

## Veterans release new efforts

by Douglas Smith  
features co-editor

The new year of music has big expectations along with it. The past year was a very good year for the music industry despite the tragedy at Woodstock 1999. Rap-rock took over the charts in forms from Kid Rock to Limp Bizkit. This was just one of the fads from the past year, and because of many fads having much success, the year 2000 is eagerly awaited by many music fanatics. Let me just say that it isn't starting out too well.

A few artists that most of us are familiar with are releasing new efforts. Flava Flav, Tina Turner, and Snoop Dogg will all have new projects out in the next couple weeks. That lineup isn't exactly one to catch the eye of most college students, but you have to give them the benefit of the doubt for the effort.

Flava Flav of Public Enemy fame is releasing an album entitled *It's About Time* on the Omega record label. This album only contains eleven tracks, so its appeal is already suffering. The first track off the album by Flava, whose real name is William

Drayton, is called "Git on Down." This sounds like the title for any Flava Flav song. It is just what you would expect from this artist for those of you who are familiar with Public Enemy. Those of you wondering where Flava Flav has been hiding should just listen to "The Hot 1" from the album as Flav exclaims, "Flava Flav, back from the grave."

The amazing thing about this album is that Flava Flav is on the verge of turning 41 years old and he is still jamming with the funk of prime Public Enemy days. Most fans of Public Enemy remember Flav as the light-hearted sidekick to the more eccentric Chuck D. Chuck D. has gone on to be a respected speaker on violence and politics. Most recall "Fight the Power" as the most popular and powerful single from the group. If you relate to Public Enemy you may want to pick up *It's About Time* simply out of principle, but I suggest a test drive if possible.

Scheduled for release on February 1, 2000, is the album entitled *Twenty-Four Seven* by the ageless wonder Tina Turner. You may have seen her

first video from the album for the song "When the Heartbreak is Over." She is still wearing those short skirts and strutting around on those legs that have brought pantyhose ads to Turner. Her 40-year career is well documented and at the age of 60 she is considering this as her last album and tour.

Turner's last tour was in 1998, and she has begun touring with the performance from last year's VH1 Divas concert. However, Tina Turner told Britain's *TV Times*, "There comes a point where it is undignified to be a rock and roll star. I want the tour to be the biggest and best because it is going to be the last."

Turner has a major following, but the majority of it is outside of the college student community. She will still sell albums and should be given credit for the hipper beats she has incorporated into the first single. Still, this is another album that should be carefully investigated before buying.

Snoop Dogg does have a new project out, but it's not him and it's not on No Limit Records. Snoop has opened his own record company

known as Doghouse Records, and the first release from the company is *Snoop Dogg Presents Tha Eastsidaz*. Well, I guess the first part was a bit of a lie because, of course, Snoop will be rapping on the album, but he is written as the presenter. The group consists of a childhood friend of Snoop Dogg known as Tray Deee and 21-year-old rapper Goldie Loc. Dr. Dre, Xzibit, Kurupt, Rappin' 4-Tay, Nate Dogg and Warren G. all have guest spots on the album. The critics have mixed feelings about the whole effort of Doghouse and the album is scheduled for release on February 1. Still, with the credibility of Snoop Dogg and some of the guests listed above, the album should show pretty good sales.

So the initial onslaught of new releases doesn't possess boy bands or Latino superstars, but they are respected artists. The impact of Public Enemy in the 1980s was incredible, and Tina Turner will forever be an idol to a lot of young girls. Still, the overall quality of the albums may be a little lacking in what you are looking for. Don't worry the year is still young.



Flava Flav, Tina Turner, and Snoop Dogg each show a new side to their respective careers this year.

## Chill out at Erie's local ice arenas

by Christine Kleck  
Staff writer

The weather outside may be frightful, but the ice at Erie's public skating rinks is delightful. If you can't get enough of that white stuff, wrap up that scarf, zip up that parka, and lace up those skates, because the winter ice-skating season is here in full force.

Contrary to popular belief, you can do more on the ice than just slip, slide, and fall. Two rinks in the Erie area can help you get started with skating, or provide you with plenty of rink time to practice and perfect your current ice-skating skills.

The Igloo Ice Arena, conveniently located at 3515 McClelland Avenue, is open for public skating sessions on

the weekends. Join in on the fun Friday nights from 8:30-10:30. The Saturday afternoon sessions last from 3:15-5:15. From 4 pm to 6 pm on Sunday afternoons, you can also take part in a public ice-skating session. A low price of \$4.00 gets you in, and a reasonable cost of \$2.00 gets you a pair of skates to rent. For more information contact Ron Schiarrilli at the Igloo at 899-0808.

