AREA ENTERTAINMENT

SOUNDS

By Carl Matthews

VICIOUS BEAT POSSE "Legalized Dope" (MCA)

The four up-and-coming rap acts who make up the Vicious Beat Posse are out to set trends in the hip-hop/rap realm with their first LP.

The concept behind the title "Legalized Dope" is an anti-drug message: "Drugs are for dopes and our music is our legal dope."

The album features the socially-conscious rhymes of DBX, a two-man rhyme squad comprised of DMAC and ICB and their DJ, DJ Lett Loose. "Mass Confusion," which borrows from the Temptations' 1970 hit "Ball Of Confusion" makes statements of pride and purpose for the 90's. But DBX (Demonstrating Black Xcellence) has not forgotten the positive messages of Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

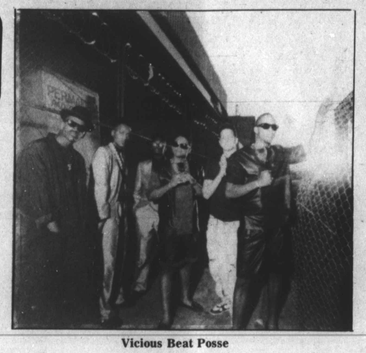
The album also features Marvee-V, whom the Posse describes as "the backbone of Vicious Beat." He contributes "I'm 'Bout Fed Up To Here" and "I'm Da One."

"I'm a vicious person when it comes to rap music," Marvee-V says firmly. "My music could be that of Clint Eastwood or Rambo — if you are a rapper and see me onstage, you ought to be frightened of me. If you are in the audience, you will love me."

Taking on the male-dominated rap world head on, Deb-B isn't the least scared of being provocative and outspoken on "Women Of Power (W.O.P.)," which slickly borrows from James Brown's "Escapism."

"Women should decide what they want and go after it," Deb-B says.

The team of Super Slim and DJ Candyman mix sex, romance and comedy with nonstop grooves. On "Party Trooper" Slim shows his competence as a storyteller while DJ Candyman cuts the relentless rhythms (which include James Brown's "Get On The Good Foot"). "My Girl" is a sensuous, leisurely paced cut — comparisons to Tone Loc are inevitable.



Vicious Beat Posse

With eleven hard-hitting cuts on this new album, the Vicious Beat Posse should have no trouble delivering this positive message to the kids: "Don't do dope, be dope!"

Music Notes

And so we have come to the end of another decade, and there has been plenty of R&B, reggae, C&W, jazz, new jack swing, house, and heavy metal to go around. The 1980's will also be remembered as the "rap decade," when rap music was becoming a major force in music for the first time.

Tons of rap songs have come out since the Sugar Hill Gang hit the pop charts with "Rapper's Delight" years ago. Among my personal favorite rap songs of the decade (in no particular order) are:

— *Gold*, Grandmaster Flash And The Furious Five (Elektra, 1988). The group that rocked the house with "Freedom" reunited in 1988 to bring us this powerful statement about people who wear gold chains. Anyone can sample James Brown's "Get On The Good Foot," but with his "Gemini Flashformer," Grandmaster Flash showed originality in technique that is rarely heard today.

— *Five Minutes Of Funk*, Whodini (Jive, 1985). Bass and keyboard tracks that really kick.

— *Me, Myself And I*, De La Soul (Tommy Boy, 1989). A group that doesn't just settle for the same old hackneyed cliches in their rhymes; a hot single that typifies the current "sampling" trend.

— *White Lines (Don't Don't Do It)*, Grandmaster And Melle Mel (Sugar Hill, 1983). An unforgettable anti-drug rap.

— *Self-Destruction*, The Stop The Violence Movement (Jive, 1989). Another memorable rap, complete with an all-star rap cast, that was one of the most popular rap singles of the year.

— *King Kut*, Word Of Mouth Featuring D.J. Cheese (Beauty And The Beat, 1985). This hot track was re-released on Profile with various bits from Run-D.M.C. recordings scratch-mixed in.

— *Super Wolf Can Do It*, Super Wolf (Sugar Hill, 1980). The rap itself wasn't all that exciting, but the instrumental track, professional in every way, had a nice hook.

— *Monster Jam*, Spoonie Gee Meets The Sequence (Sugar Hill, 1980). Ditto for this Spoonie Gee track. It's interesting to compare The Sequence's style on this cut with that of Salt-N-Pepa.

