

the Vinyl Exchange

a newsletter for deejays and vinyl junkies

MAY 1996

Notes from the Editor

Thanks to all who support our efforts at the *Vinyl Exchange*. Special shouts go to **Red Rhymes, Uprise, Israel** at Zebra and **Peanut Butter Wolf**. Your help is much appreciated.

This month we bring you the super-duper, heavy duty vinyl review issue! There's a ton (literally) of great new wax out right now. Thanks to **Matt Africa, Daniel Ladd** and **DJ Theory**, we have some honest reviews to help you in your record-shop-ping. Always demand vinyl!

- DJ STEF

The P-Minus! Potpourri

No time for idle chatter; I'm just going to jump right into my reviews—why?, you ask—because I'm on a deadline!

Junior M.A.F.I.A. has just dropped "Gettin' Money" (Big Beat), the remix of "Get Money," on which both **Lil' Kim** and **B.I.G.** return with new dope verses, plus **Little Caesar** adds a bonus rhyme. The beat is Biggie's first stab at production and it comes off lovely. I prefer the remix mainly because this version doesn't glorify spousal abuse. (I'm just not into raps about huge men beating up women—go figure!) The original mix and instrumental is included on the 12", along with my favorite album cut, "White Chalk," which gives **Trife** and **Larceny** a chance to shine.

Head Knods of the Month

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

1. **Krazy Kings - COMPANY FLOW** (Official Recordings)
2. **Props - INI** (Elektra)
3. **Lyrical Tactics - MISTER VOODOO** (Fortress)
4. **Twenty One Years - CHOCLAIR** (Knee Deep)
5. **Nickel & Dime - ROB SWIFT feat. Cracker Jax** (Fat Beats)
6. **Killin'em Softly - CAMP LO** (Profile)
7. **Straight East Coast - SADAT X** (Loud)
8. **No Tomorrow - NON PHIXION** (Fat Beats/SerchLite)
9. **Leflaur Leflah Eshkoshka (Part 2) - THE FAB 5** (Priority)
10. **Recognize & Realize (Part 2) - BIG NOYD feat. Mobb Deep** (Tommy Boy)

The **Artifacts** have been recovered! After a personally disappointing LP, **El the Sensei** and **Tame One** come back strong with a hittin' new single, "Art of Facts" (Big Beat), realizing that they need a career boost. This duo will hopefully provide an album full of songs as good as their singles.

I was incredibly excited to stumble across the new **De La Soul** single, "The Bizness" (Tommy Boy), and even happier to listen to it. **Dove** and **Pos** are still champion word-smiths, and **Common [Sense]** drops a flavorful guest rhyme, despite the homophobic Greg Louganis reference (luckily edited on the radio track and maybe even on the album version—way to go, Tommy!). The self-produced beat is minimalist but an immediate head-nodder. Keep an eye, an ear and a wallet out for the new LP, *Stakes is High*.

Man Digga, no longer just **Masta Ace's** gravel-voiced henchman, and no longer **Lord Digga** (I have no idea why), has released "Man Digga Comin' Through" (Big Beat). Digga's here to chop "those couch potato [MCs] into french fries" with a fresh beat and a nice flow, but his basic boast rhymes might not be sufficient for an appealing solo album. We'll just have to wait and see.

Another gravel-voiced MC with a new record is **Xzibit**, self-proclaimed "dysfunctional member of **Tha Alkaholiks** crew," and the single is "Paparazzi" (Loud). I don't really like his sound, and the beat revolves around some wannabe-**RZA** sound effects, but the song is not all bad, though, as **X** offers sound advice to MCs willing to sacrifice their integrity for a record deal—"...It's a shame/niggas in the rap game/only for the money and the fame." He definitely gets his point across about fake MCs but that doesn't necessarily make for a very good song. The album could be really nice (it's executively produced by **E-Swift**), especially if **Xzibit** loads it up posse cuts from his **Alkaholik** family members.

EPMD was great; that goes without saying. **Erick Sermon** and **PMD** by themselves are not so great. But **PMD** has just given the world "Rugged-N-Raw" (**Boondox**), his first solo joint that I've even come close to enjoying thoroughly. **PMD** still isn't winning any lyricist championships, but on this track he finally sounds comfortable rhyming without the Green-Eyed Bandit. The anonymous production is appealing in a very stripped down, very East Coast kind of way. Same as with **Man Digga**, I don't see **PMD** with an exceptionally strong

continued on page 6...

Vibes 'N Stuff Lovely 15

mashed up by Paul E. Lopes
Toronto, Canada • vibes@inforamp.net

1. **Do You Believe In Love? - THE USCHI CLASSEN BAND** (Ninja Tune)
2. **We The People - GROOVE COLLECTIVE** (Giant Step/Impulse)
3. **One Street Over - BETTER DAZE** (Ubiquity)
4. **Mind The Gap - VARIOUS** (GAP)
5. **The Yearn - PETE ROCK & LOST BOYZ** (eastwest)
6. **Sutra - KARMA** (GAP)
7. **Dimensions - FORCES OF NATURE** (Clean Up)
8. **You & You & You - FRANKIE CUTLASS** (Relativity)
9. **Fat Jazzy Grooves Vol. 15 - VARIOUS** (New Breed)
10. **Black Jazz/Doug Carn - VARIOUS** (Soul Jazz)
11. **Quelle Sensation Bizarre - LA YEL-Low 357** (Yellow)
12. **Free Flow - FREE FLOW** (Roots)
13. **Sycot Motion - FILA BRAZILLIA** (Mind-food)



The New Groove LP pairs the Large Professor with Cannonball Adderly.

