

the Vinyl Exchange

a newsletter for deejays and vinyl junkies

SEPTEMBER 1996

Words From the Editor

Big up to **DJ Excel** who recently made the big move from Boston to Jersey to work for Big Daddy Distribution. He sent me a copy of a recent issue of Billboard's weekly national music sales report. Under "Year-to-Date Sales By Album Format" from 1994 to 1995, Billboard reports cassette sales down 16.2%, CD sales up 12.9% and "Other" up a whopping 58.5%. Dare they use the "V" word? What could "Other" mean but vinyl?

Congratulations to Zebra Records, located right here in San Francisco, for being voted "Best DJ Supply Store" in both the *SF Weekly's* and the *San Francisco Bay Guardian's* readers' polls. Definitely check them out for your equipment sales and turntable repair needs. (See their ad on page 3 for additional info.)

Guess who's back? **DJ Tat Money** is back with a new mix tape—"In the Mix Volume 11." Call 800.496.7025 for info. Another one to check for is "Back 2 Back" by **DJ Ev** and **Stretch Armstrong**. Call **Joe** at 212.253.1177 to get it. And also get that three-tape set "Crooklyn Cuts" by the one and only **DJ Premier**. Zebra has it—don't sleep!

Every DJ who has ever played in a club must grab a copy of issue 14 of *On the Go*. "So You Wanna Be A DJ" by **DJ Julian** breaks down all the sh*t we club DJs have to deal with on the regular, from f*cked-up equipment to annoying requests like, "Play some 70's funk! Not this Parliament stuff!" (Look for the cover with **De La Soul** in a clever take-off on a cigarette ad, which is carried into the layout of the article—that's good design.) Also check for the "Diggin' In the Crates" and "LPs by the LB" sections. Good info for vinyl junkies. If your local record store doesn't have it, ask the retailer to call 212.592.0903.

A big thank you to each and every one of you who holds this newsletter in your hands and reads it. Please give us feedback and let us know what inquiring DJs want to know. Peace!

—DJ STEF

The P-Minus! Potpourri

This month's contribution to the *VE* is going to be a short one due to the fact that I have just started up my own business and it is killing me and sapping every last bit of energy and good karma from my weak and sickly body. Actually it is not quite that bad, but the new biz does cut into my free

time considerably. I will get into the specifics of my endeavor later in the article. First I would like to clue you in on what's been popping off in the Bay Area lately.

It looks like even the show reviews will be abbreviated due to the fact that my note-taking has proven to be lacking in much detail, but here we go: It appears that the Last Day Saloon (at 5th & Clement in SF) is going to have a live hip-hop night every Wednesday. The sound is good, the spot is cool, the cover is cheap, but there is a 21 and over age restriction. The first night that I went I saw Oakland's **Illa Dapted** wreck three or four songs off their forthcoming LP, *Paper or Plastic?* These three MCs have enviable mic skills, some interesting beats and are certainly worthy of a peep. **Sacred Hoop** featuring **Rase** were next to stomp to the stage and they performed better than I had ever seen before. They had the crowd electrified and they fed off that energy wonderfully. (I've never seen **Luke Sick** sweat so much!) Next up was **99th Demention** (from Daly City) and they continued to feed the energetic crowd (they brought all their friends with them) with their hyperactive stage performance. Lyrically, they sound like two parts **Hiero** and one part **RBL**, but it all comes together beautifully. The **Space Travelers** followed with a frenzy of their own as they materialized on stage with one MC, one dancehall chatter, two beatboxers and the incomparable **DJ Quest** at the helm (minus **Eddie Def**). If someone can get all the folks in a studio the creative possibilities would be endless. And to climax the show, the **Automatic Cousins** delivered non-stop rhymes and freestyles to the near-exhausted spectators. Afterwards, an open mic session was spawned (backed by a live bass guitar) and

DJ Serg's Top Ten

*Succotash @ the Up & Down Club
San Francisco • Tuesdays*

1. **What It Takes** - **CHOCCLAIR** (Day Productions)
2. **Studda Step** - **BIZ MARKIE** (White Label)
3. **One Day** - **JERU** (Payday)
4. **Crush** - **BIG SHUG** (Payday)
5. **Crab** - **FIERCE** (Wreckhouse Records)
6. **East Coast/West Coast Killas** - **GROUP THERAPY** (Interscope/Aftermath)
7. **When It Rains It Pours** - **SHADEZ (OF BROOKLYN)** (Pandemonium Wreckordz)
8. **Worldwide** - **ROYAL FLUSH** (Blunt)
9. **Regular Ni**ers** - **SLUM BROTHERS** (Michu Records)
10. **Two Deadly Sins** - **VOODOO** (Patchwerk Records)
- *11. **Record of the Month: Daytona 500** - **GHOSTFACE KILLA** (White Label)



the stage was mobbed. Even when I left the spot there were still about 20 MCs scrambling for the microphones. You should give the Last Day Saloon a chance.

