

debut album released in 1988 was titled "Youngest in Charge" with the boastful rap, "I've Got It Made." His latest album released during the Summer of 1990 called "Legal" continues his idolist tradition with songs like "I'm Special Ed." *Antoinette*, who has been called the gangstress of rap, is truly an idolist rapper. Rumors have surfaced that she's been dissing MC Lyte and is known for her hard-edged rapping. Her debut album released in 1988 titled "Who's the Boss," shows her boastful character with the song "I Got an Attitude." She recently released another album, "Burnin' at 20 Below," which contains cuts like "In My House." *LL Cool J*, an acronym for "Ladies Love Cool James," is the ultimate idolist rapper. LL has been called rap's first sex symbol because of the way he portrays himself. His first album titled "Radio" was released in 1985. His second album "Bigger and Deffer" started the rap ballad with the cut "I Need Love" in 1986. His third album, "Walking with a Panther" went platinum with songs like "I'm That Type of Guy." His fourth LP containing the songs "Jingling Baby" and "Boomin' System" was released this year.

"This category of rappers may have emerged because a lot of rap is about articulation and being the best," Brian Austin said. "Everyone is trying to become the best because so few artists become really famous."

Story Tellers

The story tellers are a group of rappers who act as narrators in a lot of their songs. Some of these songs have hidden messages that show social consciousness in rap. These rappers spend much of their time telling some kind of story in their music. Although most rappers are story tellers, this category of artists has no real distinct sound or lyrics. For the

most part, they just tell stories. This category can be large because it can contain almost anybody in the industry. Story tellers are also some of the most widely accepted rap artists. Some of the best known story tellers are *MC Lyte*, with her rigid rap style. MC Lyte's first album, "Lyte as a Rock" was released in 1988 and contained the songs "Cha Cha Cha" and "I Cram to Understand You." Her second LP, "Eyes on This" continues her storytelling tradition. *Young MC* is a college-educated rapper, who won a Grammy for his song "Bust the Move." Young MC also hit with "Principal's Office," from his debut LP. *Kwame*, the 'one we all know and love,' was considered a genius when he came on the scene two years ago. Kwame has made polka dots fashionable again and will tell you so in his raps. His latest LP, "Kwame and a New Beginning" contains the hit single, "OnleeU." *Slick Rick* became a popular story teller with his song "Children's Story" from his first LP, "The Great Adventures of Slick Rick" in 1988. Slick Rick is the rapper with the British accent and a former sidekick of Doug E. Fresh.

Comedians

Comedians are rappers whose lyrics are amusing and sometimes satirize other songs. Comedians may also relay socially-conscious messages at times. Comedians like story tellers have been received very well in the music world. One of the earliest and funniest comedy groups was the *Fat Boys*. The Fat Boys always joked about their weight, when they came into the music world in 1984. The trio revolutionized the "beat box," which has become their trade mark. They have starred in two movies, *Disorderlies* and *Krush Groovin'*. *Bobby Jimmy and the Critters* have become the kings of parody, especially with songs

like "Roaches" and "Hair or Weave." *Dana Dane*, another rapper with a British accent, has also made some funny songs. His debut LP, "Dana Dane with Fame," went gold with songs like "Cinderfella Dana Dane." *Biz Markie*, performs in outlandish style, often changing his voice. One of his hits from 1987, was "Pickin' Boogas." In late 1989, he released his second album containing the songs "It's Spring Again" and "Just a Friend." *DJ Jazzy Jeff and Fresh Prince* are one of the funniest groups in rap music. Their clean cut image has earned them the nickname rap's "Cosby Kids." Their first single released in late 1988 was "Parents Just Don't Understand." The group's second album, "I'm the DJ; He's the Rapper" achieved double-platinum status.

Brian Austin said amusing rappers are accepted better because of the nature of their songs. "Of course most people are not offended by the Fat Boys or the Fresh Prince because they present a funny side of life. However, some people can't rap about light-hearted things because they haven't experienced them."

Dancers/Dance Lyricists

Some rappers in this category have become famous because of their dancing ability. Great rap dancers sometimes create new dances that become famous nationwide. Other rappers have lyrics in their songs that produce dance crazes or dance music. Rap lyrics backed up by house music have become very popular over the last couple of years. *MC Hammer* has become one of the most famous rappers of all time. He is the mastermind of the "Hammer," a dance that has swept the country. He released his first LP, "Let's Get it Started" in 1988 with hit cuts such as "Turn this Mutha Out." His current LP "Please Hammer Don't Hurt 'Em" has sold 5 million copies, making it the top selling rap album of all time. Hammer's former dancers *Oaktown's 357*, are now rappers and are also known for exciting the crowd with singles like "Get Loose." *Kid-n-Play*, coined the "kick step" in dance routines. Songs on their first album, "2 Hype," gave them a chance to showcase their talents across the country. They released "Funhouse," their second LP earlier this year. Three new groups became popular on the scene this year. The *Digital Underground* released its album "Sex Packets" containing the hit single, "The Humpty," which started a summer 1990 dance craze. *Technotronic* is in the dance category because of its hits "Pump Up the Jam" and "Get Up," which are backed up by house music. *SNAPP* also belongs in the

dance category because of its rap jam "The Power," which became one of the top songs on the dance charts during the Summer of 1990.

Sexist/Sexually Explicit

Rappers in the sexist/sexually explicit category either talk about the opposite sex negatively or talk about sex a lot in their music. Some rap groups rap about sex explicitly in their music. They have aroused tremendous public controversy in their music. *Tone Loc*, a former gang member, released his debut album in 1988, "Loc'ed After Dark." The LP contained the songs "Wild Thing," a slang word for sex and "Funky Cold Medina," what you drink to get ready to do the wild thing. "Wild Thing" soared up the charts and became the best selling single of 1988-89. Much of Tone Loc's album dealt specifically with sex. *Ice-T*, another former gang member, can be classified as a sexually explicit rapper. All of his albums have included warnings about violence or sexual explicitness. His song "Let's Get Butt Naked and F—K" confirmed his place in this category. Ice-T's songs also usually contain a great deal of profanity. And of course, there is the legendary Miami-based *2 Live Crew*, which has aroused the most controversy in rap of almost any group. The group led by Luther Campbell, includes explicit sexual references in almost all of its songs. The group's first LP "Move Something" contained many explicit songs. The group's second LP "As Nasty as They Wanna Be," has sparked controversy across the nation. The album contains the song "Me So Horny," which needs no explanation. The group was recently acquitted of violating obscenity laws in Florida and have become martyrs for free speech.

Harry Allen said that black women must fight against sexism in music. "Hip hop's sexist thinking will change when the community changes. Black women will have to challenge the music and tell it how to change, if change is to come. Only then will record companies cease the release of cuts that call for bitch-smacking."

Dr. Blanchard said sometimes judges censor music without listening to the lyrics, which is a clear violation of free speech. "I solely believe that adults ought to be able to listen to what they want," Dr. Blanchard said. "No one really can define what obscenity means anyway, but you have courts making decisions on it. Whether you like the 2 Live Crew is irrelevant, but you must defend free speech."

"Edutainers"