14. **Down Here On The Ground - THE UMMAH/GRANT GREEN** (Blue Note)
15. **What's Cookin' - VARIOUS** (Ubiquity)

Paul's many credits include: *Streetsound Mag*, Jazz Vibes Editor; "Vibes 'N Stuff" Thurs. 10 to midnite CIUT 89.5 FM; Bounce Events, Bump 'N Hustle Events, Toronto, Canada; *Straight No Chaser*, *On The One* and *Word* chart contributor.

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DJ Stef; courtesy of Blunt, RCA

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Bay Area Battle of the DJs

Bay Area DJs had a chance to show their skills once again at Music Systems "Bay Area Battle of the DJs." Held on Saturday, April 27, this event showcased the winners of previous regional battles and placed them against each other for the final event. The first of four categories was the 17 and under mixing competition. This was won by **DJ Bennihana**. The second category, 17 and under freestyle, was won by **Jeff Boyd** (who competed in both 17 and under categories).

The third category was the 18 and over mixing competition. **2 Fresh** took this with a variety of tracks like "The Message," "The Creator" and "Rockit." The fourth and final category was the one everyone was waiting for—the 18 and over freestyle competition. Things heated up in Round 2, which featured **8-Ball** against **DJ Quest**. 8-Ball had the crowd buggin' off his tone bending in which he imitated sounds from "Wu-Tang Clan Ain't..." Quest stated "Your Scratching is Stupid" and manipulated some beats to move on to the finals. Round 2 also had **DJ Remedy** against **Shortkut**.

Shortkut would move on to face Quest in the finals. He hyped up the crowd with his beat juggling of De La Soul's "Me, Myself and I." Quest came back with another manipulation of a hip-hop head nod, Gang

DJ Tom Simonian Thump "They Were Feelin' It Then, I'm Still Feelin' It Now" Ten

San Francisco, CA • 415.282.7052

1. **Blasé** - ARCHIE SHEPP W/ JEANNE LEE (Affinity)
2. **The Hard Blues** - JULIUS HEMPHILL (Arista/Freedom)
3. **River Niger** - WAR (Blue Note)
4. **Don't Need Nobody** - BAYETÉ UMBRA (Prestige)
5. **I'm Gonna Unmask the Batman - SUN RA** (Saturn 7")
6. **Haunted House** - LEE OSKAR (Elektra)
7. **The BirdWave** - JIMMY McGRIFF (Blue Note)
8. **Happology** - YUSEF LATEEF (Savoy)
9. **Freedom Now Suite** - MAX ROACH/ ABBEY LINCOLN (Columbia)
10. **Infinite Sound** - INFINITE SOUND (1750 Arch)

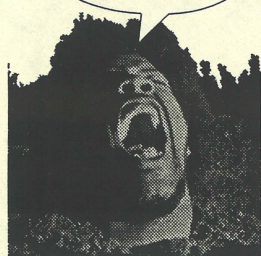
Tom Simonian Thump's "Jazzy Jungle" mix tape available now! Check Tom out at Succotash w/ "Rasta" Cue-Tip, Tuesday nights at the Up & Down Club and at Metro Jazz, Saturday nights at 111 Mirra Street, both in San Francisco. Also, go see Tom at Groove Merchant Records, 687 Haight Street, San Francisco, 415.252.5766.

Starr's "Who's Gonna Take the Weight?" After two rounds of intense skills, the judges couldn't decide, so it went on to Round 3. Quest went first and caught the ears of the crowd with a variation of tone bending and transforming. Shortkut got the crowd up with his rendition of Too Short's "Freaky Tales." It was clear it could go either way. The winner was Quest and the crowd acknowledged both of them for their competitive performances.

Besides the battle, there was also a trade show which showcased DJ products from companies like Vestax, Pioneer and American DJ. The one thing that caught the crowd's eye was Pioneer's CDJ-500II player and DJM-500 mixer for DJs. This CD player had a jog dial to select cue points on the CD (like pullin' back on the record to find a designated spot). The cross fader on the mixer could be used to bring you back to a certain cue point whenever it was moved back. Whatever your views on products like this are, eyes will be opening on this for the next few months to come.

- RED RHYMES

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ROB SWIFT featuring **CRACKER JAX** - Sly Rhymes/Nickel and Dime (Fat Beats) Production: Rob Swift

What a lovely release from the amazin' blazin' X-MEN's own DJ extraordinaire **ROB SWIFT**. Trust a brotha when I say that the man is as nice on the boards as he is on the wheels of steel. **CRACKER JAX** come through and lend Swift a taste of the lyrical skill on both "Sly Rhymes" and "Nickel and Dime."

Don't look for Rob Swift's famous slices on either one of these cuts too much. Not to worry...the man's phat ass production will definitely leave your eardrums satisfied. "Sly Rhymes" is nice and all 'dat, but once again, the B-side reigns supreme. "Nickel and Dime" contains a murderous feel, as the Cracker Jax continue to deliver realism for the masses. Be careful; Rob Swift's dark melodic production will have your ass in a trance before you know it, cousin!

All X-Men lovers should automatically know da science on this one. And for the rest of ya, stop snoozin'. Rob Swift and the Cracker Jax are bringin' it back, aight...

MISTER VOODOO - Lyrical Tactics/Shine/Hemlock (Fortress Entertainment) Production: Charlemagne

In this past year, we have seen the love for Fortress' **NATURAL ELEMENTS** triple in amount. No doubt, the product is truly hot. **MISTER VOODOO** lets us know that their butta shit is endless.