— *Hey Ladies*, The Beastie Boys (Capitol, 1989). On this cut from their "Paul's Boutique" album, we get lines like "I got more hits than Sadaharu Oh, Tom Thumb, Tom Cushman, or Tom Foolery, dating women on T.V. with the help of Chuck Woolery." There's only one Beastie Boys.

— *Buffalo Gals*, Malcolm McLaren And The World Famous Supreme Team (Island, 1982). You either like scratching or you don't. If you do, this is a fine example.

My least favorite rap songs? Well, you know, I hate to be negative, but if anyone were to ask me which rap songs did I think were little more than worthless junk, I would probably cite such records as "Supersonic" by J.J. Fad, "Nothing Can Stop Us" by Serious-Lee-Fine, "It's Like That" by Run-D.M.C. and "Don't Believe The Hype" by Public Enemy.

AT THE MOVIES

Nominations are in for Golden Globe Awards

By Frederick I. Douglass

The prestigious nominations for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's 1989 Golden Globe awards designate Spike Lee, Denzel Washington and Morgan Freeman as being in the vanguard of acting and the filmmaking industry.

Announced on December 27, the Golden Globes are the first of the Hollywood awards season, preceding the Oscars, and are divided into two categories, drama, and musical or comedy.

Spike Lee scored big during 1989, garnering honors in the categories "Best Director," "Best Motion Picture (Drama)," and "Best Screenplay" for his flick "Do The Right Thing." Danny Aiello's performance also earned the film a nomination in the category "Best Supporting Actor."

Denzel Washington has been nominated for his role as a "Supporting Actor" in "Glory," the film about the participation of Blacks in the Civil War which garnered nominations in four other "Best" categories including "Motion Picture (Drama)," "Director (David Zwick)," "Screenplay (Kevin Jarre)," and "Musical Score (James Horner)."

While Morgan Freeman did not receive any nominations for his role in "Glory," he was named in the category "Best Actor Performance (Musical or Comedy)" in "Driving Miss Daisy." This movie also received two other Globe nominations for "Best Motion Picture" and "Best Actress Performance (Musical or Comedy).

It is impressive to note that as we enter the 1990's. Blacks such as Spike Lee, Denzel Washington and Morgan Freeman, along with Eddie Murphy (his flick "Harlem Nights" has grossed nearly $17 million to date).

Also Robert Townsend (his successful movie "Hollywood Shuffle" led to signing a three movie deal with Warner Brothers) is beginning to achieve critical acclaim and/or financial rewards for his artistic efforts.

Spike Lee is hot these days. His first major film "She's Gotta Have It" cost $175,000 to make and produced more than $7 million in box office revenues.

Next, Lee produced "School Daze" which cost $6.5 million to produce (in an era when the average film costs $10 million to make) and generated more than $15 million in the nation's theatres, despite the fact that it was shown on a limited basis and had minimal advertising.

"Do The Right Thing" is an even bigger financial success and is generating subsidiary revenues through sales of the soundtrack.

Currently, the movie is grossing nearly $8,000 per week in London and its upcoming January release on videotape should generate additional millions.

Denzel Washington is finally gaining renown for his talents for his Globe nomination in the category "Best Supporting Actor" in the movie "Glory."

I first saw Washington in "A Soldier's Story," a movie in which his performance sparkled. He has had starring roles such as Steven Biko in "Cry Freedom" and major parts in "Power," "Flesh and Blood," "For Queen and Country," and "Carbon Copy."

During 1989, Washington starred in "The Mighty Quinn" a credible action movie that was just released on videotape.

Morgan Freeman began making his impact on the film world during 1987 when he played Fast Black, a violent pimp in "Street Smart." Next, he played drug counselor to Micheal Keaton of "Batman" fame in the highly acclaimed "Clean and Sober."

Broadening his audience, he starred in "Lean on Me," portraying Joe Clark, the controversial principal who was determined to wrench control of his school from hoodlums.

During 1989, we saw Freeman come back to the screen again in "Johnny Handsome." Maintaining his momentum in the industry, Freeman closed out the decade with two major roles: John Rawlins in "Glory" and as the chauffeur in "Driving Miss Daisy," the part that earned him a Golden Globe nomination.

How does the competition stack up against Lee, Washington and Freeman?

