

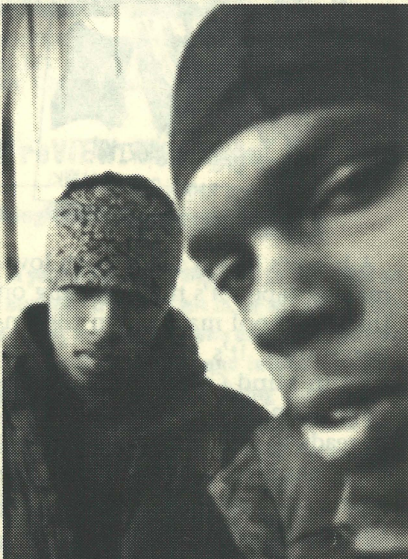
the Vinyl Exchange

a newsletter for deejays and vinyl junkies

FEBRUARY 1995

Head Knods of the Month

Top Ten Hip-Hop
By Mr. Grinch & Theory,
Houston, Texas



The D & D Allstars roster includes SMIF N WESSUN.

1. One, Two, Pass It - D & D Allstars (Arista)
2. All the Way Live - Alkoholiks feat. Q-Tip and King Tee (RCA/Loud)
3. Walk In NYC - Onyx (Chaos/RAL)
4. Danger Zone - Big L (Columbia)
5. Airplay - LL Cool J (Def Jam)
6. Brooklyn Zoo - Ol Dirty Bastard (Elektra Entertainment)
7. Questions - Mad Kap (RCA/Loud)
8. Get Down (Q-Tip Remix) - Craig Mack (Bad Boy)
9. Dedication - Digable Planets (Pendulum)
10. Remember We - Da Bush Babees (Reprise/Warner Brothers)

Top Ten Dancehall Reggae

By "Rasta" Cue-Tip for Megatone Sounds
San Francisco, California

1. Tour (Remixes) - CAPLETON (Signet)
2. No Argument - BOUNTY KILLA (Digital B)
3. Rampage - BUJU BANTON (CB123/Penthouse)
4. Clothes Pin - POWERMAN (Fat Eyes)
5. Cellular Phone - BOUNTY KILLA (John John)
6. Slam - BEENIE MAN (Madhouse)
7. Nika - VICIOUS (Epic/Sony)
8. Heartbreaker - DADDY SCREW/MAXI PRIEST (Madhouse)
9. Like a Gangsta - MOTION (Mastermind)
10. Nice & Naughty (Remixes) - CHEVELLE FRANKLIN (Profile)



You gets "No Argument" from BOUNTY KILLA.

FREE!

Volume 2
February 1995

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Courtesy of VP Records, Wild Pitch,
Wreck Records

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Stephanie Aguilar Gardner, Owner

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Creative Music

E M P O R I U M

*"From Be-Bop to Hip-Hop,
More Than a Record Store!"*

InterVIEW: DJ Shortkut

I had the privilege of talking to Shortkut upon his return from the US national DMC Championships which were held in New York on Jan. 4, 1995. Finalists from the West Coast were: Shortkut-Daly City, Babu-LA and Disk-SF. From the East Coast: DJ Ghetto-Philadelphia, Roc Raider-Harlem, DJ Active-Philadelphia. Each DJ went one time and then a winner was chosen. Judges included Stretch Armstrong, Rob Swift, Jazzy Joyce, Grandmaster Flash and the one and only Grand Wizard Theodore. Shortkut placed second. The winner, Roc Raider, moves on to the international DMC finals to be held in London this March.

Shortkut says of Roc Raider's performance, "He had a lot of showmanship and used body tricks." Shortkut is surprised that body tricks are so popular now. "It's something the west is known for, but a lot of djs from the east coast are doing it now. In the West Coast DMC, there was really only one DJ who did the body tricks." Shortkut isn't dissing DJs who do body tricks. He points out that a good DJ like Roc Raider does body tricks on beat and keeps the sound on point. "He deserves it. He has been taking 2nd place at battles for a few years now."

When Shortkut battles he uses straight beats; making an original beat using the sound from the record. No body tricks—just musical skills. Shortkut places emphasis on SOUND. Shortkut and Q-Bert emphasize straight sound, although showmanship is there. "We want to be able to put our music on audio tape and still bob heads. A lot of times when DJs do body tricks, the sound suffers; the energy doesn't translate to audio tape." Check out Shortkut's guest appearance on Q-Bert's mix tape. (By the way, Q-Bert and Disk are working on their third record, due out soon.)

