

Arts & Entertainment

SOMEBODY GIVE HIM THE LIGHT! HIP-HOP & VIOLENCE-

WHEN WILL IT STOP?

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You've heard the single, seen the video, danced to the previously fascinating dancehall hits, but are you ready for the highly anticipated album "Dutty Rock?"

The former water polo champion has found another hobby, which you can also call him, the champion. Sean Paul has made himself a record breaking artist with smashing hits such as "Deport Them" and "Hot Gal Today," which were two singles that took Sean Paul's career into overdrive. The two singles made Sean Paul the first reggae artist to have two dancehall singles from the same album on the Billboard R&B/Hip-Hop singles chart.

Sean Paul has once again made himself a record breaking artist with his recently smashing release "Gimme The Light," which has been spinning continuously on the airwaves, which is also getting very heavy rotation on BET, MTV, and MTV2.

The single "Gimme The Light" is set to become the biggest crossover record of all time in the true dancehall vein developing into the biggest U.S. breakthrough ever for reggae dancehall. The phenomenal single has already made itself onto the Billboard's placing in the top 5 for Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Singles.

"Gimme The Light" is only just the beginning of Sean Paul's sophomore album and Atlantic debut, "Dutty Rock," which is the first album to be released under the long-term agreement with Atlantic and VP Records linking the label to the mainstream urban and pop audience.

The "Dutty Rock" album features breath-taking collaborations with Sean Paul's own Dutty Cup Crew as well as such notable names as Tony Touch, Busta Rhymes, Mark Ronson, Rahzel of the Roots, and the Neptunes. Sean Paul kicks off the LP with distinctive dancehall beats and "riddims" on the very first

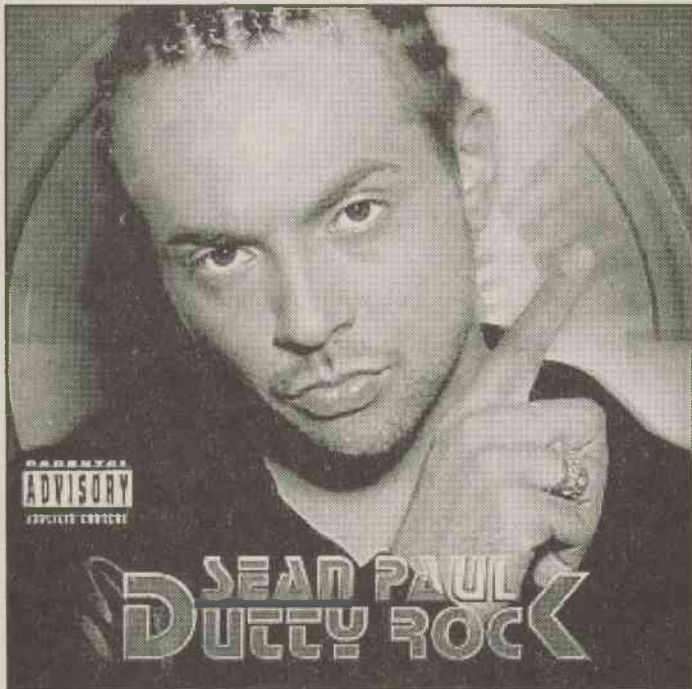
song, which is "Shout (Street Respect)."

The single has all the ingredients that one would expect to hear from a dancehall single with head-crushing dancehall drum beats to bass-blasting reggae rhythms that would propel any "reggae junkie" into a world of reggae phenomenon. The CD also features the romantic, captivating love classic "I'm Still In Love With You," featuring Sasha, which will capture the hearts of many reggae fans if it hasn't already. The savvy long song is currently the number one record on the reggae charts in New York, Miami, London, and Jamaica. The single "Concrete" has some of Sean Paul's own herbs and spices of dancehall flavor speaking on natural attraction towards women. Sean Paul also brings in the Liquid produced single "Can You Do The Work," featuring reggae sensation Ce'cile, which has the most popular dancehall sound of 2001.

The dynamic trio, "The Neptunes," produces the single "Bubble," the single "Esa Loca" features Tony Touch and R.O.B.B., and the single "Top Of The Game" features Rahzel from the Roots. Another beat rocking party song is the single "My Name," which is another hot track that you would find many reggae fans doing the "hill-toe." Sean Paul also adds in the Caribbean hit single "Punkie," which Sean Paul also shows respect to Latin America with a Spanish reprise.

The CD is full of fierce production work from some of the best reggae producers as well as a wide selection of party songs and arm-twisting reggae singles. The album is called "Dutty Rock" and it is in stores now under VP Records/Atlantic Records.

DJ Myke Skillz personal rating system: This is a great CD, I personally love it myself. I'm going to hate seeing everyone doing the "hill-toe," but it is that good. To all the reggae fans in Elizabeth City this is a must buy CD. Dutty Rock should definitely go platinum this year. I give this CD ****1/2.



Sean Paul's "Dutty Rock" Photo courtesy of <http://images.amazon.com/images/P/B00006YXH8.01.LZZZZZZZ.jpg>

VIKE NU' IS FOR REAL!

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Can you say scrumptious! Only one of the thousands of words that I could use to describe Under Construction-Highway Closed-Runway Open.... It's a Fashion Zone.

The tantalizing effects were too much for the audience to be prepared for! In amazement all you could hear were the "yeahs," and "ya'll better do it," which was the least of the praise that they deserved.

