

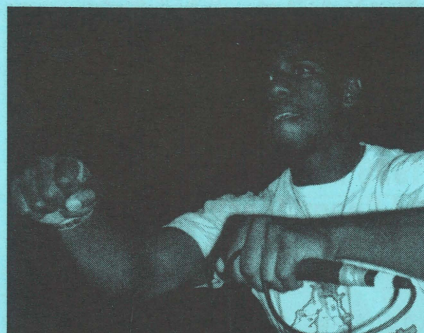
# the Vinyl Exchange

a newsletter for deejays and vinyl junkies

APRIL 1996

## The P-Minus Potpourri

Whattup, y'all?! Live hip-hop has been poppin' off in the Bay as of late and I've been lucky to attend a few gigs. Club Cocodrie hosted five local groups in a rhyme and beat parade. The show featured the best sets I have yet to see from two of Palo Alto's finest, **Sacred Hoop** and **Third Sight**. The Hoop came tight with fresh new rhymes and some ill new beats (which they *must* get on tape for me!). Call them at 415.965.8896 and give them a show or something. Third Sight also rocked some new music, plus they opened their set with an amazing two-DJ display of mad scratching skills which really amped the crowd. **Rollo's Kitchen** played their usual tight, dance-floor filling set in which **Style** and **Mackadacious** guest rhymed. On the show's downside was that two decent groups, **Mad-hatter & Nature** and **Qualay**, both rhymed over the vocals on their DATs. Well, at least they didn't lip-sync... As usual, the show ended with a blazing freestyle fiesta which made up for the previous disappointment. By the way, Third Sight has a really nice



"Uh-uh, yeah, yeah!" Corey of the MYSTIK JOURNEYMEN keeps the underground alive.

tape out—five tracks dripping with head nodding pleasure. **Jihad**, rhyming solo on the tape, has lyrics that are always on point even if he doesn't always have the smoothest flow. The tracks are full of dope samples and DJ cuts (including a DJ barge on "Rhymes Like a Scientist"—my favorite song). If interested in the group or the tape, give Jihad a call at 408.984.2486.

The other show I was able to check out was the **Hobo Junction** and **Various Blends** at the Cactus Club in San Jose. The Sacred Hoop crew was in effect, and so was Corey from **Mystik Journeymen** (from whom I bought their new 4001 EP and the "Children of the Night" tape—both are a must peep!). The VBs came off lovely despite some technical problems which interrupted their flow. They have a 12" and a tape available—call 510.308.1583 for more info. The Hobos flawlessly performed all the cuts off their new compilation tape (which I now truly appreciate after seeing them live), and **Saafir** had the crowd fiending for his LP solo cuts, but he chose to keep the spotlight on the Hobo crew. After the performances, **DJ Rasta Cue-Tip** kept the dance-floor filled and sweaty until way past my bedtime.

Also on the live DJ tip, March's **Informal Nation** party [in San Francisco] was crazy hype! **Keyv-Kev** slapped me around with his absolutely phenomenal mixing and then **DJ Apollo** "the human break beat machine" finished me off by completely kicking my ass with his mesmerizing Technic techniques. Forget head nodding, these kids had me jaw-dropping the whole night. Keep an eye out for further **Informal** parties (which are always free for the early birds). [Informal Nation parties are held every first Friday of the month.—Editor]

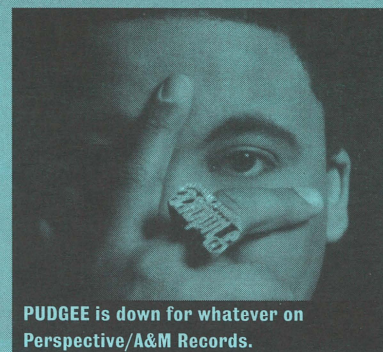
My man **Jellow** sent me **Talent Fest** on Beathole Records. This is a compilation of Chicago's finest rap groups. Twelve tracks deep, this record covers a wide spectrum

## Head Knods of the Month

### Top Ten Hip-Hop

Submitted by Theory (713.415.3292) & Grinch (713.723.5768), Houston, TX

1. **Legacy - NON PHIXION** (Fat Beats/SerchLite)
2. **The Hop - A TRIBE CALLED QUEST** (Jive)
3. **Top Ten List - MASTA ACE INCORPORATED** (Delicious Vinyl)
4. **Wanna Be A Star - KOOL KEITH** (Funky Ass)
5. **Realms n' Reality - CELLA DWELLAS** (Loud)
6. **Recognize & Realize (Remix) - BIG NOYD** (Tommy Boy)
7. **Genuine - TRIFLICTS** (Hydra)
8. **Father Time (Remix) - SAUKRATES** (Knee Deep)
9. **Down For Whatever (Remix) - PUDGEE** (Perspective/A&M)



PUDGEE is down for whatever on Perspective/A&M Records.

10. **Mr. Jiggiano - POSITIVE K** (Creative)

of styles, sounds and flavors, and represents the Windy City nicely. Some of the more notable tracks are **Rubberoom's** "Bouncin' off the Walls," which uses some sick echoing sound effects (but an annoying horn loop as well); **The Figure** wrecks it in the Premier-sounding "Dream Come True," **Ang-13** and **E-Drop** flow swiftly through the muddy beat of "No Contest," **East of the Rock** urges all wack MCs to "Check Your Mic," and be sure to check out **Undaground Solution's** "Sand Box" for its next level beat and rhyme flow. For more info, call 312.528.7370.

