



# MEAT



GRATUITOUS

VIOLENCE



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## EAST COAST VS WEST COAST

Various Artists

(Jive Records)

STEVE GRIFFITHS

Yet another rap/hip-hop compilation from Jive records which seems to suggest that the company in question are becoming rather desperate to promote the whole movement before the Golden Goose chokes on its own jewelry. A rather unusual thing is happening here my children, rather than becoming an explosive movement in its own right, hip-hop has been punished severely for its short sightedness.

Unfortunately, the peak has been reached and the posses are on their way down -- in the meantime, the music industry has picked over the strewn carcasses of the genre, taken out the mixing, the percussion, the concept of sound collage and applied it to its own nefarious purposes, namely the promotion of factory produced throw away mannequins to warble any number of crap songs. (c.f. Astley, Fox, Minoque et al).

In the meantime, the B-boys, Yo-boys, home boys and their female equivalents have had their heads stuck so far up their assholes that they haven't realized what has been going on. They now seem set to face a long winter of discontent, kicking themselves for being so stupid. I used to really love this stuff, I really did -- in fact, I faced a lot of criticism turning the Friday Teatime Show into a rap+hip-hop vehicle well over two years ago. But even then I was becoming increasingly disenchanted with

constant references to guns, dicks, cars, women and technical ability (not necessarily in that order) and it is still going on even today -- ten years after the Sugarhill Gang and Flash broke the ground with some pioneering efforts. It is exactly this consistent lack of maturity and inability to progress beyond the infantile ranting and ravings of a bunch of violent sexist goofs that has caused the grave to get deeper and deeper. Acid House is the craze now. To be fair, it uses exactly the same sort of tricks that got their original inception through hip-hop: lots of scratching, sampling and the creation of a manic tapestry of any number of peculiar sound-bites, all done to a super crisp unrelenting beat. But you see the ideas are moving on while the original 'homes' get fat and stupid in their ridiculous designer sportswear and ugly jewelry. Don't dis' me homes - it's the dope.

To the album then, we hit the concept head on immediately by being presented with the premise that it is in fact a battle, a confrontation between one gang of herberts on the west coast and one on the east. Hoo boy!

### WESTCOAST Rhyme Pays - Ice T.

A pleasant enough bit of hard-bitten rap that incorporates the guitar riffs from an old Black Sabbath song (I think it's "War Pigs")

### You know what I mean - Too Short

Uses a rather slow and rumbling percussion as a prop to a rather boring rap. Pretty dull.

### Square Dance Rap - Sir Mix-A-Lot.

Amusing if only for the fact that the listener recognizes 227's Jackee as the MC. Of course it isn't really, but its alot of fun all the same. A fast and manic little monster that is a perfect blend of chuckles and bop.

### Egypt Egypt - Egyptian Lover.

For some reason there is quite a bit of fascination with all things Egyptian in the game. Here is another squirt of music which further outlines the wonderful nature of the ancient paradise. It's actually almost purely hip-hop rippin off huge slabs of Kraftwerk. A good dance floor filler

DJ's and MC's - Rodney O/ Joe Cooley.

Most of the ingredients in this almost standard style number are correct but it sounds peculiarly dated and further the lyrics are hardly brilliant.

### EAST COAST Raising Hell - Run DMC.

The old pavement smasher itself is now over two years old and its a mystery why this should be included at all. Still cool though.

### Essays on BDPism - Boogie Down Productions.

One of this bunch (Scott La Rock) has already suffered at the hands of rival posses and yet they still put out gratuitous violent piffle that in this far-too-slow style loses all its effectiveness.

### Let's Go - Kool Moe Dee.

An answer to LL Cool J's 'Jack the Ripper' and is exemplary of the sort of pugnacious belligerent exchanges that pepper the medium rather generously. Make no mistake LL is better than this chump (oops!). Bone head alliteration rules here.

### Jane, Stop this Crazy Thing - M.C. Shan

Using the well known catch phrase from "The Jetsons" it looks as if some street cred might be in question here. Who a though! It is still stupid fresh. One of the better cuts on the compilation - bus this!

### Get Pepped - The Skinny Boys.

White boys from Bridge Port Connecticut of all places that sound erm... a little like the Beasties Boys actually, rather more minimalist and aggressive though.

The homes are gang to say they're cold lampin' but yo, this stuff is gettin' clockin'. Wake up cuz, we're getting siked, you're on the ill-trip homes, it ain't slammin', it ain't def - its on the ill-trip. Ditch the dukey ropes and get back to the raw style boyeeeee.....!

### Gowan/Great Dirty World (CBS Records Inc.)

Larry Gowan, in my honest opinion, belongs in a writing career, not a musical one. His songs are pure poetry, his lyrics, ditto! Well, I was a little skeptical about buying the album. I knew Gowan could deliver.... but Canadian "artistes" are reputed in a not-nice way where I am and often I will be turned off if there's obvious symbols of Canadiana - which Gowan almost flaunts. But not too much.

The aforementioned poetics first show themselves in "Moonlight Desires", a song I will never hate. It was such a haunting, magical song that after hearing it, I'd play it over and over again and suddenly, nearly subconsciously, stuff a copy of "Flashdance" into forget. For most of side one, the similar poetry hid - although there was just enough in "Dedication" to keep me from wanting a refund again. The strength in "Awake The Giant" at least woke up a "person

oh, who's the damn giant anyway?"

Living in the Golden Age" and "Human Drama". The title, lyrics, music, etc., annoyed me immensely. Too much like "We Are The World" meets "Sesame

Street" from CBC. Well, I bore easily. Who could help it if they had grown up Americanized?

Of course, "Forever One" got me reinterested in the tape. When that song faded out, I got scared, I would Gowan fall into another Canadiana fit? When I reviewed "TU" a few weeks ago, that was my fear. I don't like Canadian - sound. It gets to me - so clean, so innocuous - where's the funk? It takes an Einstein to put that in a Canadian creation, y'know.

(Gasp! - Ed.)  
Gowan is Einstein. With "One Brief Shining

Moment", I knew my cash wasn't wasted. This was hot, hip, cool, poetical, strong, funky... my gosh, this was what I'd been waiting for... and that little was so accurate, because, the tape went swiftly down hill.

"Second Nightmare" recaptured the true outstanding Gowan spirit with the creation of a song describing total fear. Heartfelt... but, the last song, "Great Dirty World" was the one I fast-forwarded through. A lapse, Gowan, go talk to TU and learn what you're doing wrong - and WRITE A BOOK!



"Ooo...my tummy! Darryl-boy's typical reaction after the odd dozen slime burgers at the local grease pit.