

BY JOEL MARASIGAN

MIXTAPE COLLECTION / DJ LT. DAN

Here's the shit you want to get your hands on. Lt. Dan commands the tables and the boards to produce some of the wyldst shit on the mixtape circuit. Six CDs make up this set: "The Official Royal Banker Mixtape," "On The Run (Ras Kass)," "Nasir Jones – Hova's Son (Nas Lyrics; Jay-Z Beats)," "Guess Who's That?," "The Terminator," "Premier Blends Vol. 1." There's a few that got stuck on repeat. The near-bootleg Ras Kass mixes of freestyles and remixes from past interviews and album cuts was one that did it for me. Don't be surprised when you hear the stolen cut "Goldyn Chyld". Another one was "Premier Blends". Who could resist cuts from 50, Jay-Z, Mobb Deep, Xzibit, The Clipse, Big L, and Big Tymers? I couldn't. Overall, his six CDs played tag team in my decks and I'm sure it'll do the same on yours. — rockmarketmixtapes@yahoo.com

LIVE AT THE SOUTH DALLAS POP FESTIVAL 1970 / SOUTH DALLAS ALL STARS

Back in the day Dallas had a music scene with talent that could turn out a lot of groups today. Roger Boykin, guitarist for the Marchel Ivery Quintet, had the foresight to hire a soundman and record—on two-track 1/4" tape...a cassette—the entire event. He even had a photographer come out and shoot it for future visual reference. The 9pm to 2am show featured the funk talents of the Quintet, Soul Seven, Apollo Commanders, Black Maffia, and Les Watson and The Panthers. Let the sounds you hear on this 23 cut CD take you back to a time where the samples were originals and the style was simply funky. Let me hear you say "Hell yeah!" Go daddy! —StonesThrow.com

RUGGED RADIO SATURDAY / MIXED BY DJ CRAZE

Montreal, Canada has been slept on. 1997 DMC, Vestax ITF world champion DJ A-Trak teams up with Columbia scholar and Vice Magazine rap editor Dave One, and fashion designer and former Rawkus art director Willo work together to introduce Audio



Research's proper introduction Rugged Radio Saturday. It features some of the label's best selling singles mixed by DJ Craze. A-Trak appears on nearly every cut and provides some of the best scratch choruses this side of 1995. Artists featured: Ill Bill and Goretex (Non Phixion), Dj Serious f/Theo3, D-Shade, Simahlak, Nish Rawks, D-Styles, Troy Dunit, Obscure Disorder, Melo-D, Babu and Q-Bert. —AudioResearch.net

DVD: TOO SHORT—LIFE IS: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF TODD SHAW

BEEEEEEIIITTTCHHHHH....back in the day before Eminem, 50 Cent, E-40, Master P and the rest of the tape slangers there was Too Short. This Oakland pimp put the "itch" in "bitch" and should take credit in its most varied uses in hip hop today. He rapped about the streets and was one of the originators of street hip hop. Oakland never really followed the styles and trends of the hip hop community. When you think of Tone Tony Toni, MC Hammer, and Digital Underground you can't actually pin point a style other than Bay Area. Enter Short Dog. He sold tapes out of his car and beat LL Cool J to album number 10. Check out this documentary as directed by Dwane Wiggins of Tone Tony Toni. Put yourself up on game. —GrassRootsEntertainment.com

INVISIBLE / INVISIBLE

G-the Invisible hails from Sunset Park, Brooklyn and drifts far from the bling like Kool G Rap, Gangstarr, Nas, and Redman have done but, as they do, still hold street cred. His rugged and raw tales of street drama and wack mc's overlay the positivity in his lyrics providing a rare twist in this day of dis or be dissed. The cuts to look out for are first single, "Do for Self," The

Underground MC, "Sunrise," and Concrete Jungle". Mondee and BT produce 11 of the 13 deep tracks that Invisible rocks. —ThebloomEffect.com

VARIOUS ARTISTS / NOW AGAIN RECORDS SAMPLER 2003

(not pictured) Back in the day...not 5 or 10 years ago, but say 30 years ago...there were artists that created ORIGINAL music that would someday, somehow be sampled. Now Again Records brings back these classics from groups like Fabulous Souls, Diplomats, Amnesty, Ebony Rythem Band, Soul Seven, La Carnival, Connie Price and The Keystones, The Keystones f/Malcom Catto and The Sand Dollar. Hearing the music made me want to pull out my tight slacks, big collared shirt...pop on my shiny shoes throw on the 'ol pimp cape, jump in the Caddie and roll out to hook up with homie Snoop D O double G. —StonesThrow.com

BACKBREAKANOMICS / MARS ILL

(not pictured) This album is a lyrically dope rap revolution. ATLS storyteller manCHILD and dj/producer Dust's 5-years of sharing stages with the X-ecutioners and the Living Legends, dropping exclusive vinyl and mix-tape appearances had them nearly cracking top 10 on CMJs Hip Hop chart. Backbreakanomics is their first attempt to crack the charts with an album. With cuts like "Black Box Artist," "Inside Out," "Alpha Male," "PSA #428," and "Next Door" the chances are better than good. Playing second-fiddle rappers on the album are Pigeon John (LA Symphony), Bigg Juss (Company Flow), Blueprint, and Playdough. "I'm a man of my word and all words got 4 letters." —Gotee.com



You can't say bars don't pop off in the Philippines. I actually got nine cousins fed and drunk for about 35 bucks—with the peso going for 53 to 1 you can't help but be big-baller. This one called "One Bagger" is the hot spot in Tagaytay City. The band could do any song you ask...It's like the real group was actually there. Hmmm...Required Audio party in the Philippines anyone? ; Guess who stopped by the pad? Charisma Carpenter from "Buffy The Vampire Slayer"—damn, we're cool.