...continued on page 6

## Tom Simonian Thump Top 10 Variety Pack

San Francisco, CA • 415.282.7052

1. **The New Groove Vol. 1 - VARIOUS ARTISTS** (Blue Note)
2. **Krusty - KING KOOPA (220 Volts)**
3. **Modern Day Jazz Stories LP - COURTNEY PINE** (Antilles)
4. **Kickin' Off/Original Hustler 10" - HUSTLERS OF CULTURE** (Wall of Sound)
5. **First Time Ever I Saw Your Face (Yorkshire Dub Mix) - ON/JOANNA LAW** (More Rockers)
6. **Fun For Me - MOLOKO** (Echo)
7. **Ponteiro - DA LATA** (Far Out)
8. **Soul Drive - AIM** (Grand Central)
9. **Walking On the Moon (from Out of the Cool 3) - SUN RA** (Discomagic)
10. **The Poem - BOBBY KONDEERS** (Nu-groove)

Tom Simonian Thump's "Jazzy Jungle" mix tape available now! Check Tom out at **Suc-cotash** w/ "Rasta" Cue-Tip, Tuesday nights at the Up & Down Club and at **Metro Jazz**, Saturday nights at 111 Minna Street, both in San Francisco.

Volume 15 • April 1996

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/ART DIRECTOR**

Stephanie "DJ Stef" Aguilar Gardner

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Matt Africa, Paul "P-Minus" Gembus,  
Bill "DJ Fingaz" Houseman,  
Akanni K. "Mr. Grinch" Jones,  
Taek "Do-Boy" Kwon,  
Jumaane "Theory" Mills,  
Frank "Rasta Cue-Tip" Quattlebaum, Jr.,  
Red Rhymes, Tom Simonian Thump,  
Toph, Uprise

**ILLUSTRATION**

Jason Hodges

**PHOTOS**

courtesy of Delicious Vinyl, Perspective,  
Up Above Records; B+, Tim Richardson

**the Vinyl Exchange**

part of the *Underground Conspiracy*  
of the Good Life Movement

published monthly by

**PARLAY GRAPHICS**

236 West Portal Ave. #402

San Francisco, CA 94127

415.452.8030

Fax 415.665.5933

(or call ahead to fax to 452.8030.)

**EAST COAST OFFICE**

853 Broadway, Suite 1104

New York, NY 10003

212.843.3701 ext. #VINL (8465)

Fax 212.843.3718

Faxes must include a cover sheet addressed to  
Parlay Graphics.

e-mail [parlay@creative.net](mailto:parlay@creative.net)

Copyright ©1996 by Parlay Graphics. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy of all information presented within these pages. We welcome information on any music available on vinyl. Corrections, comments and props are welcome. No portion of this publication may be reproduced without permission from the publisher. Circulation 3,500 this month. Long live vinyl!

Read the Vinyl Exchange ONLINE! Unedited articles and charts are posted on the San Francisco Bay Guardian Online BBS in Davey D's HipHop Corner. Dial 415.437.3600 on your modem or visit <http://www.sfbayguardian.com>. The BBS is 100% free!



## 1996 DMC USA DJ Championships

Let me start by saying this: the 1996 USA DMC championship held in San Francisco on March 3rd was by far the best battle that I've ever witnessed in person. All of the six DJs that challenged for the right to represent the US in the upcoming World competition impressed me; of course, some more than others. Each and every one of them is getting props from this reviewer because the battle that they were all a part of was simply on some next shit. The West Coast representatives were **Babu, Melo-D** and **King IXL**; their East Coast counterparts—**Swamp, Mr. Sinister** and **Roli Rho**. The heads loyal enough to come and show support for one of the most unjustly slept-on elements of hip-hop, DJing, were treated to a full afternoon of turntable magic. After the six-man run for first place, showcases by some of the world's most talented DJs followed (in order of appearance—**Roc Raider, Rob Swift, Mr. Sinister, Disk, Mixmaster Mike, 8-Ball, Babu, Melo-D, Q-Bert, Shortkut**, and last but not least **Aladdin**). Piles and piles of styles had me saying "oh, shit" every other minute.

Not only was every aspect of hip-hop DJing showcased with incredible talent, I'm willing to say that every aspect of hip-hop DJing was elevated to a new level that day. Some of the most memorable high-lights:

- Super-underdog **DJ Swamp** rocking the crowd with his backwards juggling, his creative tones and his almost eerie stage presence. Everything from his intro where he narrated a story and changed it by using different records to describe himself and the battle, to the funky tone manipulations he flipped at the end, had the crowd open. Homeboy even smashed his record against the wall to end his set! Too bad **Red Alert** was not present to shout his famous "Ooooooooo,ooooh!" cause he would've been yelling his lungs out then.

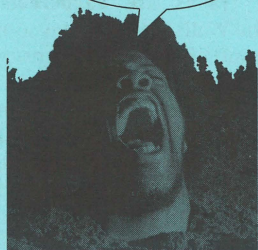
- Master beat-maker **DJ Mr. Sinister** showing all the DJs how far the art of making music with two turntables has evolved, and how much more potential there is for creativity. Sinister had one trick where he was juggling all his patterns backwards, and he was making precise beat patterns off of that! Dope, dope, dope. And of course, not one to stop there, Sinister spiced up his routine by throwing in some ill body tricks AS he made his beats. My man gets straight As for record selection, showmanship, technical difficulty, the whole nine.

- **DJ Babu** coming yet again (yet again!) with a brand new set, not using any of his older and proven tricks, showing fools how it should be done. Take two meaningful records, say something with them, create music. Repeat. Repeat. Throw in innovative scratching and other assorted skills, stir well, and serve to the crowd. And for everybody who didn't catch what my man Babu was trying to do with his scratches, watch the tape again and you'll see why I'm riding this kid. He was making his own little song by manipulating one record over a beat! He used a phrase, flared it, and even added his own beat patterns by hand to the beat he was cutting over. Props.

- **DJ Melo-D** showing why he is the Vestax World Champion by scratching and juggling his way through a set that pretty much blew my mind when I saw it. Especially the part where he was cutting My Melody—"check out Melody, ch-ch-check out Melody. Me-e-e-e-e-lody, Melody..." Yo, that was phat as hell. I really like what some of the Beat Junkies and of course the Invisible Skratch Picklesz are starting to do more now, using phrases and basically composing songs with their scratch sets. Man, I just wish that technical failures would not happen during a DJ's set, I mean, Melo-D was just wrecking it and then he turned his mixer around so he could get on with his juggling and the sound went out. Still though, Melo-D rocked it, as always.