In the Superman Battle for World Supremacy held at the New Music Seminar last July, Shortkut placed 2nd after DJ Noise from Denmark. There will be no seminar this year—it remains to be seen if there will still be a battle. "It's a damn shame that the Gavin Convention wasn't held in San Francisco this year. San Francisco is the mecca of DJing now." The Bomb Hip-Hop Magazine had hoped to host a Gavin DJ Battle. Many of the world's best DJs are here: Q-Bert, Mixmaster Mike, Apollo, 8-Ball, Disk and Shortkut. Shortkut worries that DJ battles are weakening and fading out. "There are mixer companies targeting the Bay Area for input from DJs and hopefully they will create and sponsor some new DJ battles in this area."

Shortkut also just returned from the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, where he represented Numark. Shortkut contributes his ideas to mixer companies who have an ear to the street. Vestax, which recently broke away from Stanton, is making a new line of mixers. They're making mixers specifically designed for trick DJs—Funkmaster Flex already has a signature mixer. Shortkut will have his own model with all the features he ever wanted in a mixer! Look out for that one hopefully coming out this summer. Q-Bert will have one soon as well. One cool feature of the Shortkut mixer is a switch in the back which switches the fader/turntable channels. So if you like to mix and scratch backwards (with the left turntable

on Channel 2 and the right on Channel 1), it can be set up and put back with the flip of a switch. No more messing with the ground wire and RCA cables! This will come in handy for battles where several DJs with different preferences mix on the same tables.

Shortkut is 19 years old and has been mixing since 1986. He started battling in 1991. He's scared by the club scene today because there is no place in San Francisco right now that's 18 and over that plays real hip-hop. That has a BIG impact on kids and what they listen to. "We need 18+ clubs that play real hip-hop! I want to be able to walk into a club and hear Gang Starr." It's also hard for him to get club gigs because he's seen as a "trickster." I can attest to the fact that Shortkut knows how to rock a party as well and keep a crowd grooving. He gives props to LA which has 18+ clubs that will play cuts like "Nobody Beats the Biz" and have fools nodding their heads and people on the dance floor.

Shortkut is disgusted by radio DJs who also spin in the trendy clubs (which they pump on their radio stations) who get props but don't really DO anything—show no skills nor creativity. "They aren't paying any dues; not flying half-way across the globe ten times a year to enter DJ battles." In 1993 Shortkut won the KMEL DJ Battle. The tradition with this battle is that the winner automatically becomes a regular power mixer for the station. Well, Shortkut mixed on the radio twice and that was it. WHY IS THAT? Could it have anything to do with all the classic old school cuts he played and lack of top 40? "Commercial radio has too much politics involved."

Shortkut is even discouraged in his broadcasting studies because of what goes on in radio today. How can he work, study and pay for so many years to get to something that he (and many true DJs and hip-hop heads) does not respect? He gives props to the radio DJs who ARE somewhat creative. When they start thinking they're ALL THAT is when it gets bad. He asks, "What are THEY doing for the DJ community? Think about this: Q-Bert is not on the radio! What's up with that?" He gives props to The Beat in Los Angeles, which features real DJs with real skills. It's unfortunate that Shortkut doesn't feel that San Francisco is supporting him. "What happened to the old days? They used to give props to everyone."

Shortkut doesn't let all that discourage him from DJing—nothing could. "Turntables are like a drug. If I had a girlfriend who didn't want me to DJ, I'd say, 'See ya! Music, especially hip-hop, is my first love. Your turntables will always be there!' At the time of this interview, Shortkut's turntables were being shipped back to him and he felt lost without them! Any DJ can all relate to that feeling.

Look for projects from Shortkut, Q-Bert and Disk to be on the cutting (pun not intended, but I like it) edge of hip-hop. Shortkut is dedicated to the music and that's all it's about. Be sure to check him out live when you can—hopefully there will be more battles where that will be possible. His upcoming regular column will be called THE BATTLE REPORT.

"Thank you, DJ Shortkut." (Listen to Q-Bert's "Preschool Break Mix" tape to get that one.)

- DJ STEF

MIX TAPE reVIEW: DJ Q-Bert

"Preschool Break Mix, Issue #1"
Demolition Pumpkin Squeeze Muzik



A b-boy's fix—a spaceman's love-making tape—it's the new drug on the preschool market. On the underground, it's known as "Mannequin Mind Caffeine Via the Re-animation of Cobwebbed Breaks." Be ready to squeeze pumpkins when you hear DJ Q-Bert's cassette, featuring champion DJs Shortkut and Disk on the wings of steel.

