

# Digable Planets make merry with new release

by Warren Peace

Digable Planets new release, *Reachin' (a new refutation of time and space)*, cannot be labeled as jazz rap or grown-up rap or alternative rap or any label crap.

What it is, is laid back. With jazzy samples, nice production and an easy vocal delivery it's got a 7.5 rating on a 10 scale.

From the beginning you think of smoke-filled rooms, a stand-up bass and wonder if



Jazz musicians as Eddie Harris, Sonny Rollins and the Crusaders.

Butterfly, the mastermind of the group, has abundant production skills and style which favors that of the Last Poets. This is very noticeable in "La Femme Fatal," a song about abortion with a pro-choice slant:

*"The facists are some heavy dudes...they don't really give a damn about life, they just don't want a woman to control her body or have the right to choose."*

One of the highlights of *Reachin'* is "Escapism (Get

Free)." It still has that Jazz feel (courtesy of Herbie Hancock) but with an added funky groove. I guarantee you will move your head, tap your feet and snap your fingers... something is gonna move.

Overall, I can easily see how you might label this as new jazz rap, or any of the other "label obscenities" I mentioned earlier. But keep in mind Gang Starr has been doing this since 1988 and A Tribe Called Quest made it popular about two years ago.

So if you think it's new...you've been sleepin'.

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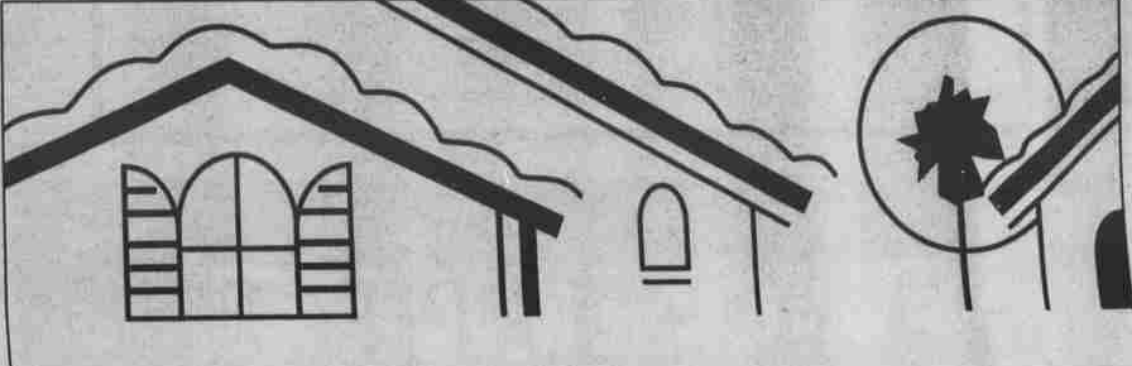
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the rappers really sound like they do or are just forcing a "cool like that" tone.

The jazz influence is definite with samples from such



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