- Another virtually unknown DJ, **Roli Rho** of **First Platoon**, showing that DJs are definitely out there practicing and trying to elevate the art. Roli gets props for fitting so much in so little time and coming with some original patterns all his own. He packed an intro, three different beat jugs-

I WANT MY  
VINYL  
EXCHANGE!!!

**SUBSCRIBE!**

Don't be left out in the cold! Get the Vinyl Exchange delivered every month. Subscriptions are **\$7 for 12 issues** (US, \$10 Int'l). Please fill this out and send it to us with a check or money order payable to **Parlay Graphics** and we'll hook you up! Thanks for supporting our efforts to preserve vinyl.

Name:

DJ? ☐ yes ☐ no DJ name:

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Favorite color vinyl:

E-mail address:

Where'd you get your copy of VE?:

Genres of music played/purchased:

Club(s)/radio station where you spin:

gling tricks and a scratch in six minutes. Damn. It showed that Roli had been spending tons of hours in the lab creating.

• Although he had to stop several times cause his needles were just not cooperating that day, King IXL showed everybody that hard work is gonna pay off. Remember last year, how he was licking the record and all that jazz? Well, this year he came with skills and although his set was definitely not flawless, he got my respect on improvement alone.

As it should've been, the battle for first was close, especially between Swamp, Sinister, and Babu. It could've easily gone to any of these DJs, each of them came with different styles and each of them caught wreck. When it was all said and done, the judges had Swamp as the new USA champ, Sinister as the runner-up, and Babu as third.

- DOBOY, First Platoon

## Turntable Wizardry Video

"Dedicated to the pioneers of the turntable art form and to those individuals who continue striving for elevation thru the Hip-Hop culture," is the opening to "Turntable Wizardry—Stage One," the first of a video series presented by Up Above Records, Inc.

The video begins with a Q&A session with DJs **Rhettmatic**, **Shortkut**, **Babu** and **Q-Bert**. They respond to questions such as "What does DJing mean to you?" and "What types of DJs exist and how do you fit in?" As they suggest the terms "battle DJs" and

"turntable instrumentalists" to describe themselves, DJ Babu defines turntablism: "I think the line is drawn where... DJs play other people's music, while turntablists, we take sound and make our own music through manipulations and through our hands."

During the "Equipment"

portion, Q-Bert and Rhettmatic describe all the functions of the mixer and turntables and show several different DJ setups, using the Vestax PDT-5000 direct drive turntables and the Vestax Streetmaster 5005 mixer.

In "Techniques," the basics of mixing and backspinning are shown, as well as different types of scratches: baby scratch, cutting, stabs (jabs), military scratch, drags, transforming and combinations of all. The "Showcase" features stellar performances

by Babu, Shortkut, guest **Melo-D** with Babu, and Q-Bert. You get a nice DJ's eye-view of each set, so the DJs' techniques (and the records) are seen up-close. The bonus is **Key-Kool & Rhettmatic's** "Can U Hear It?" video. "Turntable Wizardry" has something for everyone—beginners, seasoned DJs and hip-hop heads will all get a lot out of it.

This videotape, as well as Stages 2 and 3 are available for \$28.00 each (and worth every penny) from *Up Above Records*, 1300 E. 223rd Street #404, Carson, CA 90745, 310.549.4696.

## X-Men Video Out Now

Fat Beats presents "The X-Men" video, featuring **X-Men Roc Raider**, **Rob Swift** and **Mr Sinister**. Roc Raider is the '94/'95 DMC World Champion, Rob Swift the '92 Northeast DMC Champion and Sinister the '95/'96 Northeast DMC Champion. Skills!

Ask for it at your local record store or for wholesale/retail orders call Fat Beats in New York at 212.673.3883, fax 212.673.4021.

- DJ STEF



## vinyl

LISTENING STATIONS  
to serve you!

\$4.99 most domestic 12"  
\$8.99 most import 12"  
low prices on hard-to-find domestic  
and imported records  
mail order available

## service

provide DJ services for clubs, parties  
and events  
sound equipment rental for any size  
party or event  
repair and service Technics turntables

## dj equipment

DMC mixers, record flight cases  
Vestax Community speakers  
Numark Audio Centron power amps  
Technics TNT cases  
Gemini Stanton DJ accessories  
domestic/international mail order

VISA, MC, Discover & Novus cards accepted

acid jazz  
trip-hop  
drum & bass  
jungle  
hip-hop  
breakbeats  
latin house  
r&b  
soul  
reggae  
dancehall

**zebra  
records**

475 haight st  
san francisco ca

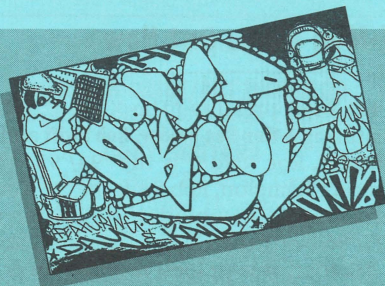
94117

415.626.9145 tel

415.626.9146 fax

mon-sat 11-8

sun 11-6



## Mix Tape reVIEWS: RipOne "True Skool Vol. 1"

Back for the payback with another mix tape is **DJ RipOne** outta Saugus, Kali. Those familiar with his tapes will already know what to expect: lots of scratching and crazy stabs over fat beats. This one isn't much different. This time around his latest release is entitled "True Skool Vol. 1," a 60-minute old school throw-down. This tape should definitely bring older heads back to the days before commercialization and the music industry took hold of hip-hop. Some of my favorite cuts were "World Famous," "Rock Creek Park" and "Why Is It Fresh?," not to mention classic b-boy jams like "It's Just Begun," "Scorpio" and a gang of others. Like previous outings, Rip lets his boys **DJs Day** and **Kair 1** get biz as well. **FAAAT!!!**

## DJ Drez "Drez's Room"

Hailing from Fullerton, California, **DJ Drez** hits us off with his latest joint, **Drez's Room**. Starting with a spoken word intro by **D'Knowledge** played over a collage of classic breaks, Drez takes the listener on an almost surreal musical journey. Along the way he combines musical interludes and hip-hop cuts by the **Group Home**, **Bahamadia**, the **Fugees** and others. The highlights of the tape, though, are the instrumental pieces. Jazzy tracks interspersed with sampled beats come together to form a vibe that'll immediately put the listener into chill mode. All 'n all a worthwhile trip.