For those of you closer to the Glenwood area on the west side of town, the JMC Ice Arena is the place to ice-skate. This rink, located at 423 West 38th Street, offers many public skating sessions at various times during the week and a few on the weekend as well. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons, the rink is open to the public from noon to 2 pm. The Friday and Saturday night sessions

last from 8:15-10:15. On Sunday afternoon, you can ice-skate from 1:15-3:15. The admission prices depend upon your age. Children under 12 pay \$3.50 to skate, while individuals 12 and older pay \$4.00. Add \$2.00 onto the admission price to rent and use skates for your session. Any questions? Call the JMC Information line at 864-6044.

Even if you have a low income, afternoon ice-skating is something that anyone can afford. Those of you with two left feet will be happy to know that statistics show ice-skating is easier to get used to than roller-skating, in-line skating, and even skiing. So, chase those winter blues away, and burn off that leftover Christmas winter bulge with a trip to one of Erie's local ice arenas.

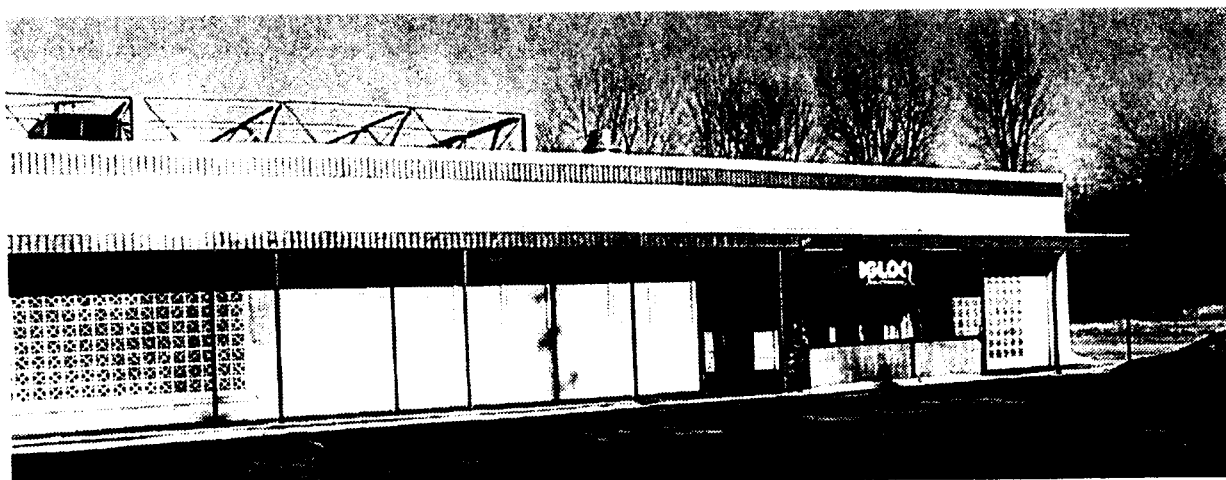
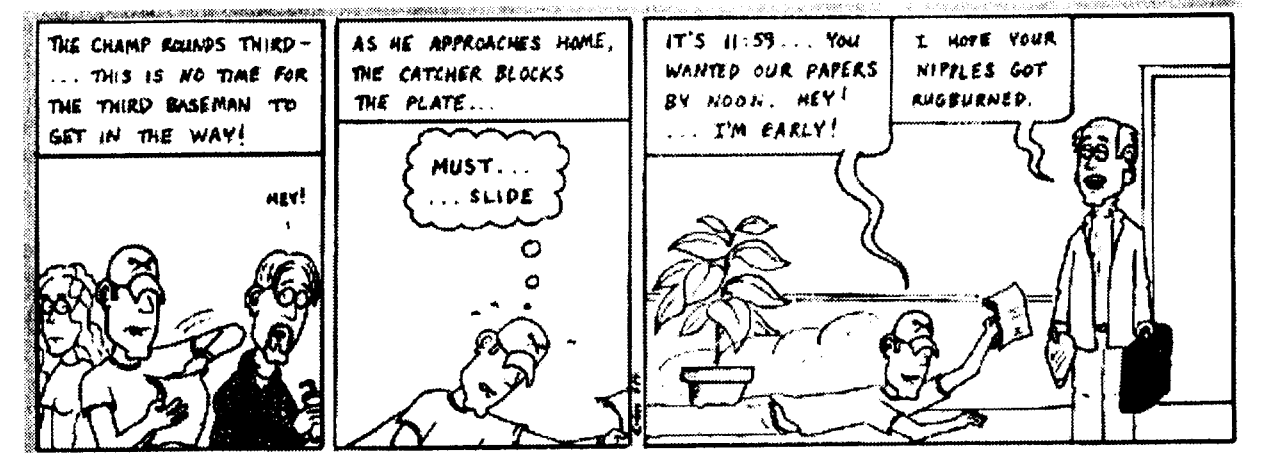


PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

The Igloo Ice Arena on McClelland Ave



## H O R O S C O P E S

**Aries** (March 21-April 19). Beware of crazy men with barbed wire. Bang-bang.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20). It's three weeks into the semester. Try going to class for the first time.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 21). Share your problems with *Dick and Jane*.

**Cancer** (June 22-July 22). Don't wear all black this week. Try looking alive and be colorful.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22). Live dangerously. Buy an emu.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Don't eat the yellow snow.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Do the world a favor, build a bonfire and torch a Mac.

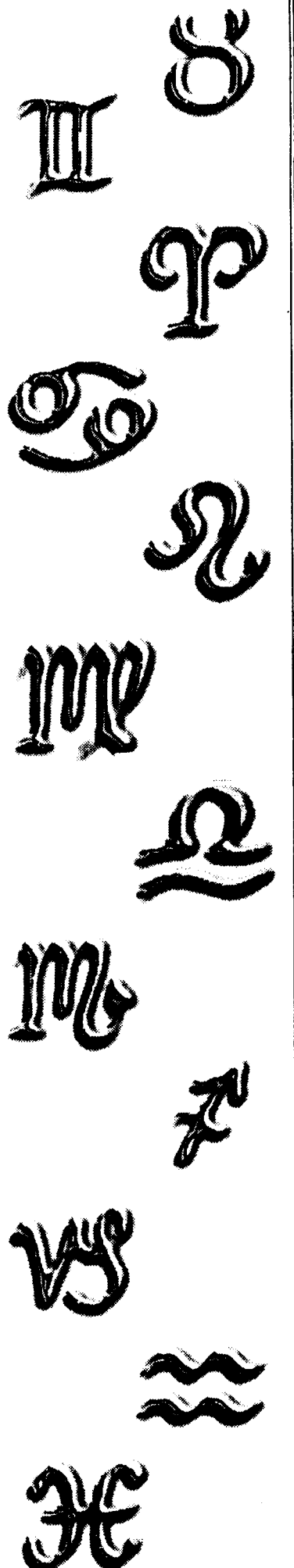
**Scorpio** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Papaya. They're not just for breakfast anymore (nudge, nudge, wink, wink).

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Travel to Pittsburgh, take in some culture and go watch Raw.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Make Super Bowl Sunday interesting. Watch something different.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb 18). Get a haircut, hippie.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20). Deep thought — if everyone is looking at you and laughing, maybe you have a sign on your back.



by  
Bongo the three legged  
monkey



### DICK and Jane



Dear Jane,  
A friend of mine gets pelvic exams even though she's never had sex. What's the point?  
Doctor Avoid-ee

Dear DA,  
When your body goes through puberty it is like kick-starting your sexual organs into gear. They begin revving up to reproduce and get a lot more hormonal stimulation. Because so much is going on down there, many doctors suggest getting an annual exam and pap smear to make sure everything is "developing" the way it should. The

exam should not hurt, although it may be a little uncomfortable. The pap smear (a sampling of the cells on your cervix) looks for abnormal cell growth that could be a precursor of cancer. During the pelvic exam, the doctor looks for unusual color, bumps, discharge or pain in the abdomen. Just like a normal check up, it is important to find any problems as early as possible. And problems CAN occur if you are not having sex. Plus, if you make a habit of getting an annual, you will feel more comfortable with your doctor/practitioner. This will make it easier

to ask questions or to tell them when (and if) you start having sex.

Jane

If you have questions about relationships or sex (and who doesn't??) write to Janet at [dickandjane@wildmail.com](mailto:dickandjane@wildmail.com), or put your letters/questions in the Beacon mailbox marked "Dear Jane." All correspondences are confidential.