

# No More Mr. Ice Guy

Rapper Ice Cube cleaned up and went Hollywood. On the eve of his forthcoming album, we ask him if there's any gangsta left

**With the title of your new album, *Laugh Now, Cry Later*, are you suggesting that darker days are ahead?**

I think people are taking a lot of heavy issues light. People are taking threats from abroad light. People are taking the Bush administration light.

**On the single "Why We Thugs," you compare W. to Saddam Hussein. Do you really think that's a valid comparison?**

It's from the heart, man. What's the difference between Saddam's tactics and what the federal and local government can do? I know people that's been tortured in jail. I know people that's been pulled out their house in the middle of the night. But, see, we just call 'em LAPD. We call 'em sheriffs. Saddam wasn't out there doing it with his own hands. He had his people. His people worked for the federal government. Same tactics. Nothing happening in Iraq that ain't happening here on this soil, so to me it's the same shit.

**Do you agree with Kanye West's contention that President Bush doesn't care about black people?**

I don't know if [President Bush] does or not. I know he don't care about poor people. I know that. And the majority of black people aren't rich. He might kiss your ass if you've

got enough money if you're black. He might kiss your ass. He kisses a Saudi's ass. Why wouldn't he kiss my ass if I had enough money? But I ain't got money like that, so he probably ain't gonna like me.

**Do you feel like you get less respect on the street since you started doing movies?**

I get more. More, because people see it as using what you got to get what you want. If I was out there doing a whole bunch of bullshit movies, people would probably give me more grief about it.

**What's the stupidest movie part you've ever been offered?**

I was offered to read *Forrest Gump*, for that guy Bubba. I was like, "Nah, man. I can't play Bubba." Can you see that?

**You haven't made a solo album in six years. Why make one now?**

I only come out when I have something to show. Something that people can get involved with. Some celebrities, they never go away.

**Like who?**

I ain't gonna put no names on it, but think of the hundred that pop into your head. They just come out. They never go away. They always at this award show, that award show. They everywhere.

**How connected are you to your old neighborhood?**

I moved out the hood because they don't have million-dollar houses in South Central. But I'm connected, because all my people are there. I go back all the time. I'm not into the bougie crowd. I'm not accepted by the Hollywood types, and I don't want to be.

**When rappers reach a certain age, do they grow up and stop having rivalries?**

They should, but you know, the rap game is a game of crabs in a bucket. If you soar to the top, somebody's gonna want to pull you down.

**Do you feel like anyone can touch you at this point?**

Not at all, but that don't mean they ain't gonna try. Allan Iverson crossed over Jordan one time, so everybody gonna take their shot at you. I think I've got a lot of respect out there, but all that can change on a dime.—HOWIE KAHN



## 8 Ways Bonnaroo Is Better Than Coachella

How did Nashville's Bonnaroo festival become the best ticket in music?

→ The alt-crunchy Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival will be held June 16 through 18 in Manchester, Tennessee.

1. Unlike Coachella's bone-dry desert, Bonnaroo's lush Tennessee forest makes it easy to hide, smoke the weed.
2. Chance that Bonnaroo performer Ben Folds will bring noted singer William Shatner.
3. Bonnaroo VIP areas not overrun with *The OC* cast members trying to "kick it on the DL, indie-rock-style."
4. Bonnaroo's ex-junkies (Steve Earle) can beat up Coachella's ex-junkies (lead-singer guy from Depeche Mode).
5. Coachella dance tent will feature Madonna, shitty trance music; Bonnaroo "dance tent" is three Evergreen sophomores grooving to "Dark Star."
6. Bonnaroo's Dr. John slightly more comprehensible than Coachella fave Sigur Rós.
7. Absence of luxury spa hotels in Manchester region will limit presence of top-level music executives.
8. "Bonnaroo" more fun to say.



We Ask Paris!

Paris Hilton answers questions from our somewhat mundane lives

→ Ms. Hilton is an ambitious young lady you'll be hearing from soon. She stars in *The Simple Life 4*, premiering this month. Here she sorts out some questions submitted by GQ staff:

**Dear Paris, Do my girlfriend and I still have to take showers together? The shower is really small, and I get cold.**  
No. You want to sometimes, but not all the time. You need some privacy.

**Dear Paris, I love to play golf, but my girlfriend thinks it's a waste of time. Is it okay for me to play once a weekend?**  
If it's only once a week, then it's fine. As long as you're not, like, an obsessed golfer.

**Dear Paris, I'm 25. Is it okay to sleep on a futon?**  
No.

**Dear Paris, When I get my shirts dry-cleaned—starch, no starch, or light starch?**  
I wouldn't know; I've never done that before.

**Dear Paris, If I have a fantasy that doesn't involve my wife, is it a good or a bad idea to tell her about it?**  
Very bad. Better to just keep your mouth shut.