- UPRISE

(For RipOne's tapes, call 805.288.9496. For Drez's tapes write P.O. Box 2321, Fullerton, CA 92633.)

**MASTA ACE INCORPORATED** - Turn It Up/Top Ten List (Delicious Vinyl) Production: Ase One/Saukrates

This particular release came as a surprise to this hip-hop fanatic. Those of us who peeped **MASTA ACE's** "Sittin' On Chrome" LP on the regular felt that this cut changed the pace of the whole project. And now, "Turn It Up" is put in the forefront for the general public to judge.

The single features the vocal talents of **LE SCHEA**, a full-fledged member of **Masta Ace Incorporated**. "Turn It Up"'s sample is an extremely popular one—**ROY AYERS** "Everybody Loves the Sunshine." Don't panic (thank the Almighty for B-sides!). There's a remix, featuring **PAULA PERRY**. It gets hotter from here, as Perry and Ace heat it up like a sauna. This team has never let us down, ya know. Both spray brand new, butta lyrics-to-go over a chill EPMD-ish track.

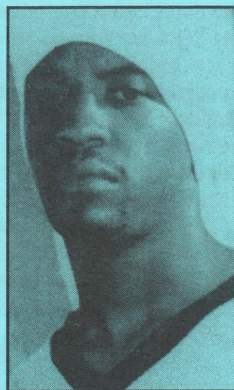
The highlight of the 12", by far, is the bonus "Top Ten List." It should definitely be boom-bangin' on college radio joints from coast-to-coast in a hot second. Big up to **SAUKRATES** for shinin' thru!

**PUPPETS OF CHAOS** - Tru Dat/New & Improved (Pro-Amp Entertainment) Production: Randy Nkonoki-Ward & DJ 3D

It is well known that the rap industry has taken a turn for the worse. Lyrical skills seem to be a thing of the past. And originality is now a rare quality that only a few possess. The peeps at Pro-Amp bless all headz with a duo, whose sole goal is to end the wackness that has made its home in hip-hop.

The **PUPPETS OF CHAOS** come with some of the most mind-stimulating rhymes since the **Ultramagnetics**. The off-beat style of the **SKRIBE** and **SCKALA** can easily fly right over the average "toy's" dome. "Tru Dat" is the perfect introduction to dat off-the-wall "Puppet" philosophy. The track is bangin', no doubt! We owe this one to Randy Nkonoki and DJ 3D. The B-side, "New & Improved," will have your thoughts in a daze. This track features the **Puppets of Chaos** comin' off and flippin' scripts from here to Asia. It's amazing how the **Scribe** and **Skcala** stay on such a high plain throughout both cuts. Speaking of cuts, the incredible **X-MEN's** own **DJ ROB SWIFT** slices and dices on "New & Improved."

The **Puppets'** mission is a clear one (well most of the time)! The duo flies the right way by releasing independently. But, that also means you may catch stress trying to pick this joint up. Chill dat—Fat Beats in Manhattan is takin' care of ya at 212.673.3883.



**POP MEGGA** - Ghetto News/Raw (Profile) Production: Cassanova Rud/Spunk Kadafi

**POP MEGGA's** Profile debut, "Ghetto News," comes at ya with da realness. Megga paints ill scenarios and examples of what so many of us have become accustomed to in our own surroundings. "Ghetto News" comes through lovely in explaining the wretched tales of da ghetto.

The single breaks down stories that just aren't exposed to the masses. But "Ghetto News" has a lot more in store for its listener. When peepin', you cannot help but notice the ill organs that creep in-and-out at any time. Pop Megga completely flips da script with a freestyle on tha love. Track-wise, **RUD's** freestyle beat outfades the other three tracks on the single. I could see the pupils expanding when you read the production credits. (Damn, how long has it been?)

"Raw (Are You Sure?)" serves as Pop Megga's warning to all doubters. The track left a brotha with a question mark expression straight across the face. Still, look for "Ghetto News" to catch wins in hoods all over.

**WISE INTELLIGENT** - Steady Slangin'/My Sound (Contract) Production: Tony D.



Yes, you can all exhale now! The wise one is back and on the solo tip. There's mixed reactions to that move. After hearing this joint, I'm positive that there will be no objections.

"Steady Slangin'" proves that **WISE INTELLIGENT** stands in a field of his own. The man's delivery is like none other. The single's A-side is geared more towards the masses. But this in no way should scare any of you from obtaining this one. Tony D. taps 'em out like no other. Horns smother the track's bangin' drums. There's no equal to the B-side, "My Sound." Wise truly brings it back to the essence on this one. New Jerusalem's own blesses us with lyrics coming straight from da soul (extremely rare). At the same time, he makes sure his point is clear in '96—Wise is the wrong n\*gga to f\*ck wit'.

If you know what is good for you, you'd get on this sh\*t like white on rice. This is ghetto music at its best!

- THEORY

**JAY-Z** - Dead Presidents/Ain't No Nigga (Roc-A-Fella/Priority) Production: Ski/Big Jaz

On his second (or third) solo release, **JAY-Z** continues to astound. Covering topical territory familiar to fans of **NAS**, **MOBB DEEP**, et. al., Jay-Z manages to make his stories shine with vivid verses like: "One day you're cruisin' in your seven/Next day you're sweatin', forgettin' your lies/Alibis ain't matchin' up, bullshit catchin' up/Hit with the RIG0, they repo your vehicle/Everything

was all good just a week ago." It's not just his lyrics, but his nimble delivery, the shades of nuance in his timing and inflection, that mark this brother as superb.

