

EDITORIAL THE FAST FORWARD NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 8 APRIL 1991

Well, we're back on track for spring, getting these issues out in quick succession. This summer looks like it's shaping up to be a wild one, music-wise ... we'll just have to wait and see. One to watch out for is Yolanda's new one on UR called "I Live for the Night," a high-flying deep house scream-up that elevates my girl to diva status. Paris who? I heard it in the studio and it's a smoker. Out in the dead of summer form Underground Resistance.

Thanks to Gwenn Volkert and Steve Kuo, our charter subscribers, and so far, our only ones. Let's have some action on the subscription tip. This joint doesn't run on our good looks, y'know ...

Thanks to Nikkie V. at Beat Box/Dance Opera Belgium for hooking us up with the latest Skizzo tracks. Now if we could only get Network to do the same ...

Thanks also to our advertisers for their support thus far with more to come, I hope ...

I'm proud to say that I'm reporting for the world's hottest underground tip-sheet, Brand-X, so keep those advance tapes and white labels coming. Look what we did for F.U.S.E. and Cybersonik ...

I also wanna send a shout out to my home-boy Shawn to-the-motherfuckin' P. He puts out a local newsletter too, only on rap, called "The World of Hip-Hop According to Shawn P." He shot us off a letter of props a while back so we thought we'd return the favor right here, boyee ...

For those who have kept the faith, we thank you. For those who don't like what we write (and you know who you are), call a motherfuckin' cop.

MAYDAY!

WE WILL BE ON HIATUS
FOR THE MONTH OF MAY -
WATCH FOR A SLAMMIN' JUNE ISH!

DIGITAL DAN & CO.

espionage

(that's the dirt, Richie)

OOPS! DEPT.: Metroplex Record is NOT dead as we reported last time. They've signed a distribution deal with Polydor from what we hear. Also, tracks by Anthony Shakir and Marty "Real by Reel" Bonds have been picked up overseas by Go Bang! Records out of Amsterdam ...

Derrick May is off to Italy for the month of April as he DJs for Renegade Soundwave and Nitzer Ebb on their tour ... holding down the fort at 1494 Gratiot will be Jay "Fade to Black" Denham, down here from Kalamazoo ...

According to accounts, Rotterdam's Speedy J was quite disappointed with Detroit during his recent visit to Techno City, but hey, he should have talked to us before he came here. He did a new track for Plus 8 while he was here, which will be featured on the double-12" Plus 8 compilation ...

Techno has-been Blake Baxter gets a new lease on musical life courtesy of Underground Resistance. Promo copies will probably be out by the time you read this ...

New York's TVT Records (you know, Nine Inch Nails' label) is interested in Cybersonik ...

Is there really a second LP from Inner City? I'm beginning to think that this "Fire" business is some kind of April Fool's joke. I haven't heard anything off of it. Really, is it out? For real?

We hear that certain NYC jocks are blowing the dust off of Code Assault's "Action" single, particularly Jeff Mills' mix. Ditto for Suburban Knight's 1987 "The Groove." Technika and Transmat both thank you, we're sure.

Finally, Richie Hawtin has signed with MCA UK and will record under the name "Adamski Jr." and will be marketed towards the 12-18 year old crowd. PSYCH! APRIL FOOL!

- MC Herbal T

THE FAST FORWARD NEWSLETTER

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000, THE WORLD OF KENNY LARKIN

So I'm at Richie Hawtin's "Confusion" night at the Shelter in Downtown Detroit, quite possibly the hardest straight house night in the city since the demise of the revered Music Institute. Freaky-live interracial couples grind into each other on the sweat-drenched acid bath of a dancefloor. Raw underground beats pound through pushed-to-the-red zone house speakers that can barely contain the Detroit, Sheffield and Chicago frequencies being pumped through them. Suddenly, the Shelter National Anthem, Armando's "100% of Dissin' You" comes on. The crowd goes wild at the first hint of that familiar Todd Terry-sampled keyboard line. In the DJ booth, opening for Richie Rich, it's Kenny Larkin's world.

Who is Kenny Larkin, anyway? Former bedroom Techno wanna-be and now, with the release of his new four-song EP on Plus 8, quite arguably the future of experimental Detroit Techno.

Originally half of what was to become States of Mind (remember "Elements of Tone?"), Larkin chose the solo route early on, eschewing the high-tech pseudonyms that have become a staple of most every known Technocrat ... "I couldn't think of anything good," says Larkin. His "We Shall Overcome" track was Plus 8's second release. A Martin Luther King sample-fest, the track sold well despite the critics' assertion that MLK samples were played out.

