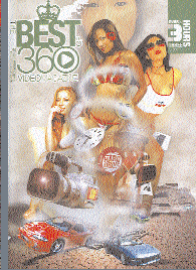
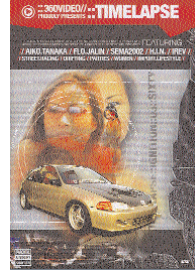
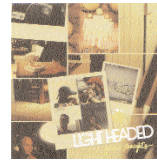




TEXT BY JOEL MARASIGAN



**GROUND ORIGINAL/DJ-JS1 Dub-L**  
Yosumi Records

Get this right: This is not a mixtape. It says it on the package and it proves it on the CD. Check out this lineup: Evidence, C Rayx Walz, Pep Luv, Krs-one, Rahzel, Royce da 59, Ill Bill, Masta Ace, Planet Asia, Kool G Rap, Casual, Punch N Words, Big Daddy Kane, Special Ed, O.C. and a host of others. What's nice about this CD is it pulls from past heavy-hitting classics (Kool G, Kane, Special Ed), today's mainstays (Krs-1, Masta Ace, Rahzel) and future classics (Evidence, Planet Asia, Punch N Words) to make this CD one of the dopest gathering of artists in recent memory. Yosumi.com

**SOUTHERNUNDERGROUND/Cunninlynguists**  
Freshchest Records

Deacon the Villain, Mr. SOS and Kno form this trio that combines a dirty-south mixture of hip hop that—with guest assists from Masta Ace, Tonedeff, Doningo and RJD2—falls not too far toward the cusp of crossover underground. Sixteen tracks of uniquely southern, yet universally underground, hip hop will pump through your speakers with thump. Freshchest.com

**UP FROM THE BASEMENT—UNRELEASED TRACKS**  
1 & 2/Galt MacDermot  
Kilmarnock Records

Here's 24 tracks to to sample from. Ask Pete Rock about his Run DMC hit "Down with the King,"

Buckwild's "C'mon with the Get Down," Naughty By Nature and Masta Ace's samples from "Cotton Comes to Harlem," and Busta Rhymes' "Woo Haa! Got You All in Check"—all use samples of MacDermot's music. What's so unique about his music? Well, he's 70 years old, was the music composer for the legendary Broadway hit "Hair," and relates to the hip hop generation, summing up its power by saying, "Hip hop saved the R&B feel—it gave another life to it." Everyone from the Beastie Boys to Prince Paul continues to utilize his compositions. Now that's dope.

**POLARITY/Norman**

Stuck Under the Needle  
Barfly & Onry Ozzborn (of Seattle's Oldminion crew) are a thread from the fabric of hip hop—although you find them more at the DC/Circa cuts than the Burberry/Sean Jean. "Norman" is the equivalent to Eminem's "Stan," where Norman is the "Misguided kid from suburbia who thinks he's Tupac. He's the kid who always gets clowned at school." This is one of those albums that runs unaffected by commercialized trends that dictate what styles should be. Check out the unheard-of use of crowd chants from a U.K. football game on "Weastwick United F.C." Then check the lyrics on "Hip Hop.Ver1.7" that go, "You're Hip Hop's your Hova. Mine's Allah. Lets make this trivial bullshit into a holy war. We're just a bunch of bad, fucked-up rappers anyway. You're the sperm donor—we raised your kid. Where the fuck you been? Practicing and

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dressin' up hard, doin' crab scratches and back spins?" Stuckundertheneedle.com

**PURE THOUGHTS/Light Headed**  
Day By Day

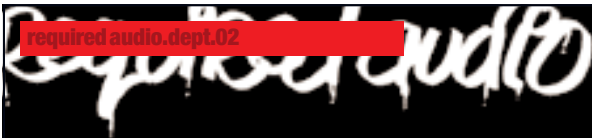
Laced with jazzy tracks and rhyme styles reminiscent of the mid '90s, Light Headed focuses on the positive and poetry of hip hop music. This Northwestern quartet (Oregon/Washington/Canada) of Light Headed's MCs (Omega Watts, Muneshine, Braille and Othello) are undeniably focused on the inspiration that God and all his goodness—and potential goodness—can and will bring. Although the album gets a little too sweet with stage-style chants and average complexity, it comes through in its mix—rhyme style and music lay incomplete without its combination. Daybydayent.com



**INTERVIEW:  
7L & ESOTERIC (7LES)**

BY K8

To the average Raiders fan, anyone from repping Boston is a jerk. But I'm gonna go out on a limp for some beans. 7L (the DJ) and Esoteric (emcee) = 7L Esoteric aka 7LES. The fashion-friendly fellows are on one of my favorite Boston-based record label Brick (www.brickrecords.com.) The duo has been an underground staple since they joined forces in '96. You might get them confused with the group God Complex—but that's only because they are God



Complex minus Karma. You might also remember their song "Be ALert," with the transformers' sample.

Well it wasn't until '01 when folks got a full length from them and, soon after, the most recent album "Dangerous Connection," which includes appearances by J-Live, CountBass D and Apathy, to name a few. But just because they have skills in music and they can rock a show doesn't mean that we like them—remember they're Patriot fans!

**K8:** What kind of car do you have?

**Esoteric:** I used to own a '93 Lexus ES300 but now I drive a '01 Mercedes-Benz S430. 7L drives a 1969 Chevy Chevelle SS like the one your boy Nelly has.

**K8:** Why are the Pats the worst team in the NFL?

**Esoteric:** That's kind of like saying Jay-Z is the worst rapper on the East Coast. Both Jay-Z and the Pats hold the crown and until someone takes it from them, they are the champs.

**K8:** What's ya'll's favorite scene in ya'll's new DVD?

**Esoteric:** This one scene when we were in Harlem. We were battling the Dip Set and Juelz Santana thought it would be good idea to pull out his hammer. So we just flavored his hooptie with the semi-auto.

**K8:** Have ya'll ever played Monopoly in the elevator in Adam's house?

**Esoteric:** What type of question is that? Adam? Do you mean the kicker for the Patriots? If so, no. If you mean another Adam, like Adam Sandler or Adam DeFalco...maybe. I have played Monopoly in several elevators.

**K8:** What does your name stand for?

**7L:** It stands for truth, justice, and getting that seven-figure loot.

**Esoteric:** It means speaking to a certain few, over the heads of many. Intended for or understood by only a particular group.

**K8:** How do you stay awake or "be alert" while driving really sleepy?

**7L:** I usually keep a large Coke® from Wendy's right next to the four-fifth. There is no time to sleep on these streets.

**K8:** What's your favorite track?

**7L:** Right now it's "Word Association." I used to think it was "Title Track," but now I hate that one.

**K8:** Who's your favorite transformer?

**Esoteric:** Megatron, because he transforms into a gun and that's what I keep by my side at all times.

**K8:** What's your favorite rhyme you have spit?

**Esoteric:** Probably my verses from the "Army of The Pharaohs/Jedi Mind Tricks" record and "Precision."



K8 is a contributing Required Audio writer from Raleigh, N.C.

# Equipe

PHOTOS BY JOEL MARASIGAN



1/17/03, The Vine, Los Angeles—This hole-in-the-wall spot is vibed with a wall of fine—and not so fine—wines (hence the name). It's a nice crowd, although sometimes it seems a little trendy, it's mostly fashion-istas that want to be at a spot where you can build a rep—just kick it with the homie from Black Eyed Peas up top. Believe me, throwing around some cheap wine to hot chicks makes for a great evening. Check out [www.onetwomagazine.com](http://www.onetwomagazine.com)