On the flip, Jay-Z and FOXY BROWN both rip verses, but to me the record is undercut by the vulgar chorus and the crusty "Seven Minutes of Funk" loop. On the other hand, these same factors make it a strong party record.

This 12" is destined for classic status.

**ROYAL FLUSH - Movin' On Ya Weak Production (Blunt Recordings) Production: Beatminerz**

Damn, I like this record. Those of you who peeped MIC GERONIMO's LP should be pretty familiar with FLUSH by now, given that he guested on like five tracks, most notably "Men vs. Many." Flush's delivery is low-key but effective like Mic's, but for me what puts him over is his mellow, buttery voice. The unidentified MC on the second verse keeps it moving, too. Lastly, the track is hot—MR. WALT seems to have struck a perfect balance between mellow atmospherics and head-snapping funk. Too bad, no B-side, but I'm anxious to hear more.

**CELLA DWELLAS - Perfect Match/Good Dwellas Pt. II (Loud) Production: Nick Wiz**

I do not care for the A-side. Does Loud really think they'll get airplay by junking this record up with an R&B chorus?

The flip, "Good Dwellas Pt. II," took me by surprise, though. The first three DWELLAS releases didn't really move me, but this time out their flows grew on me like stubble. They tell the usual outlandish crime stories, but check the delivery on lines like: "Yo, my ETA at JFK was three/MPV, jewelry like Mr. T/Sippin' Dom P/Waitin' for my man to fly in/Got two chicks, they're both thin, light-skin/And one's Hawaiian." Now can someone explain their beef with BIG KAP?

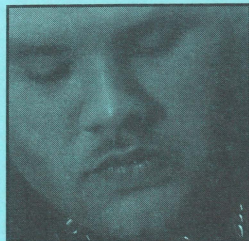
By the way, NICK WIZ continues to please on production. (Check how he chopped the drums on the B-side.)

**BROADWAY - Must Stay Paid/Enjoy Yourself (Nervous) Production: KRS-One/Diamond**

BROADWAY goes back and forth between rapping and chatting but doesn't really catch my ear with either—his flows and lyrics don't impress. The real scoop here is the intros, both of which bump. KRIS continues to develop into a real producer, and here he delivers one of his strongest beats yet. DIAMOND is lazier, but his track is up-beat, party material.

**FAT JOE - Envy/Firewater (Relativity) Production: L.E.S./Born Lords**

On the A-side, JOE kicks some "Juicy"-type rhymes over a "Juicy"-type beat with a "Juicy"-type chorus. I am not feeling it. "Firewater" is some shit, though. The track



sounds like vintage SHOWBIZ—raw, hypnotic noises and neck-snapping drums—but is credited to BORN LORDS (though Show's name is in the song credits,

hmmmm). RAEKWON rips a verse and the chorus, Joe rips a verse and some unidentified newcomers destroy it. First-rate.

**CHILL ROB G - Let Me Know Something/Know Ya Place. Production: Storm/Emoe**

First off, ECHO ought to call up "Unsolved Mysteries" and get their reward—this brother's disappearance has had hip-hop's finest detectives scratching their heads since like 1991. He's back, and yo, to my surprise, the brother still has it. ROB's thick flow and vocabulary-laden style haven't changed much, but they don't sound dated, and to his credit he hasn't jumped on any '96 gimmicks. The production is adequate, but the choruses are not quite there.

Nonetheless, baby DJs get a chance to brush up on their history with this essential new school pioneer. As a bonus, the record features acapellas of both tracks.

**MR. COMPLEX - Feel Me/I'm Rhymin'/Against the Grain (CoRecords) Production: Prince Po/Pharoahe Monche/Peace of Mind**

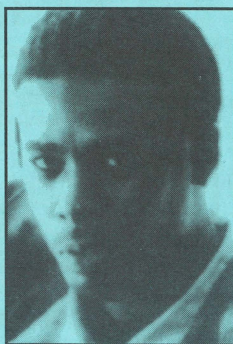
Out of ORGANIZED KONFUSION's crew comes COMPLEX, and he comes, well, complex. The A-side is kind of technical—he rhymes the same word. Word. "Against the Grain" is similarly experimental—any head who can catch everything he's saying the first time has probably sucked up too many hypnotical gases. "Feel Me" is probably the most accessible cut here, courtesy the fat THE ALBERT loop.

Those who like groundbreaking, abstract flows should definitely check for this.

P.S. Congratulations to O.K. on signing with Priority—for five years Hollywood Basic had them more fucked than that other Hollywood madam, Heidi Fleiss.

**GENIUS/GZA - Shadowboxin'/4th Chamber (Geffen) Production: RZA**

Don't these kids ever stop? I mean, at this rate of releases, won't this crew at some point run out of beats or rhymes? Based on this evidence, it ain't gonna happen any time soon. This release takes two



## LIVE AT THE BBQ

We'd like to share with you a few photos from the Vinyl Exchange barbeque last September:

DJ Fader of San Francisco cooks up fat beats and scratches in the kitchen.



DJ Cue lends his expertise with DJ equipment to get the sound just right.



The Flavor, 4080 and Rap Pages magazines were all well-represented.



Media moguls meet: Buddha Bob, Eric K. Arnold, Lauchlan McIntyre, J-Smoov, Toby Nishiyama and Chris Vargas.



Charles of San Diego's 3-Deep Street Promotionz warms up the living room turntables.



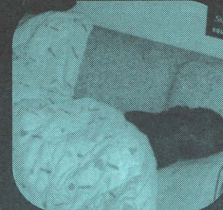
Rhettmatic rips the wheels at the Bomb Show later that night, with Disk, JRocc, Melo-D and Shortkut in the wings.



