

Marley's new LP — Confrontation

BY BOB WEST

The spirit of the late reggae king Bob Marley was rekindled on Wednesday as musicians and singers along with reggae fanatics congregated at Exodus Club to get a sneak preview of songs from the new CONFRONTATION album including current single BUFFALO SOLDIER.

After a brief introduction by radio personality Neville Willoughby, followed by a video of one of the Wailers' USA concerts, patrons danced along to crisp new songs from Marley's CONFRONTATION album to be issued here in May by Tuff Gong and internationally by Island Records.

BUFFALO SOLDIER is quite heavy and the message is typical of Marley as he sings about African descendants fighting for survival and also helping to pave the way for other nation's freedom.

"Buffalo Soldier, dreadlocks Rasta, stolen from Africa, brought to America, fighting on arrival, fighting for survival", Marley sings

as the Wailers' hypnotic music gets 'under our skin'.

During the American war of 1898 the black soldiers of the 10th Cavalry wore the title BUFFALO SOLDIER probably because of similarity between the hair of the black soldiers and the hair of the Buffalo.

The Buffalo Soldiers were the very first to arrive in San Juan during the Spanish American war of 1898 and were instrumental in securing victory for the United States.

Marley knew the Buffalo was a sacred animal in the eyes of the Indians, and also held black soldiers in high esteem so he composed lyrics aimed at educating the 'careless Ethiopians' about the role of Africans in the struggle for emancipation.

"Buffalo Soldier win the war for America, trodding through San Juan, trodding through Jamaica, from the mainland to the heart of the Caribbean".

Mid-way the song Marley urges us to know our history or we will never know our true origin, at the same time projecting the Rastaman as a pioneer in the struggle for

freedom, and equality.

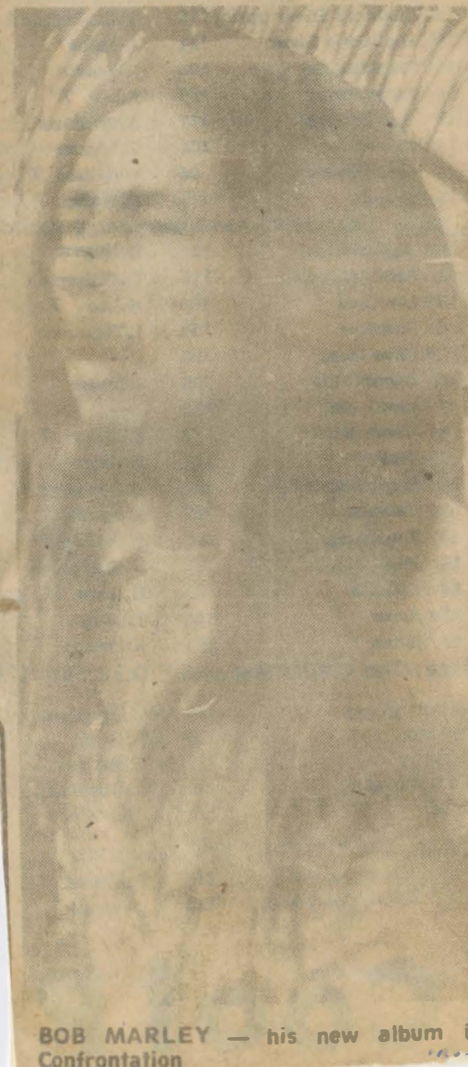
Another tracks from the album MIXUP MIX UP features Marley in aggressive mood while singing about the many "stumbling blocks in my way".

Others which could well be issued as singles include GIVE THANKS AND PRAISE, JUMP NYAH BINGHY, and COME WE CHANT.

COME WE CHANT contains lyrics aimed at uniting all freedom fighters with the late poet desperately wanting to "chant down Babylon because them soft".

On JUMP NYAH BINGHY Marley and the I'Threes blend their voices on lyrics like "remember the days when we used to trod down the walls of Jerusalem?".

Most of the songs were composed and recorded as much as nine years ago but have lost none of their sting. As a result the album should be another top seller especially with the big promotion drive lined up by Tuff Gong.



BOB MARLEY — his new album is Confrontation

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