

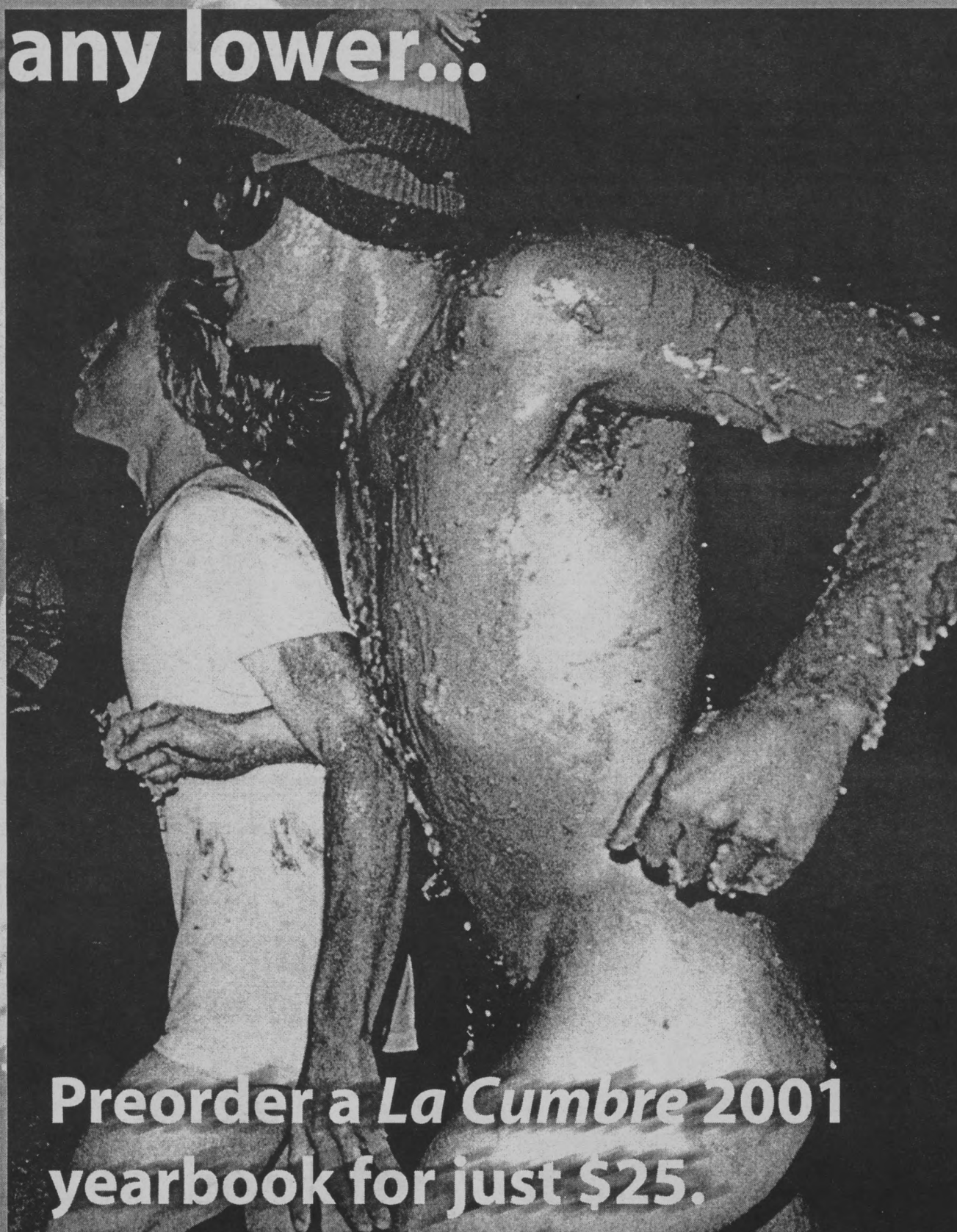
artsweek



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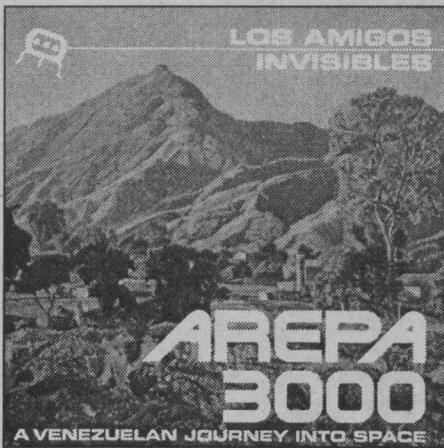
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SOUND- SOUNDSTYLE*