Vike Nu' "worked it out" as said by Beyonce'. Vike Nu' performed five different scenes and every scene got better and better. With practices starting at 8 p.m. and lasting, sometimes later than 1 a.m., Vike Nu' had worked very

hard to put on the performance they did!

With guidance from dedicated President Jerry Lane and Vice President DeTra Stith, the show was said to be one of the best fashion shows seen by a college modeling club.

"The fashion show itself was excellent, but the talent part should be eliminated for further shows," said DeTra Stith.

This performance can only keep student curious as to what is going to come in the spring.

Vike Nu' consists of 41 members and two advisors, Ms. Kenya Hinton and Ms. Trina Harris.

Vike Nu' is a great program for students to express themselves, and at the same time, learn to become confident and gain unlimited determination.

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Over the past decade, hip-hop has had to endure the losses of some of its brightest stars to senseless violence.

Tupac Shakur, Christopher "The Notorious B.I.G." Wallace, Big L, and Freaky Tah all lost their lives in violence. Now one of hip-hop's most respected pioneers has suffered the same fate.

On Wednesday, Oct. 30, Jason "Jam Master Jay" Mizell, 37, was shot and killed in his New York City recording studio. According to Sohh.com (Source of On-line Hip Hop), witnesses said Mizell, world-renowned as the dj for hip hop legendary group Run-DMC, was in the studio playing video games with Uriel Rincon and a woman when someone was buzzed into the building. The witness said that they were told to lie face-down, and the gunman shot Jay execution style in the head with a .40 caliber weapon.

The article goes on to say that police have warned other rappers who worked closely with Jam Master Jay. Rapper 50-cent was told by police of a "credible" threat to his life, consequentially forcing 50 to cancel a recent show.

Mizell's death comes at a bad time for fans of hip-hop and the hip-hop culture itself. In the month of November alone, many of hip-hop's hottest stars will be releasing albums using rivalries as

their marketing scheme.

Jay-Z, whose album "The Blueprint 2: The Gift and The Curse" comes out November 12, has been using his ongoing feud with Queens native, Nas and now Toni Braxton, to help raise his already high sales index. His last album, built on a feud with Nas, sold over 3 million copies, including 447,000 the first week—the album came out September 11, 2001.

Another huge hip-hop star, Ja-Rule, is using his feud with rappers 50-cent and Eminem to also push his sales. Ja-Rule's album will be released November 19. A new 2pac album, "Better Dayz", coming out November 26, will definitely hit the shelves hard, especially following Chuck Phillips' story of Notorious B.I.G. allegedly masterminding 2pac's death as reported in the Los Angeles Times.

For many in the hip-hop culture, these rivalries and deaths have come out at a bad time. The shooting of Jam Master Jay has left the hip-hop world shaken and many fans of the music wonder when will the violence stop. Freaky Tah was murdered in a turf war. Big L was killed because of whom his brother knew. Tupac and Biggie were both brutally killed in drive-by shootings: both murders still unsolved. With all of our brightest stars falling to violence portrayed in their lyrics, isn't it time for a change?

RAP WITH A DIFFERENT TWIST

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In the large and successful world of hip-hop, there is the strong possibility that some rappers can get caught up in the whirlwind. Speaking of whirlwind, Chicago is the home of Twista, formerly Thug Twista, who has been the Guinness Book of Worlds since the 90's as the world fastest rapper. Throughout the years, his albums, such as, "Runnin' Off At Do Mouth," and "Adrenaline Rush," have received critical acclaim, but did not garner the sales they deserved. Despite not gaining commercial acceptance, Twista is well respected in the music industry as he worked with artists like Jay-Z, Puffy and Ludacris. Recently, Twista independently released the album "Legit Ballin'," in which he is still friends with. With his forthcoming album, "Kamikaze," on the way, Warren Gibbs and DJ Myke Skillz of the WRVS radio station, recently sat down with Twista to talk about the new album, making sure the Midwest is represented in hip-hop.

It should be obvious that true fans of the lyrical ability of Twista are anticipating the release of his new album. The good news is that Twista fans do not have to wait long.

"It's complete. It should be coming out around the first of February," says Twista. Although this is Twista's third solo album, there are a few special guests and talented producers featured to complement his speedy flows.

"As far as production goes, I got Toxic, my man Kanye West, Jazze Pha, and Timbaland," Twista said.

According to Twista, other rappers make guest appearances on this project as well.

"I got songs with Freeway, Eightball, Too Short, Legit Ballers and Ludacris."

The recording industry is a business that moves very fast. The money, fame, and women call be traps that can sidetrack a rapper and cause him to lose focus. Twista informed us of his way of coping with the music business.

"I stay in a hungry atmosphere. If you just start living a lavish life, you may lose focus on perfecting your craft," Twista replied.

Getting complacent and letting money change him are two things Twista does not plan to do.

"Don't get swellheaded. Keep grinding. Don't get caught in the moment. Stay humble because this game can break you down."

Other than acts such as Nelly, Bone Thugs-N-Harmony and Da Brat, the Midwest, specifically Chicago, has not really made a major impact on hip-hop's mainstream audience. However, Twista is optimistic about the situation.

"It's our turn now," says Twista. "We gotta understand the business more. That's what's holding us back."

In Twista's mind, the Midwest can receive more recognition if the artists become more business-minded.



Twista

Photo courtesy of <http://www.twista.net>