2 Mex (Alex Ocana) of Key-Kool & Rhettmatic's crew keeps the mic hot.



Tim of 3-Deep rests after a long and hectic day of street promotions.



of my favorite tracks from GZA's already-deleted-on-vinyl (what the fuck is up with that?) album "Liquid Swords." "Shadowboxin'" features METHOD ripping two verses that, to me, are rougher than anything off his own album. Meth is devastating, but to his credit, Genius hangs in there on his own verse. On the flip, RZA lays a track which is bugged even by his standards. GZA is joined by TONY STARKS, KILLAH PRIEST and RZA who all rip it, though to my mind Starks gets the nod. A must-have.

**25 TO LIFE** feat. **MOBB DEEP** - L.A., L.A. (white label) Production: unknown

Unless your radio is fucked up, you've probably heard **THA DOGG POUND**'s "New York, New York." Here, kids from Queens put on their locs, beanies and khakis and go jackin' for beats to return the favor. If this is a dis, it's pretty mild (the original never struck me as all that inflammatory, either). They don't name names or pull cards, they just drop some NYC hustling shit over the Dogg Pound track. Regardless, this record is hot. **HAVOC** comes off on his verse, as do newcomers **25 TO LIFE** with lines like: "25 years on this world and still strong/The world's rotten like the veins in my father's arm/I remain calm, study Islam, read the Torah/Goin' up in flames like Sodom and Gamorrah." Heads may argue about which is better, but I think both this and the original will hold up on any coast.

- MATT AFRICA

## Random Beats

submitted by Matt Africa

Yesterdays - **CLIFFORD BROWN** (Mercury)

Signs Pt. II - **DAVID AXELROD** (Capitol)

Trouble, Heartaches & Sadness - **ANN PEEBLES** (Hi)

Whispering Pines - **THE CRUSADERS** (Blue Thumb)

Pity the Child - **THE ALBERT** (Perception)

Little Green Apples - **MONK HIGGINS** (Solid State)

Hangin' Downtown - **CAMEO** (Atlanta Artists)

The World Is a Ghetto - **AHMAD JAMAL** (ABC)

Collage - **RAMSEY LEWIS** (CBS)

Cross Country - **ARCHIE WHITEWATER** (Cadet)

Matt Africa can be heard every Saturday 6-9 pm on the Beni B Show (90.7 FM) and monthly at 330 Ritch Street, courtesy 33.3 Presents.



P-MINUS keeps the house party crowd groovin'.

continued from page 1...

Rubberoom also has a 12" out for "Body Snatch'n" b/w "Stacks of 45s" (Elastic). "Body..." is a decent cut somehow reminding me of **KMD** (maybe it's just the beat), but I don't agree with the group's gender politics. I just did

not groove with it. The remix makes the beat more palatable, at least. The B-side uses **Beastie Boys**-like distorted vocals over a nice gritty beat, but I find the distortion distracting. This crew has much better potential, so keep your ears open for them in the future.

Back to a compilation but flipping to the Left Coast is Priority Records' *Legal Dope*. The Bay Area is represented lovely by the likes of **JT the Bigga Figga**, **San Quinn**, **Seff tha Gaffla**, **Master P** and **TRU**. This record is not without its imperfections, but it is a must-have for all fans of the "real G" funk. **Mad Skillz**' debut record, *From Where???* (Big Beat), has been all over my turntables with lyrics like, "I bring excitement like a hooker. Put rubbers in your ears, diaphragms on your woofer," and that's from a member of his VA crew (which rips it up five-deep on "Unseen World"). **Skillz**' lyrics and beats are tight throughout and made this record much better than I expected. Highlights from the "Don't Be a Menace..." soundtrack (Island) are **Wu-Tang's** "Winter Warz," **UGK's** "Live Wires Connect" featuring **Keith Murray** and **Lord Jamar**, and **Shock G's** "We Got More" featuring **The Luniz**. **Keith Murray** and **Redman** drop bombs all over **Erick Sermon's** *Double or Nothing* LP (Def Jam), especially on "Open Fire." The **Group Home's** full-length, *Living Proof* (Payday), is also getting major at-home airplay, due largely to **DJ Premier's** mind-stretching production, but you must check out **Guru's** beats on "Serious Rap Shit"—it's that ill shit, kid! I've heard that the new remix for "Suspended In Time" features the vocalist from **Groove The-**

## DJ Fingaz Top Ten Hip-Hop

FieldSoulJerz • San Diego, Calif.  
800.646.5016 (mix tapes available)

1. **Lyrical Tactics** - **MR. VOOODOO** (Fortress)
2. **3 the Hard Way** - **BAHAMADIA** (EMI)
3. **The Mad Scientist** - **THE LARGE PROFESSOR** (Geffen)
4. **Net Weight** - **PHIL THE AGONY** (Immortal)
5. **Double Trouble** - **MAD LION** feat. **KRS-One** (Nervous/Weeded)
6. **Waiting to Exhale** - **CHINO XL** (American)
7. **Legacy** - **NON PHIXION** (Fat Beats/SerchLite)
8. **Father Time** - **SAUKRATES** (Knee Deep)
9. **Conscious of Sin** - **SHABAZZ THE DISCIPLE** (Penalty)
10. **A Day In Da Stuy** - **MAJOR STRESS** (Norfside)

ory, and it is all that! Another sure-fire winner is the second **Mannish** single, "Jive U the Man" b/w "Mannish" (Correct). "Jive..." is on some chill, surreal vibe that gets me buggin' every time, and it will certainly "spread the Mannish ism across the land." "Mannish" ups the tempo and angrily lashes out at all wack MCs.

Big ups to my man **Jake**, who just put out his band's six-song 7" on his own Archibald Records, and to "Big Ass" **Gordon** who just told me that his **Blackhearted Skavengerz** are independently releasing their "Point of View" 12". Best of luck to them and everyone else taking control of their own destinies. You can do it yourself! And, you know, it doesn't really matter whether you pull stunts like McGyver or have more props and stunts than Bruce Willis.

- P-MINUS!