Los Amigos Invisibles | *Arepa 3000: A Venezuelan Journey Into Space* | Luaka Bop

Last night, I dreamt of a bash held in a super futuristic bachelor pad. While Tito Puente conducted Parliament's funk into a salsa-footed frenzy, Giorgio Morodor was busy in the kitchen, schooling Thievery Corporation on electro-driven disco pop. I woke up to find Los Amigos Invisibles' latest album lying on my pillow. Dreams, it turns out, can come true, but only in the most obscure manifestations.

If your record collection lacks an album that sounds as good during Thursday's cocktail hour as it does swigging beer on your front lawn on a Saturday afternoon, then by all means rush to the store to buy *Arepa 3000*. For those of you who are a tougher sell, let me state this clearly: *Arepa 3000* is by far this year's best party album. A daft fusion of funk, samba, house, lounge and jazz, Los Amigos Invisibles concoct an infectious, unique groove that will have you simultaneously appreciating the band member's skills and indulging in the urge to get up and move.

Like Beck? Ozomatli? Los Amigos Invisibles have tapped into the same world of influences and have produced an album on par with the multifaceted funk of the aforementioned artists. Track seven, for example, sounds like a Latin-flavored take on the Beastie Boys' "Hey Ladies," except without the ladies, more funk and the title "Masturbation Session." One doesn't have to be a fan of Latin music to appreciate the sounds on this album, much less a fan of house or jazz; *Arepa 3000* is catchy, fun music for everyone.

Welcome to the soul shakedown party for the new millennium. [Jenne Raub]



Confrontation Camp | *Objects in the Mirror are Closer than They Appear* | Artemis

We've all experienced it. It's unavoidable. It forces you to put your loyalty to the test: One of your favorite artists releases an album that you just know is going to be awful. Do you ignore your instincts and faithfully buy, or do you give up your status as a "true fan" and save \$20? Longtime fans of Public Enemy are sure to face that question when they see

Chuck D and Professor Griff's side project Confrontation Camp in the record store.

Another collage of rap and rock? Public Enemy helped pioneer the idea in the '80s, so don't dis them for riding the trend. Dis them for refusing to step out of that decade's big-hair, cock-rock style. The tracks that Chuck D, Griff and newcomer Kyle Ice Jason must lyrically wade through are a joke. It almost sounds like the production was done by stealing unused Motley Crüe backdrops from Vince Neil. Once you hear the guitar solo on "Brake the Law" you will have no choice but to admit that all parties involved in *Objects* either had a simultaneous mental lapse or are just plain outdated.

Special note for all the people still sporting that mullet with pride: Confrontation Camp is off the hook, pick it up as soon as possible! [Trey Clark]



Mocean Worker | *Aural & Hearty* | Palm Pictures

Thanks to a few talented producers out there, dance music is finally getting a healthy shot of the industrial city's grit

and grime. And that's a good thing, really. Now that trance is the official soundtrack to suburbia — "Why are you wearing a pacifier to school, sweetheart?" — and subsequently becoming increasingly cliché in its blissed-out state of spiritual superficiality, it's good to hear electronic music that is at once suave, sweaty and downright fun.

Mocean Worker is not just another house-music producer, however. He navigates the terrain between sophisticated sounds and dirty beats, winking at the production-obsessed nerd and the inebriated club-hopper simultaneously. *Aural & Hearty* is exactly what the title suggests: enough clever, wicked production matched with beats strong enough for a packed club on a drunken Friday night. [Jenne Raub]

Cornerstone | *The Reality of Pain and Ecstasy*

The first time I played this CD, my half-asleep roommate, who had just returned from a long European trip, awoke with a confused look on his face. It took him a second, but he finally smirked, "I thought we were in a club."

But *The Reality of Pain and Ecstasy* is anything but a typical club dance mix or thumping trance beat. Independent Isla Vista artists Stash Kovac and LM Wreck create a number of fresh backgrounds and lead rhythms using computer effects on more instruments than the two have hands. The end result is smooth music in the neighborhood of acid jazz with intermittent freestyle rhyming.

