Back To Say Goodbye" on his *Sudden Stop* LP.

3. Marcus Roberts
Alone With 3 Giants (LP)
Blind U. S. keyboardist. Major artist in jazz for the 21st Century. Very accomplished, following tradition. A Genius, no kidding.

Who would you choose as the three most interesting, influential or important Black artists? The most frequently cited band in *Excalibur's* informal survey was Public Enemy (below and left).



Prasad Bidaye
Music writer, *Excalibur*

1. Eric B. and Rakim or Rob Base
"Paid in Full" or "It Takes Two" (song)

The beginning of innovative sampling. Revolutionized rap (without being credited) by bringing it to a wider range of people in the hip-hop, dance and alternative scenes. Far more important than Run D. M. C. or Public Enemy — I remember in '88 when it was the song in the clubs and at school that everyone loved — black or white.

2. James Brown
"I Got This Feeling" (song)
The most ecstatic performance of the greatest performer of all time. He was one of the greatest dancers and every time I listened to that song, I wanted to be just like him.

3. Chic
"Le Freak" (song)
The most flamboyant disco song ever made. Maybe even one of the finest dance songs as well.

DJ Patrick T.
The Wake-Up Call, Thursday Mornings 7 - 10.

1. KRS-1 (Boogie Down Productions)
Everything available
For his endless publicity of the fact that Black people need to know their past in order to move on in the future; and for reacquainting Black people with the motherland.

2. Chuck D./Public Enemy
Apocalypse '91 (LP)
Since the greatest form of publicity is controversy, Public Enemy proves that they have every right to be Number One. They deliver messages (i.e. genocide, anti-Black literature) in serious hip-house form.

3. Human Education Against Lies (H.E.A.L.)
Heal Yourself
2 reasons: First, for bringing together the biggest names in the rap industry on one record; and second for reminding us that there may be a Black race and a White race, but most importantly we're all part of the HUMAN race.

Stephe Perry
Fast N' Bulbous, on the spot Tuesday 9 - 11 p.m.

1. Public Enemy
It Takes A Nation Of Millions To Hold Us Back (LP)
2. Bad Brains
Rock For Light (LP)
3. Gil Scott-Heron
The Mind of...

Lee Romberg
Arts writer and artist, *Excalibur*

(in no particular order)
Otis Redding
"Try a Little Tenderness" (song)
Robert Johnson
"Malted Milk" (song)
Jimi Hendrix and Jim Morrison Live at the Scene 1968 (bootleg album)
I love the way Jimbo's obscene vocals are woven into Jimi's guitar genius. Also, there's a kickin' cover of The Beatles' "Tomorrow Never Knows."

Gary Wright
Mixdown, 6-8

1. Ice Cube
"Us" from *Death Certificate*
2. Public Enemy
"Shut 'Em Down" (song)
3. Tony Rebel
"Warning" (song)

D. J. O'Neil and M.C. Dee
ConfUNKsion, Tuesday 6-8 pm

1. Grand Master Flash and The Furious Five
"Freedom" (song)
It talks about unity and the importance of being an individual and guarantees a packed dance floor.
2. Mama Use To Say
The name says it all in reference to anything you want to do. Plus, heavy D. did a hype sample of it for "Is It Good To You."
3. S.O.S. Band
"Take Your Time, Do It Right" (song)
This band has continued the funk tradition into the '90s and this song has been hot the entire time. Great to bust a move to at Rollerworks.

Matt Galloway
Autopsy Turvy, Monday 11 pm-2 am

(in no particular order)
Bob Marley
Rastaman Vibration (LP)

continued on page 20

Is anything duller?

by David Kuswanto

MUSIC

Voice of the Beehive
Honey Lingers
London Records/Polygram

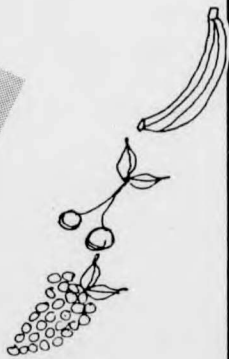
Even in a time of great knowledge and technological advancement, there remain a few unanswerable questions. Is there a god? Why do we exist? Is there anything duller than a Voice of the Beehive album?

Fronted by two ex-Valley girls possibly seeking revenge for the extinction of their entire counter-culture, Voice of the Beehive is back with a new release called *Honey Lingers*. Strangely enough, the title is a fairly good indicator of the music inside the package — or lack thereof.

Honey is purely sweet/sugar coated/dolled up "pop" all the way. The songs don't quite linger, though...they sort of hang dead in the air (like smog).

Alright, alright — not all the tunes are unlistenable. The first (and hopefully last) single, "Monsters and Angels," is catchy enough to enjoy once in a while. But this is the exception. On the whole, the album is about as entertaining as a bad *Monkees* episode. Hell, they even cover an old Partridge Family tune, "I Think I Love You."

Need I say more?



20% Commission
Excalibur needs ad salespeople

If you are interested in earning extra cash, come to Room 420 Student Centre and ask for Merle

Flying zebra poems
presents...

A Story from Camille
by david jones

"29 eclectic poems... vivid images... dark and disturbing"

\$6.00

(Cheques payable to author)
ISBN.# 0-9695920-0-0

P.O. Box #68508
Bramalea Woods P.O.
1235 Williams Parkway East
Brampton, Ont L6S 6A1

PSYCHOTHERAPY

Supportive counselling for individuals, couples and family members.

Fees on a sliding scale according to income

Special rates for students

Joan Hurley

135 Sheppard Ave. W.
(5 minute walk from Sheppard Subway - parking available)

512-6706

SIX WEEKS OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL GOOD WILL IN NORWAY

SINCE 1947

the INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

University of Oslo Oslo, NORWAY

JUNE 27 - AUGUST 7, 1992

General Course Offerings:
Norwegian Language • Art History
Political Science • Culture & Society
Economics • International Relations

Graduate Courses:
Special Education • Peace Research •
Medical Care & Health Services in Norway • International Development Studies • Energy and the Environment

Fees: about \$2520 (Canadian\$, does not include transatlantic transportation)

Send for a catalog:
Oslo International Summer School
Saint Olaf College
1520 Saint Olaf Avenue
NORTHFIELD, MN 55057-1098, USA
(507) 646-3269 (phone)
(507) 646-3549 (telefax)