The Bronx's own **Mister Voodoo** returns after a small hiatus. This time, he's hittin' us off with a sequel to his underground classic "Come Off Hard." For those that know, "Lyrical Tactics" will hit you just as hard as Part 1. This MC's flow is definitely comparable to none! The same goes for his camp, the **Natural Elements**. "Shine" proves this without a doubt. This track features lyrical wizardry from the likes of **L-SWIFT**, **A-BUTTA** and **ESSENCE**. By now most of you are familiar with Swift and Butta. But **Essence's** appearance is truly unforgettable!

The world famous **FLIP SQUAD's** own DJ **RIZ** goes for his on "Lyrical Tactics." Fortress has blessed us with another quality release for the tables. Let me be one of the first to thank the people at Fortress Entertainment for finally releasing "Hemlock." Years later, this joint is still on point and continues to shine.

POWERRULE - Dawn To Dusk/Rock Ya Knot Quick (Hydra Entertainment) Production: Vic/Erick Sermon

After years off the mainstream scene, **POWERRULE** comes right back at ya with some Puerto-hardroc lyrics and beats for the jeeps. I'm sure most of you remember how hard they hit back in '90.

Their first single in too many years, "Dawn To Dusk" creates a bomb-ass block party

atmosphere. **Groove Merchant VIC** steps in with a laid back, string-laced track, as **PRINCE PA HA** blesses you with the thoughts of a true hardroc. It also contains one of the nicest choruses around. "Dawn To Dusk" contains that flava to become the next **B-Boy National Anthem**, indeed! "Rock Ya Knot Quick" takes you on a grimy funk track, reminiscent of the "No Pressure" days.

Betta score on this one while you can. This phat independent shit gets hotter by the minute. **Powerrule** proves that through time, representin' is no hassle to the veterans.

INI - Fakin' Jax/Props (Elektra) Production: Pete Rock

For months, listeners of **MARLEY MARL** and **PETE ROCK's** Future Flavas Mix Show were teased with some of the hottest product in this country. Week after week, the **Chocolate Boy Wonder** would hit his public off with more than enough of his up and coming lyrical magicians, **INI**. Finally, in '96, the whole world can share this hip-hop experience.

No doubtedly the most refreshing group to come along in the last few years, **INI**



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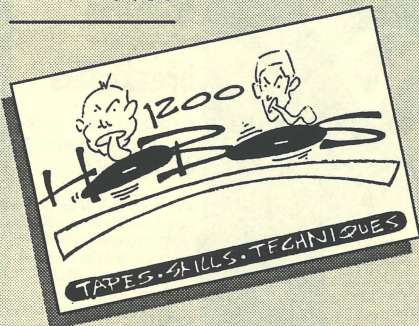
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addresses their debut single, "Fakin' Jax," to all of the world's shook ones. Pete Rock starts the session lettin' you know the mission he and the "I" are on. Being true followers of the Rastafari, InI come with words of wisdom, and at the same time display uncomparable skill at will. In times like these, most heads in our cipa need to take heed to this one. The Bop Ya Head Remix is nothing short of genius. With new lyrics-to-go, the remix hits you off with the love as Pete Rock introduces his new untouchable style of rhythm on the boards. Rob O. (just one of the InI crew) goes for dolo on the single's B-side, "Props." This one must be bangin' in clubs coast-to-coast. Takin' it back to the essence, Rob O. returns to the ill style of an original MC. And yes, the SP was put to work on this track, no doubt!

Soul Brother #1 (production company) has managed to put out amazing buttas in its early stages. InI truly stand alone with a style that is forever unique. And trust me when I say the best is yet to come.

- THEORY

Mix Tape reVIEW: 1200 Hobos



Although it might seem redundant reviewing this joint after *Rap Pages* had already done the honors in March, I feel that this tape is worthy of the plug. The 1200 Hobos (Mr. Dibbs and DJ Skip) from Cincinnati, Ohio come tight on "Tapes, Skills and Techniques." Living up to the title, these kids go buck wild on side 1's "30 min. Massacre Mix." Deftly combining clever cuts and soundbites from Scooby-Doo and even "WKRP in Cincinnati," the Hobos navigate a course through the hip-hop soundscape. Side B consists of the Hobos' remixes of classics like "It Ain't Hard to Tell," "Crooklyn Dodgers," "Resurrection," "Mortal Thoughts," "1-2 Pass It," "How High" and my personal fave "Shook Ones." These Ohio Players are definitely puttin' it down for their home state.

- UPRISE

(For information on the 1200 Hobos' tape, call 513.942.2996.)

SADAT X - Hang 'Em High/Stages and Lights (Loud Records) Production: Ali Malek/Showbiz

Man, only SADAT X could get away with this. On his first solo release, Sadat concocts a cowboy narrative stranger and iller than TRAGEDY's "Posse" or even MOE DEE's "Wild Wild West." Sadat laces a spaghetti western/Ennio Moricone-type track with lyrics that mix metaphors and eras into bizarre permutations, like "Joe Tex was the biggest hombre from the projects/Had all the work locked down or so he thought." Bizarre though it is, it's kinda dope—almost makes me want to put on chaps and spurs and shit. Almost.

On the flip, Sadat delivers more of the usual in his high, twangy delivery. Nothing to write home about, but I'm glad Showbiz is back.