The digitally enhanced sounds of the

see **REVIEWS**, p.7A



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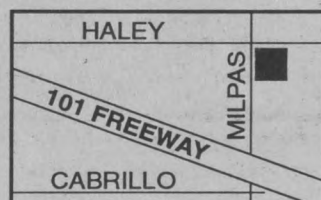
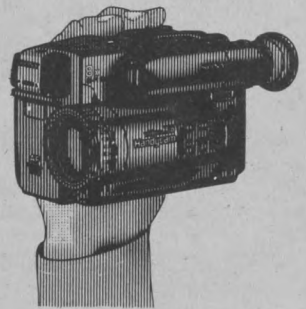


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THE **187 SQUAD** DEFENDS THEIR NAME

PROSECUTOR | TREY CLARK

187 Squad: The name says it all. Originating from the depths of the Coachella Valley, these three rappers/label owners have been on an industry takeover mission since 1996, when they released "Ode to the Dead." Many things have changed over the years, and it appears the world is finally ready for the 187 Squad. On the heels of a hit single, "Get Off," and set to release their debut album *Simply the Best*, I talked with Dickie Sweetnutz, Prince Aceop and Jimmy Fresh (who spoke via speaker phone from Philadelphia) about life in the limelight, male/female relations and their upcoming show in Isla Vista.

Artsweek: Go ahead and introduce yourselves and your role in the group.

Prince Aceop: Yeah, the one and only muthafuckin' Prince Aceop. Y'all know who I am. I'm a rapper. I'm crazy. I'm in movies and shit. I do them choruses, like I construct them, and we build the song around them. Yeah, and I'm a ladies' man, you know.

Dickie Sweetnutz: I'm Dickie Sweetnutz and my role is to bust crazy flows on every track we make.

Jimmy Fresh: Cuz we are the best rappers in the world.

Sweetnutz: That's right. I'm also the webmaster of our

Internet site, www.187squad.com. Make sure and print that address, sucka.

Jimmy Fresh: I'm Jimmy Fresh a.k.a. Ron Darling. I be doing the usual, rapping and acting and all that. Taking advantage of some of our benefits, if you know what I'm sayin'.

“YEAH, I DON'T KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE TRYING
TO SAY HERE”

Can you be more specific?

Jimmy Fresh: I'm talkin' about the ho's, homie! It's like a never-ending supply around our parts.

Prince Aceop: Everyone in the Squad gets as much ass as they want.

That brings up an interesting point. In this period of hip hop, where women are staking their claim and many male rappers are expressing respect, you guys seem to be a calculated step in a misogynistic direction.

Prince Aceop: What you sayin', man? I love hos!

Dickie Sweetnutz: Yeah, I don't know what you're trying to say here. We ain't calculating nothin'. We just rap-pin' about what we do and how we do it.

You three have your own label, Valley Bomb Productions. What's going on with that?

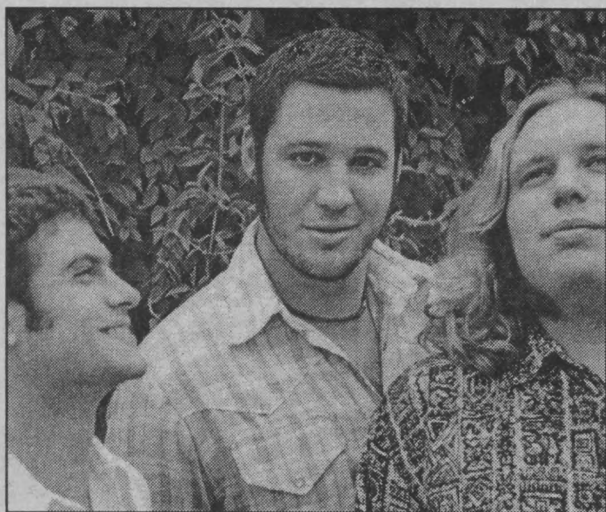
Dickie Sweetnutz: We just hustlin'. We're right about to put out our video for "Get Off," which is the single from our album *Simply the Best*. It's supposed to be a "Buzz Clip" on MTV. We got a guy on staff, the Regulator, who handles all that visual stuff. We are preparing for production of a 187 Squad live album, as well as a "gangsta covers" concept album. Then there is the never-ending process of dealing with our tours and the demand for us in all these different cities. As far as other acts go, we got stuff in the works from Gangsta Ed, Flowmaster M, and the VCGz. We expect all those to do well off of label recognition alone.