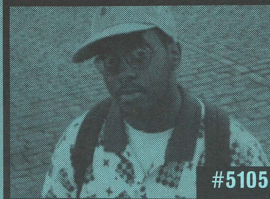
## THE LISTENING BOOTH • Call 212.843.3701

**VARIOUS BLENDS**  
"Dopest"  
(Blueprint)



#5110

**J-LIVE**  
"Longevity"  
(Raw Shack Productions)



#5105

**GUNSLINGUZ**  
"Protect Yourself"  
(Durdee Mack Records)



#5045

## VINYL for sale or trade

STACKS OF WAX. Jazz, soul, funk, rap, etc... call or fax want list to 415.252.7817.

SOUL, R&B & jazz LPs, buy, sell trade. Visa, MC, Amex. Dane C. LaBarr, P.O. Box 260834, Tampa, FL 33685, USA. Tel/fax 813.882.3929. E-mail dcLabarr@gate.net.

## VINYL wanted

LOOKING FOR BDP's "Jack of Spades" 12", Pete Rock's first LP (domestic), De La Soul's "Plug Tunin'" 12" and Gang Starr's "Step In the Arena" 12". Call Albert at 510.814.9237.

WU-TANG CLAN WANTED: I am looking for the following vinyl goodies: "Protect Ya Neck" (the original 12" on Wu-Tang Records); Method Man - "All I Need"/"Sub-Crazy" (white label promo); The Genius - "Come Do Me." Also, on CD, I am looking for Ol' Dirty Bastard's "Brooklyn Zoo" (radio edit; must be the version you hear in the video). If you can help, contact John Book, 2502 W. Opal St., Pasco, WA 99301-3352. For you computer heads, e-mail YCAA10A@prodi-gy.com with information.

ATTENTION: Free airplay on Univ. of Oregon's college radio station KWVA 88.1 FM.

Send all demos etc. to "Hip-Hop Don't Stop," KWVA 88.1FM, P.O. Box 3157, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403. Representing hip-hop to the fullest!

TECHNOFIEND seeks anything by Juan Atkins (Model 500, Cybotron) and Derrick May. Also looking for Patrick Crowley, Detroit techno compilation LPs/mix tapes, especially the "Area Code 313" compilation LP. Michael Heath, P.O. Box 427072, San Francisco, CA 94142.

I WANT VINYL. I'm looking for any 90s rock/alternative and rap/hip-hop vinyl. Please answer ad via ground mail: Nick Batyko, 103 Chaucer Court, Moon Twp., PA 15108, or e-mail: DJSpice1@aol.com.

BREAKDANCE ERA (81-84) We're "Lookin' For the Perfect Beat" and others: "Clear," "Search & Destroy," "Planet Patrol," etc. So all you "Buffalo Gals" and "Space Cowboys" round up your old LPs and 12" singles and let's keep this "Planet Rockin'" J & T's Ole Skool, call 916.427.1501, fax 916.391.3032.

LOOKING FOR any Ultramagnetic MC's vinyl on the Next Plateau label (12"s and the LP). Also any promo items from Ultra or Organized Konfusion (hats, shirts, hoodies, etc). Live videos, radio freestyles, live tapes, pretty Much anything from these two groups. I will buy or trade for this stuff. Dan Ladd, 61 Esker Ln, No. Kingstown, RI 02852.

## TAPES mix tapes for sale

Unique 90-min. acid jazz, rare groove and hip-hop mix tapes by DJ Tom Simonian Thump. 415.282.7052.

YOUR PHATTEST HIP HOP, gangsta, underground rap mix tape connection. Full 100 minutes, over 20 full length songs for only \$20 includes S&H.

Need your name and phone faxed to 510.473.9167 for more information on ordering.

## DJ POOLS services, orgs.

LET THE WORLD KNOW who you are! Your mixes! Everything! Join the Slammin' DJ Internet List! 510.473.9638 ext. 4 for more information.

ATTENTION DJs! Become part of an international DJ network for and about DJs. For application and information, send a SASE to: DJ's Network, P.O. Box 284, New York, NY 10012.

The Sounds of Urban London Records/Rap Archives are updating their DJ mailing list. Hip-hop, soul, R&B, swing, funk, black dance music. DJs send name, address, phone and club/radio details to: S.O.U.L./Rap Archives Records, 3000 W. 79th St., Inglewood, CA 90305.

## EQUIPMENT for sale

CERWIN VEGA earthquakes for sale, \$950 incl. cables. Call Albert 510.814.9237.

## HELP wanted

The Vinyl Exchange needs an Editorial Assistant. Clerical, typesetting, WP, contact with DJs and labels, some writing. No pay (yet). Send résumé.

## MISCELLANEOUS

APPLE LASERWRITER SELECT 310 PRINTER (1.5 MB) and 14.4 modem for sale. \$500 for both. Leave message at Parlay Graphics, 415.452.8030.

NAZ RECORDS, an independent record label, is looking to sign talented R&B and rap artists. If interested, send demo, name, telephone number and B&W photo to Naz Records, 5301 Diamond Heights Blvd., Suite A, SF, CA 94131.

## interVIEW: DJ Nu-Mark



After the DMC Nationals (which were proudly held in San Francisco), I had a chance to talk to DJ NU-MARK. He is currently producing/DJing for JURASSIC 5, along with CUT CHEMIST. The group also consists of members CHALI TUNA, AKIL, ZAAKIR and MARC SEVEN. In addition, Nu-Mark produced "Speaker Time," a track on the MANNISH album "Audio Sedative."

Being a DJ for 13 years, I asked him how he felt about the true representation of the hip-hop DJ. He felt that the scene at the battle was "incredible." He added that "most of the strong kids were here," and he was "happy to be a part of it." We went on to discuss what he enjoyed most about the hip-hop scene and what he wished would improve in hip-hop today. On the positive tip, he felt that the whole scene is very strong. He mentioned how there was separation last year, but that now "all forms are back at it again. It's coming back to full circle with the dancing (breaking), art (graffiti) and DJing."