Q-Bert delivers a barrage of breaks, cuts, dips, flips, vicious snares and serious snippets. First, the computer-voice introductions hit me, then such takes as "Wild Style," "Spiderman," "Krush Groove," "Powdered Toast Man" (from Ren & Stimpy), "Beat Street" and "The Catch (Montana to Clark, you know...Dallas!)."

Q-Bert delivers "Dirt Style" courtesy of the "Tern Tabel Dragonz." This Frisco technician cuts preschool breaks like the Blackbyrds, Rush, Brothers Johnson, Headhunters and does somethin' lethal to James Brown (PE's "Public Enemy No. 1" loop). I'm not going to lie—listen to it three times in a row to catch all that. I had to. (That's just the half!)

Visit Bay Area stores, including those listed below, for Q-Bert's break and cut fest.

- "RASTA" CUE-TIP

Cue's, 6340 Mission Street ("Top of the Hill"), Daly City 415.755.1110.

Ultrasounz, 482 San Mateo Avenue, San Bruno 415.871.4170.

Zebra Records, 475 Haight Street, San Francisco 415.626.9145.

CLASSIFIED ADS

VINYL for sale or trade

BREAKS, rare funk, groove grease and old soul. If you hunt for crazy rare records, I'm your connection. Loads of black vinyl for sale or trade. Write to SOULUTIONS, 4823 1/2 Clarke St., Oakland, CA 94609.

VINYL wanted

LOOKING for these first LPs: Brand Nubian, Ultramagnetic

MCs, Organized Konfusion, Lord Finesse, Ice Cube. Offering these first LPs for trade: Das EFX, KMD, Tribe Called Quest (+ Low End Theory), Biz Markie + various EPMD 12-ins. Call Frank (Jr.) at 415.349.3963.

LOOKING for "Puttin' on the Hits" by Faze 2, "It's Yours" by T La Rock and an old cut by Funkmaster Wizard Wiz. Call Mike at 510.792.7739.

LOOKING FOR De la Soul's promo album "Clear Lake Auditori-

um" on vinyl. Akanni K. Jones 713.933.4681 or Jay Mills 713.575.0521.

WU-TANG CLAN WANTED: I am looking for a few 12" singles related to the monks from the slums of Shaolin. #1) Prince Rakeem's "Ooh, I Love You Rakeem," released by Tommy Boy in 1991. #2) Wu-Tang's "Tiger Style," said to have been released on Wu-Tang Records before "Protect Ya Neck." And #3) Wu-Tang's "Protect Ya Neck." Any help would be appreciated. Send info to: John Book, 2502 W. Opal St., Pasco, WA 99301-3352.

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 Lane, North Kingstown, RI 02852, 410.294.4873.

DEW DROP INN Sampler wanted. 3 records: 1 w/ 3 Tribe remixes by Towa, 1 w/ KMD and 1 w/ Brand Nubian. Lv. msg for Wil at Parlay Graphics, 415.452.8030.

TAPES mix tapes for sale

FAT Hip Hop mix tapes. Original mixes and fat blends, not just recorded songs. Unbi-

ased, all areas represented. All mixes recorded on high quality 90 minute tapes. For info send S.A.S.E. to On Track Productions, P.O. Box 574, Springfield, MO 65801-0574.

HIP HOP/R&B/Slow Jam 90 minute mix tapes only \$8.00. Available now Flava Fa That Ass...Part I. For more information contact The Wizard via e-mail at mduckwor@acad.bryant.edu or write to: The Wizard, 1150 Douglas Pike, P.O. Box 1515, Smithfield, RI 02917

GIGS job opportunities

I AM LOOKIN' for DJ's in the NY/Westchester/LI/Bronx market who are interested in mobile DJ work throughout the tri-state area. Experience ONLY please. IMMEDIATE WORK is available to those who qualify. Mail tape to: ACE, 15 N. Mill Street, Nyak, NY 10960.

DJs NEEDED in San Francisco for upscale club. Format is mostly R&B + 70s, acid jazz, hip-hop and reggae. Send demo tape w/ letter to The Vinyl Exchange, Parlay Graphics, 236 West Portal Avenue #402, SF, CA 94127, Attn: Club DJ.

THE VINYL EXCHANGE needs contributors. We are open to all types of music that DJs are spinning. If interested, please call or write The Vinyl Exchange. See address above.

EVENTS seminars, battles, etc.

WINTER MUSIC CONFERENCE, March 21-25 in Miami Beach, FL. Call 305.563.4444.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3rd, "Come Widdit" party at Il Pirata, 2007 16th St., Frisco. DJs Uprise, Mind Motion and Bamboo & "Rasta" Cue-Tip of Megatone Sounds.