Can we expect any guest spots from Squad members on those albums?

Dickie Sweetnutz: I can't even say right now, cuz they

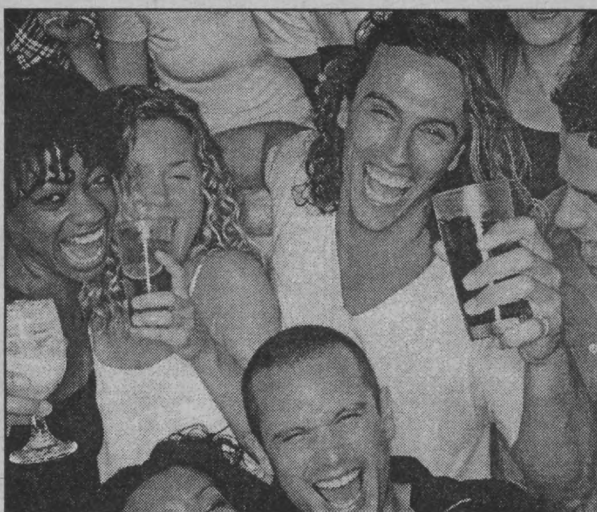
things to do >> calendar

today | **thursday**



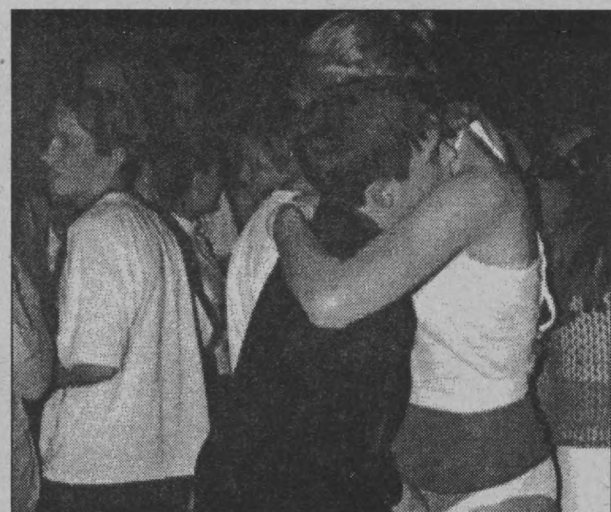
If the idea of another night in I.V. has got you wringing your hands in despair, fret not. Get in touch with your inner psychedelic soul child, douse yourself in some patchouli, throw on a dress you can twirl in and head downtown to check out Government Grown, self-professed generators of that "trance-rock-reggae" sound. While they draw on many of the sonic traditions of the late '60s, this isn't your parent's hippie bash. This noodle fest incorporates reggae, jazz and sounds from other lands, so flee I.V. and find a new kind of funk. One that doesn't grow uncontrollably and randomly hatch fruit flies. SOHO, 1221 State St. 9 p.m.

