

A DOWNER FOR MUSIC RETAIL >P.5

Billboard

DEC
10
2005

FOR MORE THAN 110 YEARS

A POWER PLAYERS SPECIAL FEATURE

WINNERS AND LOSERS

2005

OF



On The Winner's List:
ISLAND DEF JAM
CHIEF **ANTONIO**
'LA' REID SCORED
HUGE SUCCESS
WITH MULTIPLATINUM
SONGBIRD
MARIAH CAREY.
>P.37

PLUS:
XBOX 360
TAKES GAMING TO
THE NEXT LEVEL >P.24

**EXECUTIVE
SHUFFLE**
SONY LABEL GROUP
SETS NEW LINEUP >P.5

**BILLBOARD
AWARDS**
CHECK OUT
OUR FINALISTS >P.11

\$5.99US \$6.99CAN

50>




Billboard



Lisa Ellis

GM, SONY URBAN MUSIC

 When Sony Urban Music GM Lisa Ellis was appointed to her post in 2004, she declared that strong A&R and breaking developing acts were at the heart of her agenda. A year later, she and her staff are clearly on course. Naysayers who dismissed the label's urban clout cannot ignore its 2005 headway. John Legend, Omarion and Bow Wow spring to mind, as does a quietly developing happy ending to 2005: R&B newcomer Lyfe Jennings. Signaling its A&R focus, Sony Urban Music and Columbia signed Dr. Dre's ex-right-hand man, Mike Lynn, to a production/label deal. And despite Destiny's Child bowing out, the beat goes on. Year-end releases by Ginuwine, Goapele and Lil' Flip set the stage in 2006 for the return of Maxwell and the reunited Fugees.