

COLD AS ICE...

... 'CUBE TELLS IT LIKE IT IS WITH 'DEATH CERTIFICATE'

By W.G. Ramirez

"Portions of this piece were taken or re-edited from Musician magazine, Feb. 1992.

It's heard everywhere - on MTV, in movies, in advertising, even in Saturday morning cartoons.

Although a lot of people don't particularly like rap, it would seem that rap has developed an unshakeable grip on popular culture.

There are those folks for whom rap is just a lot of noise with a beat behind it, and they feel the same things their parents felt about rock 'n' roll: violent, vulgar and revolting.

How about fear? Who could possibly be afraid of rap?

For one, radio stations across America. Many of them boast about not playing rap music, en-

ticating listeners with slogans like "Non-Stop Music - And No Rap."

Check out the mass media, for whom rap seems to be the target of many horrifying stories.

One rapper, in particular, which has taken the nation by storm is Ice Cube. This hardcore hip-hopper has provided critics with plenty of gun-fire with lyrics, off his new Lp, Death Certificate. In one song, 'Cube suggests his former posse, NWA, get rid of manager, Jerry Heller:

*Get rid of that devil real simple
Put a bullet in his temple
Because you can't be a
Niggaz4Life crew*

*With a white Jew tellin' you
what to do*

"The record is not geared towards Jerry Heller or the Jewish community; the record is

geared towards the group who attacked me," explains Ice Cube.

'Cube's new Lp is divided into two parts - the Death Side and the Life Side.

The Death Side, being "a mirrored image of where we are today," includes the first release off the Lp *Steady Mobbin'*. It also contains a strong cut, entitled *Alive On Arrival*, in which a young brother has been shot and from the time of arrival, to the hospital, 'til the end of the song, the victim, instead of being treated, is being harassed by the police. Incidentally the young brother is dead by the end of the song.

The Life Side, stating "where we need to go," includes cuts focused toward former associates Eazy E, MC Ren and NWA, Korean store owners and every

person in the nation.

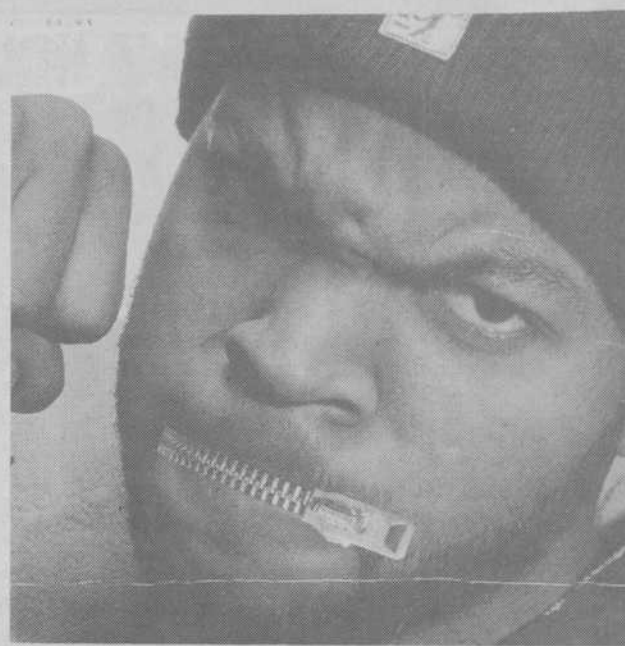
In *Black Korea*, Cube describes the Korean entrepreneurs as "oriental one-penny countin' m—f—," while the songs *True To The Game* and *No Vaseline* are gifts to his former crew.

The song *US* is one cut that everyone should listen to, and understand. It definitely contains the message for all those that have been misconceived.

"They figure when you're pro-black, you've got to be anti-white or anti-Korean or anti-Jewish. We're pro-black so we can look back at history and make sure that it doesn't repeat itself."

'Cube does not promote or encourage violence of any kind in *Death Certificate*, he is simply sending a message and is expressing his true feelings in many aspects and ways of life.

"I think the album is outstanding. If you listen to the words, there is a message to all people and their history," explained Darnell "DB 2-short" Brown, Music Director at KCEP FM88. "I endorse *Death Certificate* to



ICE CUBE

all," added Brown.

Local producer R.O.B. Hathcock did not touch on any racial issues but did state that "although the issue is nothing to joke about, the comical metaphors about sex still provide a positive message to sexually active youngsters."

Ice Cube remarks, "this is a form of entertainment. People

keep forgetting that I'm not a school teacher or a professor at any university. I'm a rapper. I entertain."

No 'Cube - you're not a professor but there are a lot of ignorant individuals that could learn something from you lyrics.

Death Certificate - ★ ★ ★
★ ★ - that's right - five of 'em!!!

VANROSS, LABELLE, FRESH PRINCE AND VANESSA WILLIAMS TO CO-HOST SIXTH ANNUAL SOUL TRAIN MUSIC AWARDS

BEVERLY HILLS, CA—Will Smith, the "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," and recording artist/actress and four-time Grammy Award nominees Vanessa Williams will join musical giants Luther Vandross and Patti LaBelle in co-hosting the Sixth Annual Soul Train Music Awards. Executive producer Don Cornelius announced that the two-hour nationally syndicated television special is set to air live from the Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium Tuesday, March 10, 1992.

"Our four co-hosts are all great fans of each other, and spectacle of such gifted stars working together should make the 1992 Soul Train Music Awards the most exciting ever," says Cornelius.

The Soul Train Music Awards celebrates the best recorded performances in 12 categories, including rhythm & blues, rap, gospel and jazz. The top new



LUTHER VANDROSS

artists and best music video are also honored, along with special presentations of the Heritage Award for career achievement and the Sammy Davis, Jr. Award, for entertainer of the year.

This year's nominees were

announced at special press brunch at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Thursday, January 30, 1992. All recording artists on R&B, rap, jazz or gospel recordings which charted in any of the leading

(See *Soul Train*, Page 20)

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