

REQUIRED AUDIO

HEARD BEFORE THE HERD

TEXT BY JOEL MARASIGAN

All Over
The CMA

"Cool Man Association" members the Grouch and Luckiam.PSC got some serious rehearsal time at their Living Legends performances. A break from the schedule gave the duo together time with guests like Del The Funkie Homosapien, Brother Ali (Rhymesayers Crew), Slug and Murs for the debut release of *All Over*. Although production by the Grouch, J-Thrills, Eligh and DJ Epik helps fill out CMA's rap-typical political and braggadocio topics through the headphones, it's obvious many of the cuts are ready for the stage.

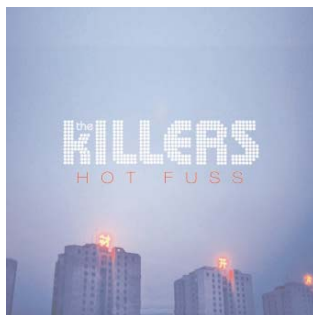
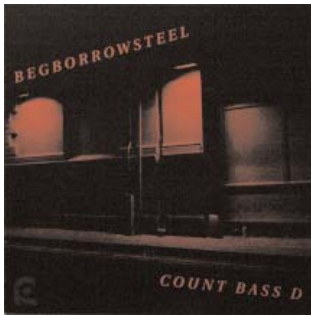


S.O.N.O.G.R.A.M.
One Be Lo

Michigan put yo hands up—you too Eminem, Kid Rock, Atmosphere and George Clinton—here's yet another from your hood. After a few years of studying music business at the local correctional facility he formed half of the duo Binary Star, whose 1999 release of *Waterworld* (a.k.a. *Master of the Universe*) was one of the brightest in the indie hip hop scene. One Be Lo reloads and lets loose on *S.O.N.O.G.R.A.M.* (*Sounds of Nashid Originate Good Rhymes and Music*) with his arsenal of smart stories, interesting rhymestyles and witty punch lines.

Begborrowsteel
Count Bass D

If this project were delivered to me on vinyl, I would call this near half hour of snippets an album. Instead it's more like something a producer would sample from—or a project for Count Bass D to shop to spread the word that he's dope with the MPC. It also proves he can give you, at the least, a minute-and-a-half track that's better than or equal to Biz Markie's crooning.



Hot Fuss
The Killers

We apologize for not being prompt as this album was released in June, but The Killers are nowhere in the realm of urban music. Although their crashing drums, sweet bass lines and synthesizers are certainly patterned in a way that hint toward a neo-new-wave-type revival (similar to Hot Hot Heat, the Yeah, Yeah, Yeahs, Interpol and The Rapture)—it's frontman Brandon Flowers' flashback-type vocals that makes heaters of all eleven of the *Hot Fuss* cuts. The '80s are back and The Killers are, well, killing it.

Die Rugged Man Die!
R.A. The Rugged Man

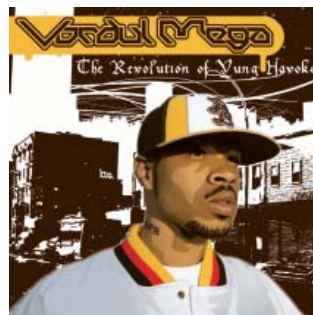
As one of the most sought-after white kids in the early-'90s, R.A. The Rugged Man pulled a \$300K advance from Jive Records, and immediately wiled out. With his violent, disgusting and irresponsible behavior, he was banned from performing in 30 states from 1995 to 1998, locked out of recording studios and blackballed from damn-near every rap label that existed.



Although this is his first release in 10 years, he managed to keep busy by working with everyone from Mobb Deep to Biggie and producers like Trackmasters, Quik and The Alchemist. Now if he can keep his nose clean and keep from messing up his second-coming, he can actually prove why Biggie was quoted as saying, "I thought I was the illest."

Beanie Sigal Public Enemy #1, Who Shot Ya?!!

DJ Green Lantern
It's like that Elvis station on Sirius radio except this one is all Beanie Sigal, all the time—or at least for the next hour. Featured on this Green Lantern mix is State Property's Peedi Crakk, Young Chris (Young Gunz), Miss Jade, Twista and Oschino. Beanz has an album coming in 2005, and if this Green Lan deal is any indication of what's to come, prepare yourself for some State Property heat.



The Revolution of Yung Havoks
Vordul Mega

This street emcee is best known as half of Cannibal Ox and kind of sounds like what Fabolous would, if he weren't so Pop. This solo debut features dope producers you've never heard of (Belief, Blockhead, Ruddy Rock and The Prof) but are surly on their way. His approach to music? "It's like dropping bombs from spaceships: The space ship is unknown; it's some shit you don't know, but the bomb is some shit you know and understand."