tomorrow | **friday**

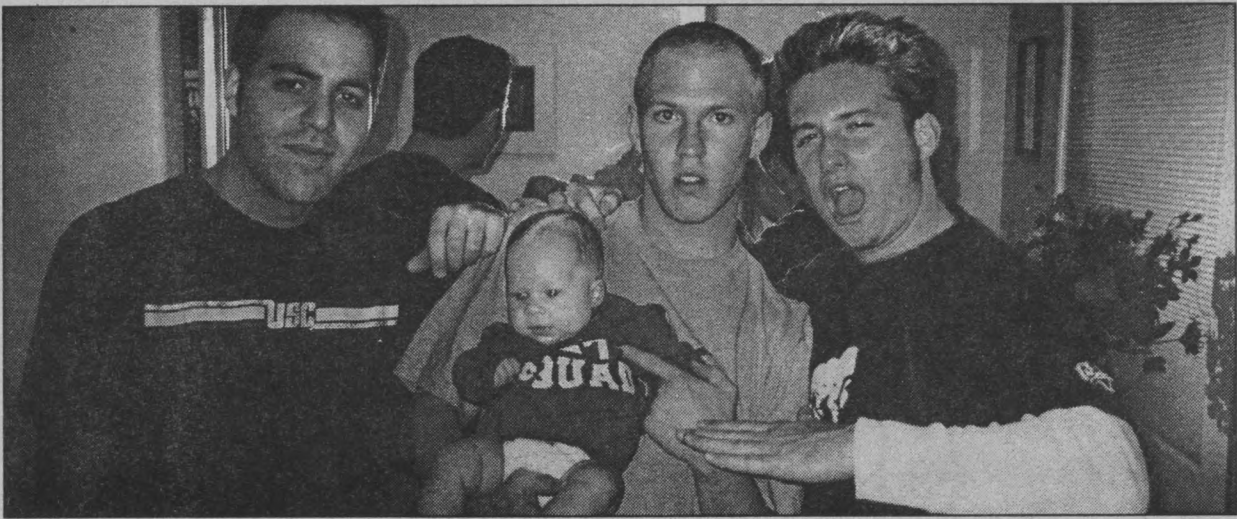


So you were standing there at this party last night, and you see this kid get arrested. And you're thinking, why do so many kids get arrested in this town? Are they drinking that much? Was he really acting that drunk? What are the kinds of signs cops look for to begin questioning revelers if they have had too much to drink, anyway? Are constitutional rights being trampled? How hard do the cops have it, though? If questions like these burn through your mind (however inebriated), then you have the questioning consciousness so needed by the college press. Come to the Nexus open house. Under Storke Tower, 1 p.m.

weekend | **saturday**



Although your dilligent Artsweek staff thumbed through every press release in the office (which is not an easy task, *mon cherie*), we couldn't find a darn thing going on tonight. We're sure there's something, but we haven't a clue. So be sure to e-mail us if you want your upcoming event posted at artsweek@ucsbdailynexus.com. What this leads us to conclude, however, is that Del Playa probably is the great, fun hope for the evening, whether it's your first night on the prowl or your ... fifth? Jaded or juvenile, there's fun to be had, whether it's trying to lose your virginity or laughing at those who are trying too hard to.



from a young g's perspective >> Jimmy Fresh, Dickie Sweetnutz and Prince Aceop showing off the youngest fan

really ain't on par with us.

Prince Aceop: I might do a cameo, but none of them are allowed to be on the song with me. It'll be me on their album, and they will have nothing to do with the song.

You mentioned tours earlier. Where have you gone, and do you have any touring plans for the immediate future?

Jimmy Fresh: We've been all over. New York, Florida, San Diego, San Francisco ...

Prince Aceop: D-Sweet even went to Oklahoma! Then there is the international scene. I did a show in Italy at the Coliseum — that was crazy! The fans in Europe are really into us. They've been buying our shit since day one. They can't even understand what I'm saying, they just know I'm sweet.

Dickie Sweetnutz: We're all about rocking shows, and we'll keep doing it in the future. We're actually doing a show by UCSB, in Isla Vista on Sept. 22. We heard there were a lot of women there.

That's not too far off.

Dickie Sweetnutz: Cool, that's all I need to know.

Prince Aceop: A nice supply of ladies is a prerequisite for us doing a show. One time this fool offered us close to six figures to do this show in New Mexico. I was like, "Are you kidding?" I ain't never been there, but I hear they are pretty homely looking.

Dickie Sweetnutz: I heard that too, fool.

Let's play "Confirm/Deny a Rumor." First rumor: The 187 Squad is breaking up because Jimmy Fresh is on a three year "vacation" in Philadelphia.

Jimmy Fresh: Don't even trip like we breakin' up!

Prince Aceop: Hell naw, we still together! We see this as an opportunity to do even more albums. After we put out *Simply the Best*, me and D-Sweet are gonna do an album under the name Sucka Free, called *Dirt Napz*.

Jimmy Fresh: And I'll do a solo album, and then maybe them two will go solo, and then we'll all get together and do another 187 album.

Dickie Sweetnutz is dating Britney Spears?

Dickie Sweetnutz: That's false, yo. You got your word-

"I'VE NEVER BEEN TO NEW MEXICO, BUT I HEAR THEY ARE PRETTY HOMELY LOOKING"

ing messed up. I was dating her, if that's what you want to call it (snickers).

Prince Aceop: More like 2 Live Crew, "Never to the movies just straight to my house!"

Dickie Sweetnutz: (laughing) Yeah man, something like that.

Jimmy Fresh: That reminds me, have you peeped those new girls on Bad Boy, they're called Dream or something like that?