I also checked out the SFO3 (local music convention) hip-hop showcase put together by **Billy Jam's** "Hip-Hop Slam" at

...continued on page 6

CUE'S

6340 MISSION ST.
DALY CITY, CA 94014
"TOP OF THE HILL"
TEL: (415) 755-1110
FAX: (415) 755-1115

CUE'S

D.J. RECORDS, ACCESSORIES & RECORD POOL

TAPES, SHIRTS, MIXERS & MORE

"SPECIALIZING IN 12" VINYL"

HIP HOP/RAP/R&B/HOUSE & DANCE/BREAKBEATS

BATTLE RECORDS/OLD SCHOOL

MAIL ORDER SERVICES AVAILABLE

KEEP VINYL ALIVE



Volume 20 • September 1996

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/ART DIRECTOR
Stephanie "DJ Stef" Aguilar Gardner**ASSISTANT EDITOR**
Beni B**NEW WAX EDITOR**
Frank "Rasta Cue-Tip" Quattlebaum, Jr.**PRODUCTION ASSISTANT**
Matt Baldwin**CONTRIBUTORS**
Matt Africa, Beni B,
Paul "P-Minus" Gembus, Robert Horton
Charles "Craze-One" Rice, Tim Richardson
DJ Serg, Tom Simonian Thump,
Toph, Uprise, Alan Yu**PHOTOS**

DJ Stef; courtesy of Prism

Deadline: Deadline for both editorial and advertising is the 20th of the month for inclusion in the following month's issue.**the Vinyl Exchange**published monthly by
PARLAY GRAPHICS
236 West Portal Ave. #402
San Francisco, CA 94127-1423
415.452.8030
fax 415.665.5933
<http://www.creative.net/~parlay/>

Faxes must include a cover sheet addressed to Parlay Graphics.

e-mail 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 especially props are always welcome. No portion of this publication may be reproduced without permission from the publisher. Circulation 2,500 this month. Long live vinyl!

Vinyl Exchange OnlineRead the Vinyl Exchange online at <http://www.creative.net/~parlay/vinylex.html> (currently under construction). Check it out and let us know what you'd like to see.**Dolo Signs The Dutchmin**Dolo Records, Inc. has signed four new hip-hop acts: **The Dutchmin**, **Grimm**, **Hillfiggaz** and **Powerule**. The Hillfiggaz first single is "Up On Prospect"/"Boom." Check for new releases from The Dutchmin, Grimm and Powerule around late October. The Dutchmin's fat underground hit, "Git Ya Swerve On" (see the review on page 3) will be released with a remix and a new B side. Be on the lookout for this one.**Battle Sounds Hip-Hop DJ Documentary Update**Stumbling blocks either have to be hurdled or avoided in order for any worthwhile cause to reach its fruition. This seems to be a rule of thumb in life. Well past its infancy stage and with most roadblocks in the rearview mirror, "Battle Sounds" is now entirely in post production. "There's a lot of footage to sift through," reports director **John Carluccio**. "I'm going to have to work on it some, but I'm definitely excited."For those who may not know much about the project, the "Battle Sounds Hip-Hop DJ Documentary" is a groundbreaking film about the lives and art of battle DJs. An endeavor of this sort, on this scale, is unprecedented. Do not mistake the healthy buzz you hear as killer bees or a murder of crows. It's the bubbling anticipation of this project's release. Among those interviewed are: **DJ Afrika Bambaataa**, **DJ Aladdin**, **DJ Apollo**, **DJ Q-Bert**, **DJ Stretch Armstrong**, **DJ Premier**, **DJ Jazzy Jay**, **DJ Grand Wizard Theodore** and **DJ Charlie Chase** of **Cold Crush** fame. These names are but a mere sample. Any DJ you've ever heard of has been caught on tape.

PBS has so far been noncommittal about airing the film. Carluccio isn't worried, "I'm just going to finish everything and show it to them. Basically, I'm going to worry about what I have control over." An

Tom Thump's "...as long as it's groovin'!" Ten

San Francisco, CA • 415.282.7052

1. **Blue Flowers - DR. OCTAGON (Mo' Wax)**
2. **The Thing EP - PURPLE KOLA (Botchit & Scarper)**
3. **Walter's Room - BLACK SCIENCE ORCHESTRA**
4. **Ruffbutt - LOVE LEE (Peace Feast)**
5. **Chill As I Flex - VARIOUS BLENDS (Khalif International/Blueprint)**
6. **Ultra Violet Sound - MIGHTY BOP (Yellow)**
7. **Abstract Funk - VARIOUS ARTISTS (New Breed)**
8. **Suspension Dub - SPRING HEEL JACK (Island)**
9. **Swamp Monster (at 45) - HEAVY SHIFT (Indochina)**
10. **Russ Meyer Soundtracks Vol. 1-3 (Normal)**

Tom Thump has several mix tapes available. Check Tom out at Succotash Tuesday nights at the Up & Down Club and at Metro Jazz Saturday nights at 111 Minna Street, both in San Francisco. Tom works at Groove Merchant Records, 687 Haight Street, San Francisco, 415.252.5766.

October 24 screening has been arranged at the Museum of Contemporary Artists in Soho. Those in the Tri-State area should make every effort to attend. As always, contributions towards the completion of the project will be appreciated. Remember, this venture is strictly non-profit. The spirit of hip-hop is very alive and it has nothing to do with Gucci, lucci or sushi.

—ALAN YU

Send donations to Battle Sounds, 230 St. James Pl. #3B, Brooklyn, NY 11238.

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: _____

CORRECTIONS

Please note the following changes to information in the July and August 1996 issues of the Vinyl Exchange:

Key-Kool & Rhettmatic are on Up Above Records. (They have not signed to Tommy Boy!)**Phantom Breaks** is on Headspin Records."Change"/"When It Rains It Pours (Survival Warz)" by **Shadez of Brooklyn** is on Pandemonium Wreckordz and is produced by **Da Beatminerz**.**Rap Archives Legends Vol. 1** features live recordings made throughout the 1980s.

DUTCHMIN

"Get Your Swerve On" (Street Life Entertainment) Production: Clint St. John

"Get Your Swerve On" has the no-coast flavor of classic EPMD—it will rock parties anywhere. CLINT ST. JOHN lays down an irresistible, minimalist groove that sounds like a reworking of "Shaft at Regglo's." The lyrics and flows are cool, but also in the tradition of EPMD, they take a back seat to the groove. Listen and try to keep your head from nodding.