Well, the nominees in the categories in which they are specifically named include:

Motion Picture (Drama) — "Born on the Fourth of July," "Crimes and Misdemeanors," "Dead Poets Society," "Do The Right Thing," and "Glory."

Actor Performance (Musical or Comedy) — Billy Crystal, "when Harry Met Sally...," Michael Douglas, "War of the Roses," Morgan Freeman, "Driving Miss Daisy," Kathleen Turner, "War of the Roses."

Supporting Actor — Danny Aiello, "Do The Right Thing;" Marlon Brando, "A Dry White Season;" Sean Connery, "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade;" Ed Harris, "Jackknife," Denzel Washington, "Glory;" and Bruce Willis, "In Country."

Director — Spike Lee, "Do The Right Thing;" Rob Reiner, "When Harry Met Sally;" Oliver Stone, "Born on the Fourth of July;" Peter Weir, "Dead Poets Society;" and Edward Zwick, "Glory."

DONNA SUMMER

See who shares your birthday

Among the rich and famous celebrating birthdays in upcoming days are former heavyweight champion of the world MUHAMMAD ALI, disco diva DONNA SUMMER, producer/musician GEORGE DUKE, the late ELVIS PRESLEY and rock and roll pioneer BO DIDLEY.

Berry slapped with lawsuit

A former cook at a restaurant owned by rock 'n' roll legend Chuck Berry is accusing the guitarist of videotaping women while they used the restroom at the Missouri establishment.

Hosana Huck filed a suit against Berry, 63, in St. Charles County Circuit Court. She was a cook at the Southern Air Restaurant in Wentzville, about 35 miles northwest of St. Louis.

According to the suit, the musician - restaurateur "intentionally and without just cause or excuse intruded upon (Huck's) seclusion and privacy without her permission by surreptitiously making or manufacturing videotapes depicting (Huck) undressing and dressing and using the toilet at the restaurant."

Barry could not be reached for comment.

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT!

SHELLY GARRETT'S OUTRAGEOUS COMEDY!
FRESH FROM L.A., DETROIT, & ATLANTA!

TWO FABULOUS WEEKS ONLY!
The Lyric Opera House
JANUARY 16-28, 1990

HERE'S WHAT CRITICS HAVE SAID ABOUT THIS TERRIFIC PLAY:
"hilariously enjoyable!" • "witty and warm" • "sassy" "has consistently drawn sell-out crowds" • "down-to-earth black humor!" • "highly comedic stage play" • "a riot from start to finish!" • "the one-liners fly fast and furious!"

Tickets $19.50 to $25.50. Tickets available at The Lyric Box Office, Hecht's, TicketCenter locations. Charge by phone 481-6000
For group sales or information, call 1 (301) 889-3911

Coming to the Meyerhoff in January!

THE BOYS CHOIR OF HARLEM

Saturday, January 20, 8 p.m.

These young men have delighted audiences worldwide with a diverse program ranging from classical to gospel to jazz, highlighted by spirited choreography.

Tickets: $8 to $16

WLIF-102 Today's Easy Listening Music

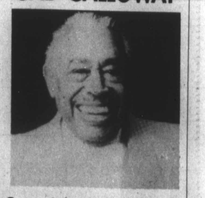
CAB CALLOWAY

Friday & Saturday, January 26 & 27, 8:15 p.m.

The Cotton Club comes to Baltimore featuring the "King of Hi-De-Ho," Cab Calloway. Cab performs many of his legendary hits as Erich Kunzel conducts the BSO.

Tickets: $13 to $27

WJZ13

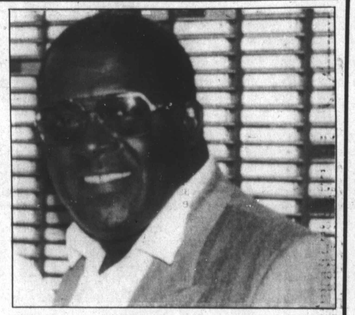


Tickets (301) 783-8000 • Group Sales (301) 783-8088

AREA ENTERTAINMENT

WHEN STARS come to town, they always visit at radio stations in the area, and V-103 hosted a few recently. Here, Jermaine Jackson is pictured with Sandy Mallory.

When singer J. T. Taylor came to the station, he spent a little time with the station music director, B. J. Lewis.



