



by Jay B. and Colin P.

**P**ete Rock and C.L. Smooth. U.M.C.'s. Cypress Hill. Fu-Schnickens. Chubb Rock. An impressive line-up of some of the hippest, hoppest, hip-hoppers in the business today. What we've decided to do with the concert review is to break it down into the separate acts.

C.L. Smooth is a competent rapper. Pete Rock is a competent D.J. The show was not too original with many of the "typical" aspects of a hip-hop concert. One of the main problems with the show, was that the crowd weren't too familiar with the repertoire Pete Rock and C.L. Smooth had to offer.

Their single, "Mecca and the Soul Brother," kind of got the crowd hype for a little while, but then they fell off until Pete Rock did a nice mix-up on the turntables that really got the crowd into the performance. What we really appreciated about the show was that Pete Rock and C.L. Smooth seemed to really appreciate the crowd. They were true entertainers because they never gave up on the crowd, even though the crowd wasn't as live as they could have been.

U.M.C.'s were equally impressive. A relatively new group with a hot single called "Blue Cheese," their performance showed they really wanted the crowd to have fun (perhaps they heard about the price of the tickets).

The thing that surprised us most about the U.M.C. show was that they jumped into the crowd. Yes boys and girls, they jumped into the crowd!

We will be totally honest. Cypress Hill was whack. They were the last act, and that usually constitutes the hyppest show. Bullshit. First of all, and maybe this has to do with morals, but we did not appreciate the fact that Cypress Hill lit and smoked what was apparently

a spliff on stage. If that's what they want to do, fine, but the fact that there were a lot of young kids watching this, pissed us off.

Lately, Cypress Hill has been getting a lot of press. They should realize that they are getting it because they're making rap look bad. Mainstream media is all too willing to give rappers like Cypress Hill plenty of press. Ont the flip tip, Cypress Hill is a group of talented artists, of this we have no doubt. But they dissappointed the crowd with their show, which was short and not too sweet.

Now to the Fu-Schnickens. The last time

we had a problem with the guest list. Apparently BMG/Jive forgot to include Colin P and myself. We talked to Ron Nelson, and he was playing the fool with us. We realize that many people might try to get into shows for free. But when you've covered concerts before and have valid press passes with your picture on it, I think you're telling the truth.

Two of the other problems with the show were that it took so damn long to start and that the jams they played while we were

style, street style (and) rappin' backwards and forwards" to name just a few. Chip went on to explain that the creation of these styles was a demonstration that they truly had mastered these skills "and that's why (they) wear the asian gi's". The gi's also have meaning, they represent "the determination they have to learn even more new lyrical skills and techniques".

As is most obviously present with

worked."

Chip-Fu noted that the hardest obstacle they had to face was to market the concept because "they had two many styles, and because a lot of people heard the raggamuffin stuff and said this was a reggae group but it wasn't a reggae oriented group and this was just one of the styles (they) kick."

Fu-Schickens big break occurred "at a hip hop convention in D.C. where a lot of people heard (them) and said (that the style) was different and took a liking to it".

Chip-Fu's message for striving rap artists is "keep doin' what you're doing... and if you believe in it then stick to it and don't let anyone stand in your way"

The Fu-Schnickens consists of three rappers, Chip-Fu, Poc-Fu and Moc-Fu. Each is gifted with incredible talent as a rapper. One of the interesting points with the album are the many rapping styles that the Fu-Schnickens explore. Examples of their styles include: Speed rapping, Looney rapping, Wild expression and Ryhming backwards.

The name Fu-Schnickens comes from "FU" wich stands for "For Unity," and Schnickens wich is a term the group made up to stand for a "universal coalition."

With guest appearances on the album (Phife Dog of A Tribe Called Quest and Dres of the Black Sheep), the tracks are that much better. There was also soem producing done by these two groups. The Tribe's experience really shows on the tracks.

Although Moc-Fu and Poc-Fu are very talented, I found myself waiting for the Chip-Fu verses. His speed rapping is incredible.

The album is a very fresh perspective on hip-hop. The tracks all have slamin' grooves and serious lyrics.

The Fu-Schnickens are new for '92 and extremely live. Their debut album is an example of how hip-hop can be. Their innovative lyrics serve to involve the listener to a degree that many rap acts haven't achieved. They are going to have a hard time Trying to follow-up this album. And anybody who can't get into the Fu-Schnickens, F.U., 'cause they don't got nothing to prove.

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# F.U. - Don't take it personal: FU-SCHNIKENS kick off Rapfest

that they came, they were extremely hype. No disappointment here because they were just as live. They were the first asct and the crowd was extremely happy to see anybody on the stage due to the long wait. They were totally into the show and totally in control of the crowd. Their single "Ring The Alarm" was absolutely on it and had the crowd moving.

Chubb, Chubb, Chubb! What were you thinking? Folks, we kid you not, Chubb was lame. He went through his repertoire lickety-split and even his crowd favorites ("Just The Two Of Us" and "Treat 'Em Right"), just weren't happening. It seemed he just wanted his money and wanted to get out of there. The fact that the crowd wasn't into it was part of the reason. The fact that they were on a three day stint might have had a lot to do with it. For you Chubb fans out there who have listened and know the meaning of "Treat 'em Right," he didn't.

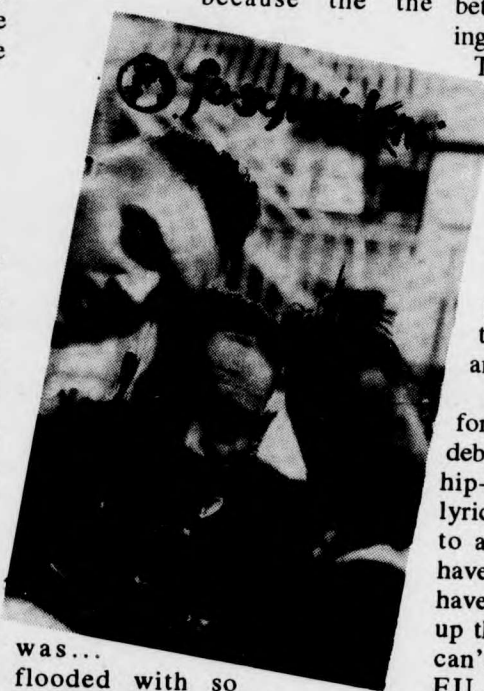
On a whole, the show was not very well organized. To begin with,

ing were not jumping grooves. However, we must say that as a credit to the show, the sound was excellent. Just a note: If you go to jam, then jam! Don't act like you're too cool to enjoy yourself, because half of a party is the crowd.

**H**ip hop group Fu-Schickens were in town last Saturday night (March 21) to preform for rapfest. I had a chance to speak with Chip Fu before the shown about the Fu Schickens' theology.

The Fu-Schnickens originate form Brooklyn (east flatbush) where Chip Fu and Pock Fu grew up together, Pock Fu and Mock Fu came together in high school and one day in Mock Fu's back yard the Fu-Schnickens legacy began.

Chip Fu defines 'Fu-Schniken' as "unity of many styles, lyrics and verbal tactics that (they've) mastered". Some of these styles being "Hard-core loonie style, speed rap-pin, wild expression, hard core



was... flooded with so many rappers (that they) needed a sound and some sort uniqueness to stand out and so (the Fu-Schnickens) concept was chosen, and it

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