(P.S. Would some distributor please pick this record up so me and JOE QUIXX can stop borrowing BENI B's copy?) —MATT AFRICA

ALLEY HIGH

"Worldwide"/"Voo Doo" (Harlem High Entertainment) Production: Kazo/DJ Milo

I bought this on the strength of the a-side TRAVIS BIGG loop, but their place names rap grew on me. "Fools sniff Peru all up to Iceland/Put my fish on the scale/San Jose gotta pay the Prince of Wales/If my dough's Too Short/Fool don't wanna hear no Cocktales." In an age when most schoolkids can't find the U.S. on a map, it's nice to know these heads know their geography like Charles Atlas.

The B-side has a nice groove to it, though the rap isn't that hot. The R&B chorus, courtesy MONIFAH, is a little distracting. —MA

JAY-Z

Reasonable Doubt LP (Roc-A-Fella/Priority) Production: Ski, DJ Premier, Clark Kent, Peter Dinklage, Knowbody, DJ Irv, Big Jaz

Album of the year, straight up; I haven't heard anything else this consistent or this fresh. My man DJ TIM says he's got a new favorite track every day, a sure sign of "Reasonable Doubt's" depth.

Although the album stretches 14 tracks over seven producers, it is unified by JAY-Z's unique presence. Technically he's as fluid as GRAND PUBA, making the most complex rhyme schemes sound effortless. His delivery is punctuated with pauses, inflections and asides that bring his words to life.

Jay-Z gets over not on the originality of his material (criminal life), but on the originality of perspective: he's a hustler with maturity, if not a conscience. I've heard some knock Jay for his out-of-control materialism, but in a time when people don't seem to respect sh*t but money and power, Jay-Z's words have the ring of home truth: "Granted nine-to-five is how you survive/I ain't tryin' to survive/I'm tryin' to live it to the limit and love it a lot/Life is, poison my body/And used to say 'f*ck mic skills'/I never prayed to God/I pray to Gotti/That's right, it's wicked/That's life, I live it/Ain't asking for forgiveness for my sins." Don't mistake him for a nihilist or a psycho; even his coldest raps are alive with verve, like the humor and insight in the offer-you-can't refuse of "Friend Or Foe" or the ambivalence of "Regrets."

Lastly, while it seems like every other emcee is content to numb us with tales of stress or "Save hip-hop" sermons, I've never heard anyone that sounds like he's having more fun on the mic than Jay-Z. And for me at least, the fun is contagious. —MA

CHUCK D

"No" (Mercury)

I don't care what anybody says, CHUCK's the f*ckin'man. Yeah, those last few PUBLIC ENEMY records were wack and yeah, he

does kinda bite SMOOTH DA HUSTLER with the virtually verbless structure of this song. But Chuck spits his rap with the soul of a guy who's been "Outta Here" and back: "No comeback stories, no corny choruses/No glories, no hallelujahs, landcruisers, no drug users/No grins, no trends, no phony-ass friends/Who begin with ends and end with no ends and no estrogen." I could do without the backup singers (thankfully deep in the mix), but the production is raw and greasy like Stax.

—MA



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

Numark

Technics

Gemini

domestic/international mail order

Community speakers

Audio Centron power amps

TNT cases

Stanton DJ accessories

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

VISA, MC, Discover & Novus cards accepted

SIG SENSE

"Positional Bypass"/"Onemantality" (Luge Recordings) Production: Creative Illusions/ErF Productions

Who'd have thunk it? SIG SENSE is the latest surprise to come out of Canada. CREATIVE ILLUSIONS craft a track with more

hooks than fifty fly-fishermen; the bassline, organ stabs and horns all mesh perfectly and the GANG STARR/ORGANIZED KONFUSION chorus is dope. They throw some American emcees in the batter for extra flavor; AZ's man AMAR does his usual slow, pseudo-RAKIM/GRANDDADDY I.U. bit along with two emcees I don't recognize.

The B is hot, too. ERF PRODUCTIONS mingle vibes, delays and rough drums into a lovely, meditative piece. The lyrics are abstract (meaning I'm not sure what the hell they're talking about), the flow and the interplay between emcees is cool. Look for this sleeper. —MA

SADAT X

Wild Cowboys LP (Loud) Production: Diamond D, Buckwild, Da Beatminerz, Showbiz, DJ Ojee, Ali Malek, Alamo, Minnesota, Ant Green, Father Time, Pete Rock, Sadat X and Dante Ross

Man, I don't really have the heart to perform the autopsy here, but suffice it to say this record is wack. There's no reason why it should be—SADAT X has top notch skills, a unique voice and flow, flawless pedigree and connections with a lot of capable producers. Unfortunately some of the tracks are horrible, many of the choruses are horrible, and the lackluster cameos don't help any (PUBA and MONEY BOSS are big exceptions). As for Sadat himself, he sounds good even when he's rapping random associative sh*t—many of his lyrics on this album sound tossed off.

This record could be like fifty times better. Let's hope Loud gives him another chance to do it right, or better yet, somebody puts up that half a brick for a BRAND NUBIAN reunion album. —MA

ABORIGINALS

"Keep It Hot"/"The Joint" (Mecca Life Entertainment) Production: Aborigines/Obession

The ABORIGINALS debut with a bumping track built around mellow keys and smooth vocal samples. The chorus is what really makes this record stand out, though: "We keep it goin' to the beat don't stop/In New York we gotta keep this hot/Say what?/Too hot, don't let the temperature drop/Yo word life we gotta keep this hot/No doubt." Vocally, they borrow a lot from 2 FACE (the interplay, delivery and lyrical style), but I can't sweat that. They display originality in their NYC travelogue and car metaphors.