On possible improvements, Nu-Mark stated that artists should study the business side of hip-hop because he feels it is 90% business. Always hearing groups complain about being taken advantage of by record companies, he suggests, "Be business wise—use your heads, get what you need and want out of it and know how to get it."

Rapping up, we discussed if he felt that there were any east/west controversies. He feels the whole thing is complete BS. He summed it up by saying, "Both coasts know who's dope on both sides of the map."

Nu-Mark also wanted me to inform any of you known kids with mad records that Cut Chemist is photographing record collections as a hobby. If you'd like photos of your collection, you can reach him at 800.851.8249.

- RED RHYMES

## NEW WAX

### ANGEL TRAX

**EP** Demon Bitch EP - Chop Shop (Kevin "Blade" Gordon is at it again—213.461.5383.)

### ANTILLES

**Single** I've Known Rivers - Courtney Pine

### BIG BEAT

**LP** From Where??? - Mad Skillz

### BLUNT

**Single** Movin' On Ya Weak Production - Royal Flush

### DELICIOUS VINYL

**Single** Runnin' (Da Beatminerz Remix)/Runnin' (Jay Dee Remix)/Y? Be Like That (Jay Dee Remix) - The Pharcyde

### DOGDAY RECORDS

**LP** A-1 Yola - 11/5

### EASTWEST/FLAVOR UNIT RECORDS

**Single** Motherless Child - Ghostface Killer (from the "Sunset Park" soundtrack)

### EIGHTH DIMENSION RECORDS

**EP** Only Roses - Pimp Daddy Nash

### EMI

**Single** If Headz Only Knew - Heather B.

**LP** Kollage - Bahamadia (double vinyl)

### FAT BEATS/SERCHLITE MUSIC

**Single** Legacy/No Tomorrow - Non Phixion (Limited edition vinyl. Scratches by DJ Eclipse.)

### ISLAND

**LP** Seeds of Evolution - Dark Sun Riders feat. Brother J

### MEPHISTO RECORDS

**Singles** 2000 Zero Zero - Pimp Daddy Nash  
Enter/Other - Q-Burn's Abstract Message

### MESA/BLUEMOON RECORDINGS

**Single** Give Me the Night - Randy Crawford (six fat mixes)

### NERVOUS/WEDEED

**Single** Double Trouble - Mad Lion feat. KRS-One and Brenda K. Starr

### NEW BREED

**EP** Bringing Mad Flavor - DJ BMF

### NO EXIT RECORDS

**LP** Twisted Mind State - Twisted Mind Kids (Contact 408.815.2164.)

### OFFICIAL

**Single** Vital Nerve b/w Eight Steps to Perfection - Company Flow (Includes radio edits and album versions—dope! Contact 212.539.3722.)

### PAYDAY

**Singles** Suspended In Time - Group Home (w/ "Groovy" Vocal Remix)  
The One - WC and the Maad Circle (w/ Barr 9 Remix)

### PENALTY RECORDINGS

**LP** The Awakening - Lord Finesse (w/ special limited edition instrumental wax)

### PERSPECTIVE/A&M

**Singles** Everybody Get - Young Zee  
Money Don't Make Your World Stop - Pudgee

### PRIORITY

**Single** Miami Life - Ras Kass b/w Hoo-Bangin' - Mack 10 feat. Ice Cube (from "The Substitute" Soundtrack)  
**LP** "The Substitute" Soundtrack - various artists (including Organized Konfusion)

### PRIORITY/DUCK DOWN

**Single** Leflah Pt. II & Remix - Heltah Skeltah & O.G.C.

### PROFILE

**Singles** Coolie High Remix b/w Killing Em Softly - Camp Lo (promo only)  
Ghetto News - Pop Megga  
Hustler's Theme - Smoother Da Hustler

### SLAMMIN' RECORDS

**LP** Cracker Beats Vol. VIII, Hip Hop Elements

### SOLESIDES & MO' WAX

**Single** Hardcore (Instrumental) Hip Hop - Grooverobbers feat. DJ Shadow b/w Fully Charged On Planet X - DJ Shadow & Chief XCel (w/ Gift of Gab, Lateef and Lyrics Born—incredible!)

### SOUNDS OF URBAN LONDON

**LP** Rap Archives Legends, Vol. One - various, including Biz Markie, Slick Rick, BDP (Live hip-hop battles '81-'87! DJs call 213.385.8967.)

### TUFF CITY (OL' SKOOL FLAVA)

**LP** New York What Is Funky - Ultramagnetic MC's (all previously unreleased studio recordings—classic Ultra!)

### UP ABOVE RECORDS

**Single** Head Trip - Key-Kool & Rhettmatic

## the Vinyl Exchange

a newsletter for deejays and vinyl junkies

### Inside the April '96 issue:

- 1 • P-Minus Potpourri
  - Head Knods of the Month
  - Tom Thump Top 10 Variety Pack
- 2 **News**
  - Battle Report: 1996 DMC USA Championships
- 3 • DJ Videos: "Turntable Wizardry" and "The X-Men"
- reViews**
- 4 • Mix Tapes: RipOne and DJ Drez
  - Masta Ace Incorporated, Puppets of Chaos, Pop Megga, Wise Intelligent, Jay-Z
- 5 • Royal Flush, Cella Dwellas, Broadway, Fat Joe, Chill Rob G, Mr. Complex, Genius/GZA
  - Vinyl Exchange BBQ Highlights
- 6 • 25 to Life
  - Matt Africa's Random Beats
  - DJ Fingaz Top Ten Hip-Hop
  - The Listening Booth
- 7 **Classified Ads**
  - High Plains Drifter Lucky 13
- InterView:** DJ Nu-Mark
- 8 **New Wax**



**DMC USA  
Championships!**

See page 2.

## the Vinyl Exchange

Parlay Graphics  
236 West Portal Avenue #402  
San Francisco, CA 94127-1423  
415.452.8030 • fax 415.665.5933

Up Above Records presents  
the Turntable Wizardry video!  
See NEWS, page 3.