Dickie Sweetnutz: Hell yeah, them hos are good. We need to sign up some girl groups like that too.

This is a tangent, but it sounds like you aren't anti-teen pop, which seems to be the overriding attitude among rappers these days.

Jimmy Fresh: I got no problem with having Spears or Aguilera strutting their fine asses around my TV set all day.

Dickie Sweetnutz: That's what I'm sayin'! I'm not trying to buy their album, but you put out a DVD of their videos ... I'm buying that shit!

Another rumor: Prince Aceop beat down Chino XL at a show.

Jimmy Fresh: Yeah man, true! It was at the Aceop All-Star show.

Prince Aceop: Yeah, I was there, you know, with all these big acts. I had my boys D-Sweet and

Jimmy Fresh, Snoop, Rappin 4-Tay, Kool Keith, Steve Winwood, Stevie Wonder, DMX, and some other fools I forgot about. Chino tried to come in my show too, but I didn't invite his ass. Fuck that bitch.

Dickie Sweetnutz: Yeah, I was there, and that fool was walkin' around backstage like he owned something. But that ain't the way it is. Prince Aceop saw him, and didn't even say a word. He just went up and knocked him out.

Prince Aceop: Ain't no thang.

Actions like this have some people in the media calling you "the white NWA." What do you think about that?

Prince Aceop: Fuck that shit! We more like the Beatles of rap!

Jimmy Fresh: We're on a whole other level that fools can't even recognize right now.

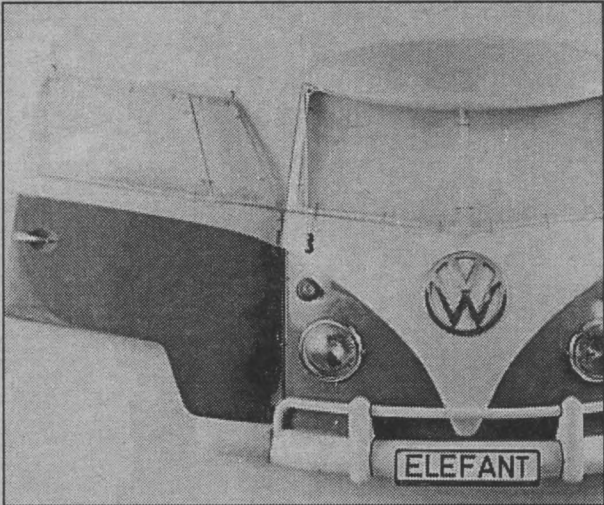
recipe for a mixtape

As part of Artsweek's welcome to Santa Barbara special, we'd like to present the top 10 Del Playa party songs. Download, borrow or buy the following songs so that you can have the ultimate in drunken pleasure wherever you reside.

ARTIST	SONG	IT'S "D.P." CUZ...
Snoop Doggy Dogg featuring Nate Dogg, Kurupt and Warren G	"Ain't No Fun"	Nothing builds the female morale like getting passed around by the homies
Young MC	"Bust a Move"	Easy way for senior guys to find freshman (they don't know the words)
Eazy-E	"Gimme Dat Nut"	Untouchable classic with the ultimate poetic hook
Next	"Too Close"	The song that made the fellas proud to pop a boner during the freak
Dr. Dre	"Fuck You"	Encapsulates the entire D.P. experience
Destiny's Child	"Where My Girls At?"	What every party-goer hopes to see at some point of the night: A girl-fight
Alice DeeJay	"Better Off Alone"	A repetitive, mindless song for a repetitive, mindless scene
Sisqo	"Thong Song"	Guaranteed to get the sorority girls to pull out the cronies
Beastie Boys	"Brass Monkey"	Theme song for all-male get-togethers ... plus, it can be yelled really loudly, which is always fun if you're really drunk
Cristina Aguilera	"Genie in a Bottle"	The young slut anthem!