The flip isn't as catchy, but OBSESSION and guest AUTOMATIK flex incredible wordplay: "I got heads running to record stores like this was free sex/Your words the weakest/I got you stuck off the uniqueness/Rip-pin' mics a reflex/So I don't stress competition/My words be non-fiction/While your words be non-diction/Technician of techniques/I left my mark on many bedsheets." Be sure to check for this. —MA


BIZ MARKIE

"Studda Step" (White Label) Production: Biz

Look, I'm a sucker for BIZ MARK and "Moments in Love" loops, so take it with a grain of salt when I tell you, you gotta have this. Biz just does what he does best, bugging out on the mic in spastic fashion: "I say I say I say I say my name is Biz Markie/And all the people always know me for my comedy/I make you laugh, I make you giggle/Ha ha hee hee hee/I graduated from hip-hop university." The track is smooth yet hard and a little on the slow side, but that won't

Beatdowns

submitted by Matt Africa

- Uzuri - Catalyst (Muse)
- Ekim - Michael Urbaniak (Catalyst)
- Strong as Death (Sweet as Love) - Al Green (MCA)
- The Smile - David Axelrod (Capitol)
- Mother and Child - Cal Tjader (Fantasy)
- Cause I Need It - Dorothy Ashby (Cadet)
- No Quarter - Led Zeppelin (Atlantic)
- Can You Do Without? - The Meters (Reprise)
- Anticipation - Les McCann (Atlantic)
- The Shape of My Heart - Sting (A&M)*

Matt Africa can be heard every Saturday 6-9pm on the Beni B Show (90.7 FM Berkeley) and various spots. Special thanks to Mr. Supreme and congratulations on the wedding. *Special thanks to my sister, the bad little beat digger.

The Beni B Show Playlist

90.7 FM Berkeley, Saturday 6-9 pm
Playlist for Week of August 24, 1996

1. 13th Floor/Brewing Old - OUTKAST (LaFace)
2. Max Mode - PEANUT BUTTER WOLF feat. 50 GRAND (South Paw)
3. She Said - PHARGYDE (Delicious Vinyl)
4. Runnin On E - J-FORCE (J-Force Entertainment)
5. Gt Ya Swerve On - DUTCHMIN (Dolo/Street Life)
6. Strange Fruit - PETE ROCK feat. KHADAFI
7. Bitch In Yoo - COMMON (Relativity)
8. State Your Name... - MASS KONFUSION (Beau-Mo)
9. Braggin' Writes (Remix) - J-LIVE (Raw Shack Productions)
10. I Just Wanna Chill - THE LARGE PROFESSOR (Geffen)
11. Rugged-N-Raw - PMD (Relativity)
12. Change - SHADEZ OF BROOKLYN (Pandemonium Wreckordz/Tape Kingz)
13. Ya Playin' Yaself - JERU (Payday)
14. I Don't Give a Whut - BIG KWAM (Blindside)
15. What Really Goes On - A TRIBE CALLED QUEST (Jive)
16. Stick You - CAPONE-N-NOREAGA (Penalty Recordings)
17. The Real Weight - NO I.D. (Relativity)
18. Mug Shots - OTHORIZED FAM
19. Concerto - THE ROOTS (Geffen)
20. Shine - MR. VOODOO (Fortress)
21. Acting - ED O.G. (Solid)
22. Two Dope Boyz - OUTKAST (LaFace)
23. Relax Yourself - MR. LIVE (Fondle 'Em)
24. Rainy Dayz - RAEKWON (Loud)
25. Cranium - GAUGE (Maestro)
26. Big Queens - BAG A BONEZ (Kukoo)
27. No - CHUCK D (Mercury)
28. Ova Da Wudz - OUTKAST (LaFace)
29. Beaches & Creme - ROSE FAMILY (Rawkus)
30. God Connections - AL' TARIQ (Correct)
31. Keep It Moving - A TRIBE CALLED QUEST (Jive)
32. Section - THE ROOTS (Geffen)

stop me from breaking out into the Biz dance every time I hear it. —MA

SHADEZ OF BROOKLYN

"Change"/"When It Rains It Pours" (Survival Warz) (Pandemonium Wreckordz) Production: Mr Walt/Rich Blak

On the A, MR. WALT comes through with a haunting, reflective instrumental, kind of a stepchild to that Crooklyn Dodgers sound. The SHADEZ struggle to keep up, kicking a few verses in the ghetto suffering mode. They come off a little better than average because of the specifics they drop, though. I'm not wild about the chorus (It has that sing-song BUSH BABEES flavor), but it gets the job done. On the other side, RICH BLAK and the Shadez counter with a rougher sound. It's kinda mediocre. Check for the A-side. —MA

SHAMUS

"Big Willie Style"/"Try 2 C Loot" (Raw Track Records) Production: Ski

This record is cool, but nothing to trip over. SHAMUS rocks likable but unremarkable hustling stories. SKI sets things with a fly track hooked around some MARVIN GAYE scatting. The record is undermined by the stupid chorus syndrome—"Everybody wants to get paid nowadays/I don't like to dream about gettin' paid." Offhand can you remember any time folks didn't want to get paid?

On "Try 2 C Loot," Ski flips vibes and the "Mona Lisa" beat to good effect, but Shamus and Ski don't really do much for me on the vocal. Worth a listen. —MA

O.S.T.