VARIOUS ARTISTS - Live Convention '82 (Disco Wax Records)

I thought I'd never see this, but thank God somebody re-released it. "Live Convention '82" is a classic recording of some of hip-hop's greatest pioneers doing their thing live. It features legendary but under-recorded artists like BUSY BEE and the FANTASTIC ROMANTIC 5 MCs performing some of their best routines. Throughout, GRANDWIZARD THEODORE holds it down, cutting classic breakbeats like "Catch a Groove" and "Do the Funky Penguin Pt. 1."

Do not sleep on this record. People pop a lot of shit about old school this and that, but as far as I'm concerned this album is probably the single greatest document of the foundations of rap music. It shows the creativity, the originality and the showmanship hip-hop was about. And if all that isn't reason enough, this record is the source of dozens of classic vocal loops.

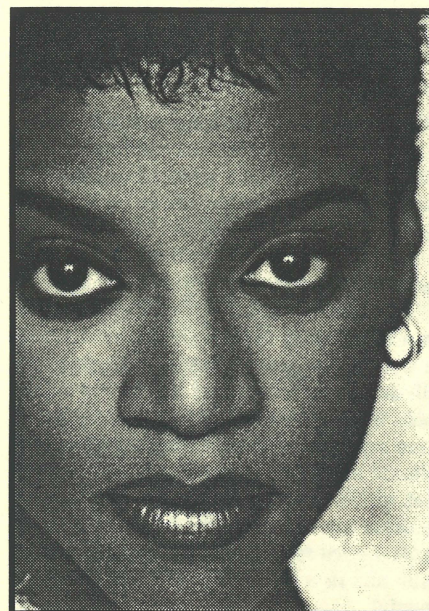
CAMP LO - Coolie High (remix)/Killin' Me Softly (Profile Records) Production: Ski aka Joe Chink

Yo, I slept on these guys when they dropped "Coolie High" a few months back. I mean one of them sounds kinda Digable, but they got something. "Coolie High" gets a new remix, courtesy of SKI, which is mellow and pleasing to the ear. I'm still not sure I know what they're talking about, but their lyrics seem kind of evocative of a '70s good time vibe. Regardless, they sound good, with flows and a catchy chorus.

On "Killin' Me" they deliver more of the same impressionistic flavor, though with a little more of an edge. Check for it.

CHANTAY SAVAGE - I Will Survive (RCA) Production: Steve "Silk" Hurley, Kay Fingers

I ain't gonna lie to you—I don't know CHANTAY SAVAGE from Chanté Moore and I don't generally give a rat's ass about contempo-



CHANTAY SAVAGE delivers a mellow version of the disco classic "I Will Survive."

rary R&B—but I know what I like. Here, Chantay has a distinctly mellow take on the histrionics of GLORIA GAYNOR's disco classic "I Will Survive" with production courtesy "SILK" HURLEY and KAY FINGERS. I expected some kind of house thing from these guys, but they keep it low-key and soulful. Best of all, COMMON blesses the mic on two mixes (with different verses on each one). Definitely worth a listen, particularly Fingers' mix.

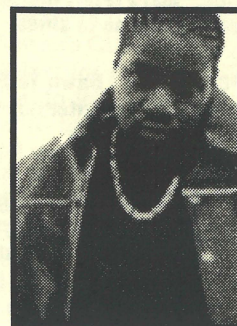
SMOOTHE DA HUSTLER - Hustler's Theme/Murdafest (Profile Records) Production: DR Period

SMOOTHE's latest release, "Broken Language," is damn near a classic already, but I don't really feel this. The problem is the beat—a cracked-out replayed version of the played out "Freddie's Dead" loop. Wick wick wack. The chorus is corny, too. It's a shame, because Smoother's lyrics, from metaphors to crack mathematics, are pretty hot. Check the acapella.

"Murdafest" is a return to the original recipe featuring TRIGGER THA GAMBLER (now signed to Def Jam) and D.V. alias Christ. Fans of "Broken Language" will want to check for the B-side.

LORD FINESSE - Gameplan/Actual Facts (Penalty Recordings) Production: Lord Finesse

Okay, FINESSE fans know there's always one gaming-on-the-females song on every album ("Strictly



for the Ladies," "That's How Smooth I Am"), but this single isn't likely to make many new fans. The track has some watery R&B flavorings and the concept/interplay with the girl is kind of stale.

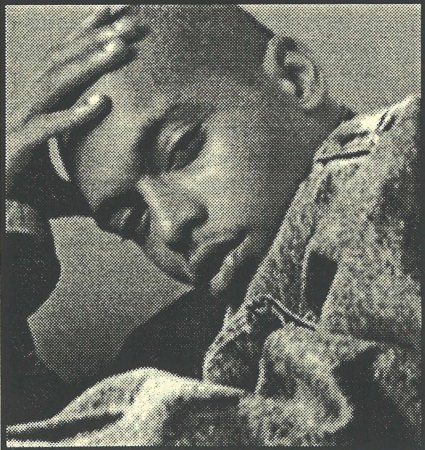
The B-side features an NYC rap dream team, though—**SADAT X**, **LARGE PROFESSOR** and **GRAND PUBA**. All four come off in classic fashion, though the track is a little tired.

DJ KRUSH - Meiso (Mo' Wax) Production: DJ Krush/DJ Shadow/Prunes

For a couple of years, trip-hop guys and foreigners have been raving about **DJ KRUSH**, one of Japan's finest producers. Stylistically, Krush specializes in slow, eerie soundscapes punctuated with nasty drum loops and occasional atmospheric cuts. Those of you unfamiliar with Krush get an opportunity to check him out on this release featuring **BLACK THOUGHT** and **MALIK B** of **THE ROOTS**. While this 12" doesn't really do Krush (or remixer **DJ SHADOW**) much justice, it's still worth checking out for the **PRUNES** remix and a better-than-average verse from **MALIK B**.