thingstodo >> calendar

weekend | **sunday**



Since there are no major events occurring today, Artsweek would like to declare this Sunday an Art Appreciation Sunday. Nurse your hangover by creating some dandy art you can hang next Saturday at the Contemporary Arts Forum during "Focused on the Forum 2000." Everyone (!) has the opportunity to hang one masterpiece in the CAF galleries in this self-installing show. If inspiration is dry, replenish your love for art works and catch the bus downtown to check out the ongoing exhibits at the CAF (located at Paseo Nuevo) where you can also get more information about this community-wide art gathering. www.sbcaf.org

next week | **monday**



OK, so it is the first day of school. But take advantage of college's freedom to be completely irresponsible, flaky and spontaneous and only have to sort of deal with the consequences later. After your finish classes, why don't you jet down to Los Angeles for a night of fabulous fun at Veranda, a cheap weekly party? It's not really all that far, you know. For a meager \$3 you can see The Floatinghouse and Kelli Eagan live. And it's all ages, so heed Artsweek's advice, freshmen, and celebrate your freedom. We're still in school ... and graduating on time! Greenway Court Theatre, 544 N. Fairfax Avenue. 9 p.m. For information, call 213.486.4536.

next week | **tuesday**



That's right kids, Beck is indeed playing tonight at the Santa Barbara Bowl. But it's a special acoustic set, because he's opening for the one and only Neil Young! He's been touring to support his latest solo album, *Silver & Gold*, which utilizes a potent assemblage of legendary musicians, some of whom are accompanying Young on the tour. Anyway, here's the downer. Tickets range from a hefty \$48.50 to a whopping \$88.50, so now's the time to track down your rich friends and butter 'em up for a night of fun. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster locations or by calling 583.8700. 6:30 p.m.

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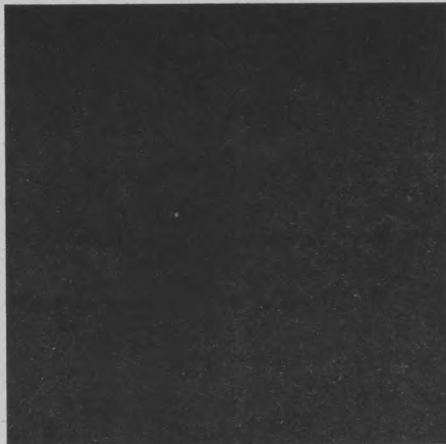
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MORE^{SOUNDSTYLE}

REVIEWS,
continued from p.2A

CD are synonymous with the term "ear candy," but it's the album's theme that makes it intriguing. The title alone, *The Reality of Pain and Ecstasy*, attempts to tap into the basic up and down emotional cycle every human feels — with a hint of drug culture. Cornerstone manages to create this feeling with a number of abrupt tone changes throughout the CD's five lengthy tracks.

Morninglory carries the CD in low volume (they're selling like hotcakes), but if you're lucky, you'll catch the duo performing in I.V. or downtown (with computer in tow). [Ted Andersen]



Ugly Duckling | *Journey to Anywhere* | 1500

Long Beach staked its claim in hip hop way back in '91, when Snoop Doggy Dogg guest appeared on Dr. Dre's "Deep

Cover," for the soundtrack of the same name. Since then, the product from Long Beach has come almost exclusively from Snoop, the Dogg Pound and their many affiliates and biters. So, when three independent Long Beach natives come around with a brand-new sound, you take notice — for better or for worse.

The Ugly Duckling sound is not just brand new. It is refreshing, enlightening and fun. Lyrically, Ugly Duckling's duo of Andy Cooper and Dizzy Dust never gets overly complex, and they make no apologies for it. Their rhymes are easy to follow and make sense, never straying too far from the theme of their respected song. The beats are ridiculous throughout, thanks to DJ Young Einstein's consistently dope loops. If the quality of efforts like

this can be duplicated, look for Einstein to become one of the West Coast's most sought-after producers.

Journey to Anywhere is a beautiful first LP from Ugly Duckling, and a positive step up from their *Fresh Mode* EP. If you ever tire from "so much drama in the LBC," then give these guys a try. [Trey Clark]

Darling readers, while this issue of *Artsweek* is rather slim, don't worry. We've got lots of goodies up our sleeves for you this fall, including interviews, reviews of movies, theater, art and albums, previews of local and on-campus events, humour and much much more. Let us know what you think: artsweek@uicbdailynews.com

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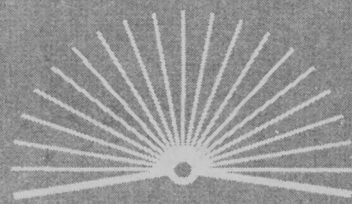
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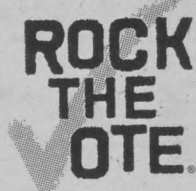


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