Vampyros Lesbos/Sexadelic Dance Party LP (Motel) Production: Manfred Hubler & Siegfried Schwab

Over the past few years, it's been a joy to watch hip-hop's expanding musical palette: the evolution from funk loops, to jazz basslines and horns, to the inclusion of strings, harp, moog and every form of unidentifiable noise imaginable.

This album, culled from a trio of trashy German sexploitation films from 1970, is an amazing example of experimentations with sound and color. It sounds like a European version of Blaxploitation soundtracks: wah-wahs, congas and strings are replaced by organ, distorted biker guitars, and horns. But the instrumentation doesn't stop there—I've never heard such creative combinations of sitar, ghostly voices, bells, acoustic guitars, etc. A good example is "The Ballad of a Fair Singer" which begins with a driving boogaloo beat on bass, drums and piano before introducing horns, sitar and voice. Midway through, the song collapses into a mock aria before the drums re-enter with applause noises. Manic and funky,

kitschy but never predictable, "Vampyros Lesbos" is a must for beatheads seeking inspiration and anybody seeking something different. —MA

DOC SCOTT

"Drums 95" (Metalheadz)

On GOLDIE's label Metalheadz, this is a remake of an earlier track which I haven't heard. This one is more hardstep with wild drum programming. Also something about the sound of it reminds me of the magic of those early electro tracks by AFRIKA BAMBATAA or PRETTY TONY BUTLER, 'cause he really cuts the drums up. Hard rhythmic sh*t. It'll scare your neighbors for sure. The sheer genius of the programming, the way the beats splinter and break away and reform like seed cells of DNA reproducing, is f*cking amazing. Vocals are used as another beat element in a hip-hop manner. This might be one of the most daring and rewarding drum and bass tracks yet.

—ROBERT HORTON

AQUARIUS AND TAYLA

"Bringing Me Down"/"Soul Searching" (Looking Good Records)

This is really PHOTEK who is very big now in England. First up, Photek programs incredible beats. I love the 12"ers as you can play the suckers at 33 1/3. At that speed they sound like driving hip-hop. It makes sense since so many of the jungle breakbeats are based on hip-hop rhythms. So we've come full circle. "Bringing Me Down" has phat funky beats, intricate driving and is always in flux and the bass is pumping. There is a female vocalist intoning just the line, "bringing me down" in soulful fashion. My only problem with Photek is his constant use of less than original ambient sounds, like the dolphin sounds on this track. However, because the beats are so pumping, it works. "Soul Searching" starts with a dreamy electric piano sound, almost jazzy, then the beats explode to create a mad universe. Check it out. —RH

High Plains Drifter Lucky 13

Compiled by Toph One, lurking in the back-alleys of lowest Denver, sipping cheap wine and digging all the basement jams and warehouse late nights in the vicinity of El Chapultepec...

1. Latyrx - Lateef w/ Lyrlos Born (Soleisides)—Just a booming track! Pick it up now and support the team from Davis.
 2. Graffiti Blues - BLUE MITCHELL (Mainstream)—I've been searching for years and finally picked this one up in Chicago for, like, two bucks...
 3. Assassin Knowledges of the Romanipulated LP - Altered Beats (Axiom)—DXT rips up the whole thing, our Pickles go nuts, Ramellzee did the cover and drops severe wisdom and there's a gorgeous track from Bill Laswell's Valis. Essential.
 4. You Know What I'm Saying? - PARTNER IN CRIME (Criminal Records)—Another Chicago find—classic, classic, classic...
 5. Dr. Octagon - DR. OCTAGON (Bulk)—UFO's complex scientific equations, Kutmasta Kurt behind it... lyrics spill like liquid mercury...
 6. Yes We Can - BROOKLYN GLAN'S Coffee Breaks (AV8)—Killer summertime party jam.
 7. Afro-Desia - LONNIE SMITH (Groove Merchant)—Groovy and beautiful...
 8. No Time to Play (MacKattack mix) - GURU w/ DC LEE (Gooltempo/Chrysalis import)—Sweet mix by CJ Macintosh with "Jazz Thing" on the flip!
 9. Fully Charged on Planet X - CHIEF XCEL w/ GIFT OF GAB and LATEEF (Soleisides)—Bugged brilliant! Give me more! More!
 10. Surf Dude (Break Bonus) - RASOUL and B. McCARTHY (Freshly Squeezed)—Murky, apocalyptic downtempo funk...
 11. Runfayalife (95 Remix edit) - SPEARHEAD (Capitol)—Not new, but it still rocks! Feels like rolling down Mission Street [in S.F.] on a hot Sunday afternoon...
 12. Summer Madness (M.A.W. Summergroove Mix) - JERALD DAEMYON (Giant Step)—Speaking of summer... a mellow, sophisticated groove from Little Louie and Kenny Dope.
- Lucky 13. Denver Funk Side DJs...Folks like Timbuk, Emir, the Step On Sound System, Boulder's Sol Productions and Sol Jazz Massive and others keep the Mile High area noddin' to choice cuts, and heads represent! Great scene!

wednesdays

djs Charlotte Stef Black R-Pos

Up & Down Club • 1151 Folsom @ 7th • SF • 21+

feminine PHAT

interVIEW: Kevin "The Blade" Gordon

Kevin "The Blade" Gordon is the genius behind Chop Shop Records. His first two albums, *Recovered Pieces* and *Representin' Lovely*, were released on the Chop Shop label. Charles and Tim of 3-Deep Street Promotions in San Diego sat down with Kevin recently. Here's the latest news from this talented producer:



Kevin "Blade" Gordon's latest Chop Shop release on Angel Trax is the "Bombs Away" EP.

3-Deep: Where, when and how did you get your start?