MIC GERONIMO - Wherever You Are/Men vs Many (Blunt Recordings) Production: Mark Sparks/Trauma Unit/Da Beatminerz

MIC GERONIMO scorches the mic on "Men vs Many," with the help of **O.C.** and **Royal Flush**.



By now, **MIC GERONIMO** has more singles than Tony Gwynn, but I tell you—this is the one. Blunt took the two strongest songs from Mic's "The Natural" LP (two of my favorite songs this year, I might add) and put them on one 12".

The "Wherever You Are" album version is some party-starting good-times shit, from bassline to chorus. It also gets the ghetto gold treatment on the remix, courtesy **TRAUMA UNIT** and **MIDNIGHT STAR**. Mic drops new lyrics, too, though I prefer the original.

On the other side, Mic, **O.C.** and **ROYAL FLUSH** scorch the microphone on one of the best crew cuts of this or any year. **DA BEATMINERZ** provide a bumping foundation, and the chorus is outstanding. A necessity.

SAUKRATES - Father Time/CHOCCLAIR - Twenty One Years (Kneedeep Records) Production: Day

Damn, Canada's kinda comin' off, eh? In the past year I've heard impressive releases by many North-of-the-border crews including **DA GRASS ROOTS**, **CIPHER** and **THE RASCALZ**, but this is probably the best yet.

On "Father Time," **SAUKRATES** dominates a track composed of violin plucks and hard drums. Vocally, he sounds a little like **JERU**, but with the lyrical complexity of the **GZA**. The shit is live. **DAY** adds a remix too, but it doesn't really equal the ominous flavor of the original. On the B, **CHOCCLAIR** is a little more subtle but drops a couple solid verses in the "ghetto suffering" genre. Day's production is strong throughout. Don't sleep.

OMNISCIENCE - Touch Y'All (eastwest Records) Production: Fanatic

On his first single, "Amazin'," **OMNISCIENCE** impressed with his seemingly endless supply of metaphors and punchlines, but somehow failed to distinguish overall. "Touch Y'All" might fall into the same trap if not for an assist from **SADAT X**, who kills a verse and the chorus on one of the remixes here. **FANATIC**'s production on the three versions of the song is cool, but it's **Sadat's** hook on remix #2, "Lay back, and party like the mayor/Stay black, or we'll end your career" that makes the record memorable.

DA YOUNGSTAS - Verbal Glock/Every Man 4 Theyself (Pop Art) Production: Emanuel (M.G.) Parks

I give these kids credit for sticking with it, if not for originality. After three records for eastwest, they went for dolo last year on the newly resurrected Pop Art label. They're back without help from **MARLEY MARL** or **MOBB DEEP**, though it seems the Mobbs' styles, slang and subject matter all rubbed off. **DA YOUNGSTAS** bite, but they bite real well. Also a plus, **M.G.** keeps the beats stripped and bumping.

THE LARGE PROFESSOR - The Mad Scientist/Spacey/Listen (Blast Off) (Geffen Records) Production: Large Professor/Toney Rome

Okay, everybody knows **LARGE PROFESSOR** can run the boards like few others, but can he hold it down solo? In the five years since **MAIN SOURCE** released their classic "Breaking Atoms" LP, Large Professor has dropped tantalizing cameos and remixes all over; now it's time for him to show and prove.

"The Mad Scientist" is a catchy, bouncy track. Lyrically, it's kind of disappointing though. He gets off some good rhymes ("Yeah it's the live guy with glasses/From Flushing, known for programming the per-

Doubling Up

submitted by Matt Africa

Never My Love (Skye)/Lady Madonna (Skye) - **CAL TJADER**

Misdemeanor (ABC)/I Love Music (Impulse) - **AHMAD JAMAL**

The Look of Love (Enterprise)/You've Lost That Loving Feeling (Enterprise) - **ISAAC HAYES**

High As Apple Pie, Slice II (Warner Bros.)/Mother's Love (ABC) - **CHARLES WRIGHT**

Django (Atlantic)/The Golden Striker (Atlantic) - **MODERN JAZZ QUARTET**

MATT AFRICA can be heard every Saturday 6-9 pm on the **Beni B Show** (90.7 FM Berkeley) and monthly at various spots, courtesy 33.3 Presents.

cussion"), but he also establishes a new standard for laziness, rapping two verses and then repeating one of them in its entirety. In five years off, he didn't have time to write three verses? Come on.

The flip has a crew cut, "Spacey," and a mellow, dreamy instrumental dub called "Listen (Blast Off)." Both are okay but not astonishing. I'd be lying if I didn't say I expected better.

DELINQUENT HABITS - Tres Delinquentes/What It Be Like (PMP/Loud Records) Production: **O.G. Style**

Nope, nuh-uh, not feeling it—this record is corny. It features a **HERB ALPERT** mariachi loop so silly that I'm starting to like it. Nothing can save the vocals, though—generic pseudo-Gyppress flows and pathetic Spanglish lyrics. **SEND OG** makes a cameo but doesn't really come off.

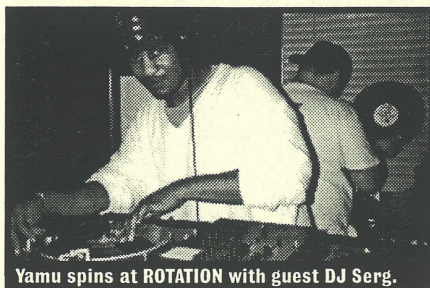
On the other side, they kick it "for the hardcore o.g. real funk fans," but I guess I'm not one, cuz I don't feel it.