Chances are, you will have a difficult time recognizing this man, although you must be very familiar with his work. Believe it or not, this is songwriter, producer Barry White, without his hirsute adornment.

AND ALL THAT JAZZ

With Bob Matthews

Have just returned from a vacation, spent in the glorious wide open spaces of Colorado Springs, CO, and believe thee me, it is a pleasure to be back where you can hear jazz on the radio.

Believe it or not — there is no jazz on the radio at all, or what passes for jazz is a thumpety-thump electronic sound with a drum machine backing.

All of which prompts us to point out some of the excellent jazz presentations we can enjoy in this area.

Have noted that the Morgan State University station, WEAA-FM, 88.9 is taking jazz seriously. Naturally, all broadcast stations must balance their output somewhat with talk, but when there is music—they are doing it.

Starting with Alfie Williams who, in addition to her program directing chores, is the early morning air personality, and has developed a musical mix in programming that makes the mornings pleasant.

As a hardcore jazz buff, we kinda like our music pure without a lot of talk and personality stuff — especially in the mornings. Naturally, we realize that everything can't be bebop or strictly acoustic.

But, there should not be a total departure from this "root" music—if you are supposed to be a jazz program.

Whew! Got carried away there. Anyhoo, just wanted to point out that WEAA is doing it. Alfie's show shines, and Joe Lee in the afternoon keeps the flame burning.

Then, there are some of the evening people, such as Bruce Jacobs on Monday night, and Bill Harvey on Thursday nights, John Tegler with the big band sounds on Wednesday night, among others.

* * *

Baltimoreans can pick up the two jazz stations in DC, WDCU-FM, 90.1, and WPFW-FM, 89.3, both of which do an excellent job of putting out the jazz.

Of course, sometimes success helps erode initial thrust, which may sound a bit precious. But what we mean is that sometimes, a successful announcer gets so that the music becomes secondary — or so it seems.

Can remember when Fawnee first went on the air on WDCU, hers was a swinging morning show, which really featured top quality jazz offerings.

But then, the show became successful, and changed — personality features began to play a greater role. In essence, it became more of a folksy show than a jazz show. Jazz seemed to become a sideline, rather than a main issue.

On the other hand, Gwen Redding, who does the afternoon show on the station, was initially an avid learner of the jazz scene, albeit one who admitted a lack of knowledge on the subject.

Well, Gwen has grown, and now can hold her own in any jazz company. Whitmore John, who does the overnight show can be relied on to keep the bebop flame burning, and does regularly—a total delight.

* * *

Over at WPFW, we have difficulty keeping up with the personalities and times, which seem to be constantly shifting. But the station has one quality which all the others lack — knowledgeable jazz fans with a collection of rare recordings.

Can't remember the names of some of the people, but some of the recordings they bring out are worth a mint these days to collectors.

It's kinda difficult to know exactly when there will be jazz programs on PFW, and the signal strength seems to fluctuate in the Baltimore area, but it is certainly worthwhile to check on what is happening there.

* * *

There are some other stations who program jazz on sporadic basis, but another regular program is on WCVT-FM, 89.7 the Towson State Univ. station.

Their main jazz program is called Jazz Expressways, and airs between 8 and midnight weekdays. Most of the music is in the modern idiom — if you know what we mean.

At any rate, you can see there is a lot of music available, so there is no excuse for not catching jazz on the radio. Colorado Springs folks don't know what they are missing.

arts notes

CHORAL TRIBUTE

"I Still Believe: the Second Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." will be held on Jan. 8 in the Concert Hall of the Kennedy Center at 8 p.m. The spectacular event will feature outstanding area chorus groups such as the Choral Arts Society of Washington, directed by Norman Scribner, the Howard University Choir directed by Dr. J. Weldon Norris, the St. Augustine Gospel Choir directed by Leon Roberts, and the James Madison High School Madrigal Singers from Vienna, Va., directed by Kay Greene.

"MARTIN" - A BALLET

A original five-movement ballet and tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., composed by Gordon Parks will be aired nationally over PBS on Jan. 15, from 10 to 11 p.m.

This special will be presented in conjunction with the birthday of the slain Civil Rights leader.

For further information call (212) 614-4227 or (213) 667-9243.