Kevin Gordon: I started DJing back in San Diego in 1984, doing mostly house parties and some clubs here and there. Then I met a producer by the name of **Frank Z** from Oceanside. Later he formed a DJ/MC/Producer crew called "The Dam Posse." We put out a cassette album entitled *Dope Audio Methods* which sold very well in Southern California.

3-D: How was Chop Shop Records formed?

KG: I saved up some loot and came out with a breakbeat album in 1994 entitled *Recovered Pieces*, which blew up. I ended up licensing the album to a label in Germany called Soulciety. In 1995 I released another breakbeat album called *Representin' Lovely*. And that's all she wrote.

3-D: Where did the name Chop Shop come from?

KG: I named the label Chop Shop because at a chop shop for cars they are on an underground level and they convert parts to create something new. And that's what I do with old records, I take different parts to create something new. And it's always on the DL.

3-D: Who is in the Chop Shop Foundation?

KG: Frank Z from Oceanside, **Hanif** from the Bay Area, **Most Desh** from Brooklyn, **LPSD** from San Diego and **Jai Silk** from LA. And we are still in the process of building the foundation with other artists.

3-D: What is your current job status?

KG: I am A&R and Head of Promotions for Angel Trax Records, which is a new hip-hop label out of Los Angeles.

3-D: How did you end up at Angel Trax?

KG: I had licensed the *Representin' Lovely* album to them and I had received a call a few months later from them asking me if I was interested in being an A&R for their hip-hop department.

3-D: Who is on your roster?

KG: Most Desh, Jai Silk and LPSD. LPSD has a new single dropping in September called "Back Atcha" and Most Desh's single entitled "Ruff Up Da Area" will be released around November. We are also currently working on Jai Silk's single. There are more surprises to come.

3-D: Where do you see the future of hip-hop as an artform and as a business?

P-Minus! continued from page 1...

the Cocodrie. **Rollo's Kitchen** started off the evening with a pretty lackluster set. Their original MC left the group and took much of the group's charisma with him, but the DJ is still kickin' it live! 99th Demention followed with another nice display of their verbal gymnastics. **Toy** was next and she showed off an interesting staccato flow, and said "vagina" enough times to make even the hard heads blush. She apparently has an LP coming out this summer. The Space Travelers reappeared with **Eddie K.** and **Paradise**, and DJ Quest continued to prove his turntable wizardry, but once again, where was Eddie Def? **A Brother Named Quick** then claimed the stage to deliver intense rapid-fire lyrics over simple but invigorating OG beats. I was quite impressed and would like to hear more from this young man. Local celebrity **Horm** added a monologue concerning the shooting death of **Mr. C** (of RBL Posse), before introducing the likes of **T-Lowe** (offering a taste of his new LP, *Mackaframa*), **Big Mack**, **Closed Caption**, **IMP** and **Cougnut**, **11-5**, **Identity** (no longer African Identity), and **B.L.A.C.K.** (who also really impressed me), all of whom put together nice performances, despite the few who felt like rhyming over the vocals on their DAT tapes (I wasn't fooled—it was wack). And finally, the **Whoridas** closed out the night with two dope-ass tracks off their forthcoming LP. Then I went home and went to sleep.

I trekked back to the Last Day Saloon to see the **Twisted Mind Kids**, **Eclipse 427** and the Automatic Cousins. The crowd was small and not too hype, much to the chagrin of some of the performers. The rhyming continued, at times backed by both live drums and bass, which proved more stimulating than the often lifeless DAT tracks. Another crowded open mic ensued and everything was cozy until **Tommy** from **Mystik Journeymen** went on a bloodthirsty dis rampage, which quickly altered the mood of the scene. I think we're all still friends, though.

And the last show before my deadline was the **Mystik Journeymen's** "Broke-Ass Summer Jam Pre-Party" at La Pena in Berkeley. **DJ True Justice** kept the crowd awake before the microphones began heating up. I don't have a complete lineup of all the rhymers but I do know that **Mike T.**, **Living Legends** (feat. **Tommy**), **Aesop**, **The Grouch**, a few Japanese MCs and the **Mystik Journeymen** stirred everyone into quite an exhausting frenzy. (I apologize to all the people I am leaving out of this list.) I must say that the **Journeymen** are incredible entertainers and deserve the respect of those who admire them so much. "Broke-Ass Summer Jam II" is a virtual underground explosion featuring the likes of **The Dereliks**, **Illa Dapted**, **Twisted Mind Kids**, **Misfitz ov Stylez**, **Eclipse 427**, **No Concept**, **The Grouch**, **Cytoplazmz**, **Aesop**, **J.C.**, **Pep-Love**, **The Kracken**, **Aeropause** and of course the **Journeymen**. A review of this festivity will appear in next month's *VE*. Stay tuned!

Now I shall clue you into my recent business venture: I am now officially distributing underground hip-hop music under the guise of **ATAK Distributing**. This mail order business is a grassroots operation relying strongly upon word of mouth advertising and a long list of friendly connections nationwide. So far I have 13 local tapes in my catalog. They include 99th Demention, Sacred Hoop, **Hobo Junction**, **Various Blends**, **Illa Dapted**, **Mystik Journeymen**, a Palo Alto maxi-single, an original instrumental tape by **Syze One**, a tape of original music by **Mr. E.** featuring several Hawaiian MCs, and mix tapes by **DJ Tim**, **DJ Spair** and **True Justice**. This list is being constantly upgraded as new groups and DJs are put on. These affordable tapes are also being sold at any club and show I go to. If you have a tape/vinyl/mixtape and would like to be involved in my little project, please send me a sample copy and bio and we'll talk. I'm looking for anyone, anywhere who loves underground hip-hop. Also, for a copy of the newest catalog, please a self-addressed stamped envelope to **PO Box 420504, San Francisco, CA 94142**. Thank you for your support!