DE LA SOUL - The Bizness (Tommy Boy Records) Production: **De La Soul**

These brothers keep me fiending with seemingly endless stretches between albums. With a minimum of hype, they've become arguably the most consistent and creative group in hip-hop. They don't disappoint with the first taste off their new LP, "Stakes Is High."

This time out they keep the beats stripped and drop jewels on the state of hip-hop with guest **COMMON**. The chorus, reminiscent of an old school routine, is dope. **DOVE** kills it from the start: "I speak divine of God theories/No need to be high/Always exhale





Yamu spins at ROTATION with guest DJ Serg.

...continued from page 1

full-length unless he pulls no punches this time around. Maybe he and Digga should rhyme together—how 'bout PMD-MD?

Roddy Rod just sent me the **Fab 5's** latest: "Leflaur Leflah Eshkoshka Pt. 2" (Priority), which follows the same vocal pattern as the "Pt. 1," but changes most of the lyrics and smooths out the beat a bit. Also on the 12" is a remix with the original vocals which is four minutes of bass-heavy love-liness. The B-side drops

Heltah Skeltah's "Lettha Brainz Blo"—not the most friendly song, as weak MCs face blasting gats, brass knuckles and even jewelry theft. It goes a bit overboard on critics of the **Boot Camp Click**, but at least the **Baby Paul** beat is all on that ill **Beatminerz** shit! Peep game on the forthcoming albums: H.S.'s **Nocturnal** and the **Originoo Gunn Clappaz'** *Tha Storm*.

I was one of the lucky million (probably!) to receive the "DJ Enuff Spring '96 Flavor" mix tape put out by Elektra/eastwest Records. As far as mix tapes go, it is so-so, but musically this joint is packed. The majority of cuts come from **Busta Rhymes'** *LP The Coming* (an album everyone in the world must buy!), including my favorite song of the minute, "Ill Vibe," featuring **Q-Tip**, plus the "Sunset Park" soundtrack and the *Red Hot and Rap AIDS* awareness benefit album. These last two records are thick with talent so along with your popcorn and condoms, pick them up fast!

Check out 111 Minna (at 2nd Street) on those boring ol' Wednesday nights. Nice space, good sound, and it's free before 10:30 pm. I witnessed flawless hip-hop sets by **Uprise** and **Joe Quixx** and a wicked dancehall mix by **Bamboo**, but unfortunately left before **Mind Motion's** guest appearance.

Also, don't forget about Monday ("Rotation") and Tuesday ("Succotash") nights at the **Up & Down Club** (on Folsom at 7th Street) in San Francisco. DJs **Stef**, **Yamu**, **Racer X**, **Rasta Cue-Tip** and **Tom Simonian Thump** give it to ya' live all night, plus I'm always looking for fools to devastate in dominoes!

I haven't gotten any really good mail in way too long so load me up with all your payola at 923 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. And keep in mind: I'm a diamond, you're a cubic zirconia; and my waistline—it's bangin' like a bassline!

- P-MINUS!

facts/Cuz I don't inhale lie." Common has the best punchline, though: "I'm not a hater of the players/I'm more like a coach or an owner/I used to love h.e.r./but now I bone her." **POS** drives the point home when he raps "You cry 'Keepin' it real'/when you should try keepin' it right." **DE LA** continues to innovate.

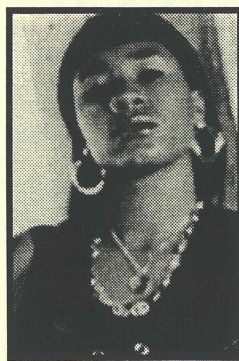
HEATHER B. - *If Headz Only Knew.../No Doubt* (EMI Records) Production: Kenny Parker

I wish I liked this record more than I do, because I don't get off on dissing female rappers, few as they are. **HEATHER's** lyrics are cool, but her delivery sounds a little forced. Also, the chorus is irritating. On the bright side, **KENNY PARKER** keeps the beats hard and simple.

BIG NOYD - *Recognize & Realize Parts 1 & 2* (Tommy Boy Records) Production: Mobb Deep

Rap fans remember **NOYD** from **MOBB DEEP's** "Infamous" LP. "Recognize & Realize Pt. 1" (which has been out a few months on promo) is some raw, pounding shit. **Noyd** sounds cool, but **PRODIGY** steals the show with lyrics and mic presence when he delivers lines like "Yo, it's P/Me and N-O-Y-D/Put the cheddar together/So we can double the O-Zs." "Pt. 2" doesn't bump as hard as the first, but it features extra verses and an appearance from **HAVOC**.

PAULA PERRY - *Paula's Jam/Reasons* (The INC Entertainment) Production: Ase One



After cameos on the last two **MASTA ACE** releases, this is **PAULA PERRY's** first solo release. She delivers rough-edged rhymes and solid flows, but the real star here is the beat, courtesy **ASE ONE**. Ase freaks

a simple steel drum loop, for a bouncy, ear-grabbing party-type track.

On the B, Paula rhymes more of the same on a fucked-up **EARTH, WIND AND FIRE** loop. Worth locating.