Get your listing into the Vinyl Exchange and get on our mailing list. Get on while it's still free! Here's our address and number once again:

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TV reVIEW: The Paget Show

"Thoughts From the Toilet Bowl"

I'm your host DBL-T. Welcome to my world as an outsider trying to get in, or maybe I'm trying to get out. Oh well who cares. I hope this column will entertain and inform (no gossip). Fuck the B.S. Let's "Bring the Pain!"

I had the pleasure of attending a new talk show that comes on at 1:30 am. Personally, if it don't make dollars at 1:30 or love, it don't make sense, but this show was about top Bay Area rappers. "The Paget Show" airs on KPIX Channel 5 (San Francisco).

The panelists were Paris, 4-Tay and TGD. I'm gonna cut to the chase. There were two performances. 4-Tay performed first and I have to admit I was getting a little frustrated because the soundman was fucking up and it's hot in those stage studios. Another thing was that every time he passed the middle of the stage he got feedback. I could see the look on his face. (I hope the soundman belonged to an HMO.)

Next was the Conscious Daughters and though I've seen them on several occasions I had never seen them perform. I have to admit that they was all that. No sound glitches with the mics and they flowed like the Gs but looked sexy. Hmm...the videos don't do justice, and I ain't brown nosing. The song was a "Rolling Deeper" remix, also this caught me off guard. It was tight.

The hostess "Pigeon" got her ghetto pass revoked when she couldn't say "Tupac." I almost forgot, Herm was there talking about his activism in HP (Hunter's Point).

Well I got to go, class is calling and I need a V8.

If you have any decent demos, send them to "FATTEST TAPE"/DBL-T, The Vinyl Exchange, c/o Parlay Graphics. Artist must be unsigned.

- DBL-T

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Brooklyn Zoo - Ol Dirty Bastard
(includes Lord Digga and SD50
remixes)

CAPITOL RECORDS

Singles

Keep It Real - Milkbone
(from the Naughty by Nature
crew)

PAYDAY/ffrr

Singles

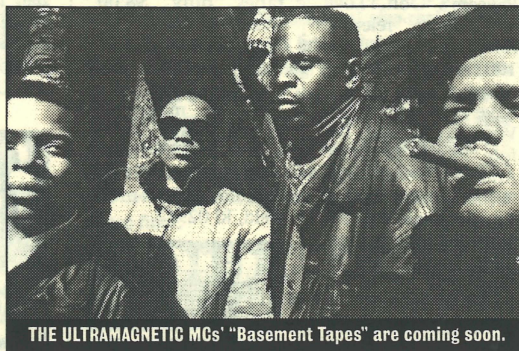
Next Level - Showbiz featuring
AG
(w/ Premier remix!)

TUFF CITY - COMING SOON!

LPs

The Basement Tapes -
Ultramagnetic MCs

Be on the lookout for a vinyl only LP, featuring Pumpkin playing live drums. Old school songs from 1980-84. Four cuts on each side—A side vocals, B side instrumentals. Artists include Outlaw 4 and Wizard Wiz. Look to Tuff City for more DJ necessities soon to come, on vinyl of course.



THE ULTRAMAGNETIC MCs' "Basement Tapes" are coming soon.

PUBLIC TELEVISION

Look out for a documentary called "Battle Sounds," produced in New York and coming out soon on PBS. It includes interviews with Kool Herc, Chuck Chillout, Grandmaster Flash and Clark Kent.

the Vinyl Exchange

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Inside:

- 1 Top Ten Hip-Hop Chart
Top Ten Dancehall Reggae
- 2 News and Reviews
 - DJ Shortcut
 - DJ Q-Bert's "Preschool Breaks" Mix Tape
 - "The Paget Show"
- 3 Classified Ads
- 4 Etcetera
 - New & Upcoming Releases
 - Soul Food DJ Family Chart



Flava Chart

Submitted by Marty Smith and
DJ Sloppy J, Soul Food DJ Family
February 1, 1995
San Francisco, California

1. Freaky Tales - Too Short (Jive)
2. Get Down - Craig Mack (Bad Boy)
3. Cognac - Little Bruce (Sick Wid It/Jive)
4. Bring the Pain - Method Man (Def Jam)
5. Creep/Untouchable Remix - TLC (La Face)
6. Trick Ass Hoes - Boogie (Relativity)
7. 2 Deep 2 Peep - Maniac (Crenshaw Records)
8. Think of You - Usher (La Face)
9. Sucka Free - 3 Deep (From the Floor Up)
10. Blase Blase - A Brotha Named Quick (Basement Flavor)