I'm like a police line—don't cross me or I'll pull you like a hamstring.

— **P-MINUS!**

KG: It definitely needs to be more experimental. There is too much stuff out there that sounds the same. On the business tip I see independent labels taking over and all artists getting what they really deserve.

3-D: Do you have a number where artists can get in touch with you?

KG: Yes, it's 818.760.8018.

3-D: Any last shout-outs?

KG: LPSD, Most Desh, Jai Silk, **Beat Junkies**, **3-Deep Street Promotions**, **Kutfather**, **JFX**, **Zodak**, **Fingaz**, **Black Mikey**, **Angel Trax** and all those that I missed.

—**CHARLES RICE** and **TIM RICHARDSON**,
3-DEEP STREET PROMOTIONS

CLASSIFIED ADS

VINYL for sale or trade

CONSUELO'S CORNER at Behind the Post Office, 1510 Haight Street, San Francisco. 415.861.2507. Jazz, hip-hop, 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.

LISA LISA & Cult Jam albums and 12-inches. Contact Parlay Graphics.

VINYL wanted

WANTED: Old and new Hieroglyphics music—12-inches, LPs, cassettes or CDs. Desperately looking for Casual "Me-O-Mi-O" b/w "Rock On," Souls of Mischief "Never No

More" b/w "Make Your Mind Up." 312.722.0210, ask for Wiley. TOP CASH PAID.

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). Contact John Book, 2502 W. Opal St., Pasco, WA 99301-3352

or email YCAA 10A@prodigy.com.

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.

MIX TAPES for sale

UNDERGROUND hip-hop mix tapes. No radio-played wack sh*t. East coast influenced (no disrespect to the west). For a catalog,

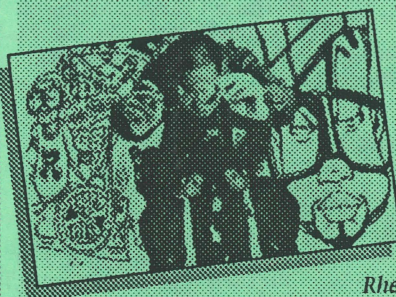
Mix Tape reVIEW: DJ Rhettmatic "U Call Dis A Mix Tape?" Piece of Sh*t Vol. 4

Next on the menu is DJ Rhettmatic with his latest "Piece of Sh*t." He sets things off correctly with a representation of skills live at UNITY and some turntable talk. What follows is a concoction of mixes, remixes and some choice cuts.

Side B kicks off with a freestyle session with a lineup of what seems like 50 different MCs. Seriously though, there are a gang of MCs who each take a pull and pass with mixed results. Some notable rhymesayers include Ras Kass (of course), Key-Kool, Khalif from Dad2thaworld and Charli-Tuna from Jurassic 5 MCs. Other highlights include a nice turntable remix of "No Complex" and some more turntable talk. Rhettmatic closes everything out with the flyest sh*t for last, a live excerpt of his set on the Wake Up Show from September '95—tight!!! This joint on its own is indicative of what constitutes a true hip-hop DJ—

dope cutting and scratching and a lotta soul, as opposed to the run of the skill bammer that people are tryin' to pass off as mix tapes nowadays. Good sh*t.

—UPRISE



For information on DJ Rhettmatic's tapes, contact Up Above Records at 310.549.4696.

please send a SASE to: Scratch Off Tha Serial, 369 S. Doheny Dr. #106, Beverly Hills, CA 90211.

Str8 outta Atlanta, GA. Phat R&B/hip-hop mix tapes. No 10,000 shout-outs, just cutz and scratches, ghetto remixes on 90-min. tapes. Only \$10. 4 more info 1.800.484.8336 code 8273.

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

EQUIPMENT for sale

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

Want to do productions and remix? 16 TRACK MUSIC SOFTWARE \$299, also available phat computer systems & setups. Call 510.473.9638 ext.4.

EVENTS battles, meetings

THE SESSIONS VOL. 1, Oakland, California

Sept. 26-28, 1996. The biggest hip-hop convention in the world, presented by Gavin. Call the Sessions hotline at 415.495.3200.

DJs for hire

MOBILE DJ. Clubs, private parties, fashion shows, school dances. R&B and hip-hop. Clark Parker, Fog City Entertainment, P.O. Box 591171, San Francisco, CA 94159-1171. 415.560.6800.

MISCELLANEOUS

B-BOY VIDEO, 3 hrs. Kontac Mike, 213.689.2556.

LASERWRITER Select 310 (for Mac) printer for sale, \$400. Contact Parlay Graphics.

Classified ads are FREE up to 35 words. Mail, fax or e-mail to Parlay Graphics.

Live & Direct Hip Hop Mix Show Top Ten

Jay Skilz & Craze One,
89.1 FM Worldbeat Radio San Diego

1. UNiverse at War - THE ROOTS (Geffen)
2. Phony Rappers - A TRIBE CALLED QUEST (Jive)
3. Eyes May Shine - XZIBIT (Loud)
4. Brownsville - M.O.P. (Relativity)
5. Illegal Life - CAPONE-N-NOREAGA (Penalty)
6. Find That - THE BEATNUTS (Relativity)
7. Me and Those Dreamy Eyes - D'ANGELO feat. REDMAN and ERICK SERMON (EMI)
8. Remind Body - DOUBLESPEEK (One-soul)
9. Good Cop Bad Cop - BLAHZAY BLAHZAY (Mercury)
10. What You Expected - DJ HONDA, GURU & PREMIER (Relativity)

Charles Rice/Jason Madsen, 6161 El Cajon Blvd., B-196, San Diego, CA 92115. Phone/fax 619.466.0331.