FUGEES - *Killing Me Softly/Cowboys/Fu-Gee-La* (Ruffhouse/Sony Records) Production: Wyclef, Lauryn Hill & John Forte/Salaam Remi

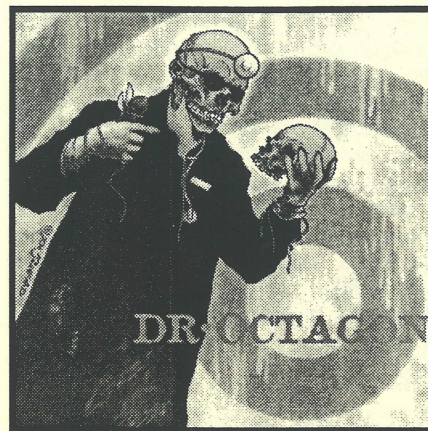
Am I the only one not feeling this? To begin with, I don't know why the **FUGEES** chose to revive this light rock standard (a light rock standard about Don McLean, I might add). Yeah, **LAURYN HILL's** a dope MC, and yeah,

she can sing too. But what's the fuss? The song is corny, the production is corny (that **LITTLE FEAT** break has been played out longer than **Troop** gear), the other two MCs are not so hot. The remix doesn't do anything for me, but the B-side, "Cowboys" is worth a listen.

[No, Matt, you're not the only one.—Ed.]

- MATT AFRICA

DR. OCTAGON LP (Bulk Recordings)



The "best emcee in the whole wide world" has really outdone himself here. This treat, brought to you on double vinyl (and other lesser formats) by Bulk Recordings in San Francisco, is the creation of another surname in **KOOL KEITH's** mic arsenal. The most misunderstood, most bitten and most slept on lyricist in hip-hop history continues to amaze with his verses for the year 3000. While no-talent mutants continue to bite his ten-year-old **Ultra** spaceship styles, Keith has moved on to bigger and better things, mainly a bugged "E.R." episode combined with things like porno flicks and heavy metal guitar samples. This man continues to grow lyrically and refuses to follow trends or limit himself to one music genre. "Technical Difficulties" (produced by **KUTMASTA KURT**) and "Blue Flowers" (produced by **AUTOMATOR**) are two examples of Kool Keith, excuse me, **DR. OCTAGON** at his best, over two of the best tracks these ears have heard in quite some time. With cuts by the great **DJ Q-BERT**, you would be hard pressed to find a better emcee and DJ combination, ever. To put it simply, these are two pieces of essential vinyl for people who cannot get enough of the creativity and imaginative genius that is Kool Keith. Combine that with incredible cover art done by famed punk/hardcore artist **PUSHEAD** and you have the total package. I guarantee that future emcees will bite this record endlessly ten years down the road; it's that good. Kool Keith is still housing thangs.

- DANIEL LADD

Daniel Ladd, 61 Esker Lane, North Kingstown, RI 02852. Send me vinyl—a review is guaranteed, a good one is not.

VINYL

for sale or trade

CONSUELO'S CORNER at Behind the Post Office, 1510 Haight Street, San Francisco. 415.861.2507. Jazz, breakbeats, vinyl treats!

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 Native Tongue house remix i.e. Queen Latifah's "Come Into My House," ATCQ's "Luck of Lucien," De La Soul's "Saturday." Call Miquel, 415.552.6328.

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.

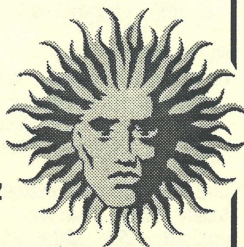
WU-TANG CLAN WANTED: I am looking for the following vinyl goodies: "Protect Ya Neck" (the original 12" on Wu-Tang Records); Method Man - "All I Need"/"Sub-Crazy" (white label promo); The Genius - "Come Do Me." Also, on CD, I am looking for Ol' Dirty Bastard's "Brooklyn Zoo" (radio edit; must be the version 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@prodigy.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!

Lion Top Ten Jungle

Jungle Nut Productions NYC
junglunut@inch.com (Lion)

1. Mr. Bond - DJ D. LUX (Status Records)
2. Raw Dogs Relik - DREAM TEAM (Sub Base Promo 68)
3. Promo (Tearin Vinyl 006)
4. Junglist - TRIBE OF ISSACHAR (Gongo Natty)
5. Celebrate Life - FELLOWSHIP (Xpressive)
6. Testpress (GW111)
7. Angles - DJ KRUST (V Recordings)
8. Yeah - PAUL Z (Prophecy Recordings)
9. Hijack - BLISS 'N' TUMBLE (Bear Necessities)
10. Feelgood - PEANUT PLANET (Fluid)



MISSION GLOBAL JUNGLE
http://www.inch.com/~junglunut

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 Slam-

min' 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.

FREE WAX for rap/hip-hop DJs. SF Bay Area promotion co. needs your feedback. Please leave name and number on voice mail and I'll call u back 415.313.3900.

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 resumé.

MISCELLANEOUS

APPLE LASERWRITER SELECT 310 PRINTER (1.5 MB) and 14.4 modem for sale. \$500 for both. 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, SE, CA 94131.

Classified ads are FREE up to 35 words!