AFRICAN MUSIC

Music from Zaire will be featured in a program to be transmitted on Jan. 11 on National Public Radio. It will include African dance music which will include samplings from Tanzania and Paris. Latest recordings from Pepe Kale and Nyboma, Papa Wemba, Zaiko Langa Langa, Tabu Ley, Loketo, and others will be played.

This is a fifty-two week series and will be aired Thursdays. Call (202) 822-2321 for airing time.

Strictly Personal

Pen Pals

Sincere, attractive, light brownskinned male, 32, presently confined, would like to meet sincere lady, 24-35 to establish meaningful relationship. Will send photo if requested. For more, write to Mr. Oliver DeVoncell Mayfield, 106330, J.R.C.C. Honor Dorm 1, State Farm, VA 23160.

— —

Incarcerated African American male, 5'10,", 189 pounds, native of Richmond, VA, very well educated, lover of sports, arts, music, politically and culturally aware, ambitious, well mannered, would like to meet sincere Sister for friendship and correspondence. Mr. Raheem Rafiuddin, 148-600, Box 500, Boydton, VA 23917.

— —

38-year-old male, presently incarcerated seeks friendship through correspondence. For more, write to Mr. Larry Jackson, Post Office Box 448, Halifax, NC 27839.

— —

Handsome, Black single career serviceman, 48, 6'4," 225 pounds, no dependents, financially secure, warm, kind-hearted, affectionate, loving, caring, sincere, truthful, honest person, with no bad habits, would like to meet a nice, sweet, loving, young female, 18-30 who doesn't have a father to love and care for her. I would like for her to be like a daughter, friend and family. She would be the daughter I always wanted and never had. Promise to take very good care of her and always be there for her when needed. Interested in beautiful, lasting relationship. Looks are not important, sincerity is. Can also be handicapped. For more, write to Mr. Edward Stalford, Supply Division, Post Office Box — 13091, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

Searching

During 1956, I met this great lady, Ms. Monyette Thomas in Chattanooga, TN. Should she or anyone knowing her whereabouts read this notice, please call me collect. Mr. Alexander Conley, III (206) 322-1868 or (206) 322-8178.

— —

I would like to get in touch with a Navy buddy, Walter Stendson or Stenson. We were stationed on the USS Conway, DDE 507. Anyone knowing whereabouts of him or any relatives, please call this number in New York City, (212) 881-1329 between 4 p.m. in the evenings and 8:45 in the mornings, weekend (212) 585-3216. Ask for Dave.

Lonesome Hearts Pen Pals

To have a notice published in the Strictly Personal section, write the message you want printed clearly in the space below. Enclose five dollars ($5.00), check or money order for 25-word notice. Additional words will cost 20 cents each.

I would like my Strictly Personal notice to read:

_____
_____
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To answer a Lonesome Hearts notice, enclose a check or money order for $1.00 for each letter you wish to have forwarded. Be sure to include the box number of the person you wish to contact. All letters, queries and notices should be sent to:

Strictly Personal • Box 1857 • Baltimore, Md. 21201

Lonesome Hearts

Attractive, intelligent, petite, Black female, 41, living in Maryland area, with two children, would like to meet single, Black gentleman, 43-50 who does not smoke, drink or use drugs, with trim figure, loving, open-minded to establish friendship. For more, write to CC 438.

— —

Black male, 26, 5'11," would like to meet Black female for friendship, companionship, possible relationship. My interests are movies, music, walks and reading. Send photo and phone number with first response. Washington, DC area only. CC 439.

— —

30-year-old, attractive, secure, light-skinned, Black gentleman, seeks attractive, slim to medium, affectionate, unattached, marriage-minded Black female, brown to dark complexion, 18-30 with good values. Must be a non-drug user, non-smoker and childless. I would like to meet someone who enjoys movies (horror, adventure or comedy), traveling, dining out and a person who appreciates a "real" gentleman. She must also have free time to spend together. If possible, send phone number and photo with first response. Baltimore only. CC 435.

— —

Black female, 50, honest, sincere, who likes to travel, cook and meet people, would like to meet a gentleman, 50-65 with similar interests to share cuddling on cold nights. CC 436.

— —

Active Black widow, a young 78, petite, non-smoker, non-drug user, desires to meet sincere, honest gentleman, over 55, has several interests. Write to learn more. Willing to exchange photos, if possible. CC 437.

— —

Health-conscious Black male, 23, is seeking close friendship with females. Age and race, not important. Baltimore area only. For more, write to CC 434.