CUE'S

PROMOTIONS

CLUB, RETAIL, STREET,
RADIO, RECORD POOL

CONTACT JOE QUIXX OR JAKE NERI

6340 MISSION ST., DALY CITY, CA 94014
TEL: (415) 755-1110 FAX: (415) 755-1115

NEW WAX

CHALLYS RECORDS

Single Klockuz/Lick A Shot - Dead Poet Society

CORRECT RECORDS

Single Think Not/Peace Akki* - Al' Tariq (*feat. The Beatnuts. Ltd. edition—only 600 pressed.)

EASTWEST RECORDS

Single Street Life - Mobb Deep, L.E.S. and A.C.D. b/w Decisions - Organized Konfusion (from the America Is Dying Slowly LP)

FOG CITY RECORDS

LP Galactic (415.553.3921.)

GEE STREET

Single How Ya Want It (I Got It) - Jungle Brothers (produced by Roc Raider)

GEFFEN/DGC

Single UNiverse At War - The Roots (featuring Common)

INTERSCOPE RECORDS

Single No Diggity - Blackstreet (featuring Dr. Dre)

INTERSCOPE/AFTERMATH

Single East Coast/West Coast Killas - Group Therapy (Produced and mixed by Dr. Dre.)

KNOWLEDGE OF SELF

Single The Pain Remix/What Does It All Mean? - Frankenstein (For dealer inquiries, contact 416.234.5316.)

LOGIC

Singles Cha Cha - Armand Van Helden (featuring remixes by Charlie Casanova and DJ Sneak)
Keep On Jumpin' - Todd Terry Presents Martha Wash and Jocelyn Brown (Masters At Work remixes—FAT!)

LOUD RECORDS

Singles The Lump Lump - Sadat X (produced by Buckwild w/ scratching by Roc Raider)
Eyes May Shine - Xzibit

MO' WAX

EP Headz - Various Artists including Attica Blues, DJ Shadow, Howie B (triple vinyl)

MOTOWN

LP Horace Brown (includes "Taste Your Love")

NERVE DEAFNESS RECORDINGS

EP Old World Chaos—Original Soundtrack - Various Artists incl. Dilated Peoples and Ill Brothers (Call 213.368.4954.)

NEW BREED

LP Fat Jazzy Grooves Vol. 16 - Various Artists, including BMF, Prunes
EP N.Y. Hi-Fi Vol. 2 - Various Artists, including Groovillcous, Khromozomes, New Harlem Sound (Contact 212.255.0672.89)

NEXT PLATEAU

LP Critical Beatdown - Ultramagnetic MCs (reissued!)

PERSPECTIVE/A&M RECORDS

Single Love & Happiness - Smooth

PHAT WAX RECORDS

Single Ahooga - Awesome Two

PRIMEIGHT RECORDS

EP Monkey Breaks Vol. Zero - Missing Links (DJ Z-Trip and DJ Tom C. Limited edition, DJs only. Contact 602.256.8589.)

PROFILE

LP Cloud 9 - Nine
Singles Conscious Style - PRT featuring KRS-One (BDPRT)
Citi Never Sleeps - T Roc with Miss Jones

RCA RECORDS

Single Boundaries - Leena Con-

quest (includes Tricky mix)

RELATIVITY

Single Rugged-N-Raw - PMD (w/ remix featuring Das EFX)
LP Illadelph Halflife - The Roots (double vinyl)

THE RIGHT STUFF/CAPITOL RECORDS

LPs Ol' Skool Butta Vols. 1 & 2 - Various Artists, including DJ Hollywood, Mr. Magic, Grandmixer D.S.T., Spoonie Gee, Lakim Shabazz, Ultramagnetic MCs and Grandwizard Theodore

RUFF HOUSE/COLUMBIA

Single Ruffturrain/Intellectual Dons - Call O' Da Wild
EP Unreleased & Revamped - Cypress Hill

URBAN STREET ENTERTAINMENT

Single Pon De Circuit - Lady Lee (Includes "Woo-Hah Mega-Mix" and "Situation" remix. Contact 212.465.3386.)

WARNER BROS. RECORDS

Singles The Love Song - Bush Babees (featuring Mos Def, produced by Posdnuos)
Carlito's Way - Raw Breed (Executive Producers Howie Tee and TR Love)

the Vinyl Exchange

a newsletter for deejays and vinyl junkies

Inside the September '96 Issue:

- 1 • Words From the Editor
- The P-Minus! Potpourri
- DJ Serg's Top Ten
- 2 • Dolo Signs The Dutchmin
- Battle Sounds Update
- Tom Thump's Top Ten
- 3 **reVIEWS**
- Dutchmin, Alley High, Jay-Z, Chuck D
- 4 • Sic Sense, Sadat X, Aborigines, Biz Markie
- The Beni B Show Playlist
- Beatdowns by Matt Africa
- 5 **reVIEWS**
- Shadez of Brooklyn, Shamus, O.S.T., Doc Scott, Aquarius and Tayla
- High Plains Drifter Lucky 13
- 6 **InterVIEW**
- Kevin "Blade" Gordon (Chop Shop)
- 7 **Classified Ads**
- Live & Direct Mix Show Top Ten
- Mix Tape reVIEW: DJ Rhettmatic
- 8 **New Wax**



**InterVIEW with Kevin
Gordon of Chop Shop**

See page 3.

the Vinyl Exchange

Parlay Graphics
236 West Portal Avenue #402
San Francisco, CA 94127-1423