Soul Food DJ Family Top 35

(from chart of 50) submitted by Marty Smith
510.729.8087 • fax 510.428.9132

1. Soul Food - Goodie Mob (La Face)
2. Killing Me Softly (Remix) - Fugees (Ruffhouse)
3. 2 of Amerikaz Most Wanted - 2Pac feat. Snoop (Death Row)
4. All Eyez On Me LP - 2Pac (Death Row)
5. Hoo Bangin' - Mac 10 feat. Ice Cube (Priority)
6. The World Is a Ghetto - Geto Boys (Noo Trybe)
7. Get Right - Mac Mall (Relativity)
8. Where I'm From (Remix) - Passion (MCA)
9. Bring It On - Organized Konfusion (Priority)
10. Oakland Streets - Askari X (Slow Motion)
11. The Mad Scientist - The Large Professor (Geffen)
12. Get On Up - Jodeci (Uptown)
13. Can't Be Wasting My Time - Mona Lisa (Island)
14. Down Low - R. Kelly feat. Ron Isley (Jive)
15. Everybody Get - Young Zee (Perspective)
16. The One - W.C. & the Madd Circle (Payday)
17. Freak It Out - Doug E. Fresh (Gee Street)
18. Don't Worry - Ruffa feat. Tasha Hopkins (MCA)
19. Space Age - Eightball & MJG (Relativity)
20. New York New York - Tha Dogg Pound (Death Row)
21. X.O. - Luniz (Noo Trybe)
22. Gamers - Conscious Daughters (Priority)
23. No More Games - Skin Deep feat. Lil' Kim (Loose Cannon)
24. 1, 2, 3, 4 - Coolio (Tommy Boy)
25. On a Sunday (Stepped On Remix) - The Body Snatchaz (Hood Rat)
26. Shit Iz Real - Shyheim (Noo Trybe)
27. Shadowboxin' - Genius/GZA (Geffen)
28. Tell Me - Total (Bad Boy)
29. Mad Scientist - MC Ren (Relativity)
30. Kissin' You - Total (Bad Boy)
31. Land of the Skanless - Kausion (Lench Mob)
32. E.M.B.R.A.C.E. - Society of Soul (La Face)
33. Time To Build - Dark Sun Riders (Island)
34. Cajun Moon - Randy Crawford (Bluemoon)
35. Smooth - Me and My Cousin (Priority)



NEW WAX

BIG BEAT

Singles Art of Facts - Artifacts b/w Man Digga Comin' Through - Man Digga (promo)

Gettin' Money (The "Get Money" Remix) - Junior M.A.F.I.A. feat. the Notorious B.I.G. (samples "Don't Look Any Further" by Dennis Edwards)

Real Live Shit (Remix) - Real Live (featuring Ghostface Killa, Cappadonna, Lord Tarik and Killa Sin)

BLUE NOTE

LP The New Groove (The Blue Note Remix Project - Various Artists)

BOMB MAGAZINE

LP Bomb Worldwide - Various Artists (an international hip-hop compilation)

COLUMBIA

Single Never Too Busy - Kenny Latimore

CORRECT

Singles Do Yo' Thang - Al' Tariq (Kool Fash) (Produced by the Beatnuts.)

Real Man - George Nooks & Lupa (Produced by Psycho Les and PK.)

CREATIVE RECORDS

Single It's All Gravy b/w Mr. Jiggiano - Positive K (Remixed by Easy Mo Bee.)

EASTWEST

Singles Listen to Me Now - Eightball & MJG b/w Games - Money Boss Players
The Yearn - Pete Rock and the Lost Boyz
(both from the America Is Dying Slowly LP from the Red Hot Organization)

EASTWEST/FLAVOR UNIT RECORDS

Single Back At You - Mobb Deep b/w Elements I'm Among - Queen Latifah (from the Sunset Park Soundtrack)

LP Sunset Park Soundtrack - Various Artists including MC Lyte, Aaliyah, Groove Theory and Onyx

EMI

Single I Confess b/w Uknow-howwedu (Remix by Ski) - Bahamadia

GEFFEN

Single Clones - The Roots

ISLAND

Single Time To Build - Dark Sun Riders featuring Brother J

JIVE

Single Lyrical Shot (Artical Pt. 2) - Whitey Don feat. KRS-One, Mad Lion and Shelly Thunder

LIFELINE RECORDS

EP Lyrical Terrorism - Concrete Click (Contact 617.469.7227.)

MASS VINYL

Single Book of Life*/4 Degrees for the Streets - Hi-Tech (*Produced by DJ Shok. Contact 914.375.5857.)

MEDICINE MEN PRODUCTIONS

Single Bring It On (The Lost Remix) - Organized Konfusion

MEPHISTO

LP The Subterranean Sound of San Francisco - Various Artists incl. Pimp Daddy Nash and Q-Burn's Abstract Message

ONE HUNDRED 20 RECORDS

Single Quest 4 Survival - Plan B (Contact 510.638.6595.)

PHAT WAX

Single Luvin' U 4 Dayz - Ill Mentality (Call 212.627.PHAT.)

PRIORITY

Singles Operation Lockdown - Heltah Skeltah

Red Lights (U Gotz 2 Chill '96) - Tha Truth

PROFILE

LP Once Upon a Time In America - Smoothe Da Hustler

RCA

Single Baby Drive Me Crazy b/w I Will Survive (KO Mix) - Chantay Savage

RELATIVITY

Single You and You and You - Frankie Cutlass (five mixes—Mambo mix features Tito Nieves)

SONY

Single If Anybody Gets Funked Up (It's Gonna Be You) - George Clinton & the P-Funk Allstars (w/ remixes by Erick Sermon and Colin Wolfe)

10/30 UPROAR

Single Tried By 12 - The East Flatbush Project... feat. DeS (Contact 718.624.6473)

TOMMY BOY

LP Stakes Is High - De La Soul

WHITE LABEL

LP The New Style Pt. 1—Scratching•Mixing•Producing (Contact Cue's, 415.755.1110.)

the Vinyl Exchange

a newsletter for deejays and vinyl junkies

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Super-duper vinyl
reviews this month!

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the Vinyl Exchange

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

**SHORTKUT meets QUEST in the
Bay Area Battle of the DJs
See NEWS, page 2.**