A year of experimentation followed as Larkin invested in more and more of his own equipment, eventually creating an enviable home studio, and unleashing a barrage of cassette-only tracks with names like "Morse Code"

and "Colony," and of course FAST FORWARD played them all. With each, Larkin's confidence grew, and these tracks became the blueprints for what would become the "Escape From Planet Techno" EP.

Just as he began to devote more time to his music, opportunity knocked once again. Original Shelter DJ Scott "Go-Go" Gordon had taken a gig with big-time, chi-chi, frou-frou club Vis-a-Vis. Now, Richie Rich was the man there on Saturday nights, and every headliner needs an opening act. Kenny fit that bill.

Now, Kenny's making his mark in the Detroit Techno underground. As well as adding credibility to the Plus 8 label amongst the hardcore Techno ranks (a Canadian label calling itself "pure Detroit Techno" has stirred up a tad bit of suspicion around here) as the only Detroit on its talent roster, Kenny's won the confidence of Plus 8's UK label, Champion, as well.

They're so hyped by this kid that they've pressed a limited edition of 2000, backwards-mastered, gold vinyl, clear plastic-jacketed promos of Kenny's new EP. You don't do that with just any chucklehead knob-twister. And if you're wondering why there are hardly any direct quotes from Kenny in this piece, it seems that he'd rather spend time with his Canadian girlfriend, Serena, than giving interviews. Can't say I blame him.

- Alan D. Oldham

EDITOR'S NOTE: As reported last issue, Richie's "Confusion" night is cancelled at The Shelter. - A.

FAST FORWARD
WITH ALAN OLDHAM
FRIDAYS 12-3 AM
WDET 101.9 FM



REVIEWS

NO MORE WORDS EP CARL CRAIG Retroactive Records

New Age Pimp-Daddy Carl Craig returns from his brilliant contributions to the Retroactive Sampler, this time bringing us the mind-numbing sounds of "No More Words." As is often the case with Mr. Craig's material, this piece of wax borders on psychedelia - in a different way than Acid House did. With music this esoteric and metaphysical, it's no wonder one of his pseudonyms is Psyche. The EP, which spins inside-out by the way, opens with the title track - ethereal but still danceable. "Suspiria" is next: a much slower - definitely for the headphones (or better yet, a rave if you can get to one!). The vocal version of "Rap Me in Its Arms" finishes up, but I can't honestly say I like it better than the instrumental. Carl Craig is like the David Lynch of Techno: you know his work is weird, but you can't get enough of it. "No More Words" is another step forward in the realm of originality.

- Digital Dan

MOTION EP PSYANCE Plus 8 Records

New in the Tried-and-True Dept. from Plus 8 comes Psyance, working the more ambient somewhat-clashed "Pacific State" formula. Granted, they're no Rhythm is Rhythm or even an Underground Resistance for that matter, but these guys know how to put a track together. "Motion" juxtaposes tranquil

THE FL - B SIDE

strings with a deep bassline and a wide variety of drum sound to produce a track that could just as easily come out of Techno Boulevard. No wonder Record Time couldn't keep it on their shelves!

"EQ" is obviously similar to "Motion," only adding a few more mechanical chirps - and the affected "E ... Q" vocal sample. This one reminds me a little of the old States of Mind track "Audio Q-5A," which I'd still like to see another mix of, Rich! "Andromeda's Dance" closes out the EP, and is still consistent with the rest of the tracks - consistently good that is. While Psyance doesn't break any new ground here, they are a quality act. Check it in boyyeeee!

- Digital Dan

ADRENALIN EP N-JOI DeConstruction UK Promo

Those Techno Gangsters from Essex are back with a brilliant, more underground plate of hot hits. "Adrenalin" is a hard rave workout guaranteed to work your crowd. A "Live" sample-loop provides the hook for this track. "The Kraken" is basically a smoothed-out reworking of the previous track, with more mellow sounds. And is that a pitched-up "Funky Drummer" snare in use there? There's also a sly acknowledgement to LFO in there that true Sheffield bassheads will recognize.

Speaking of which, I hear a bit of Kraftwerk's "Musique Non Stop" deep in the grooves of the mysterious "Rhythm Zone." The track is smooth and oblique, with those patented N-Joi bleeps but don't worry, they're still pullin' that off.

"Phoenix" is an LFO meets Todd Terry hip-hop break-beat kind of a thang, Kinda makes me want to dress in polka-dots, grow a hi-top fade and start bug-gin'. The track mellows out in the middle and becomes another song entirely.

This is a happening EP. If you're reading this in the UK and get a chance to catch N-Joi live, do it. If not, buy this record.

- Alan D. Oldham

ALAN'S TECHNOTIC TOP 10

- 1) SCHISMATRIX
- Rhythm is Rhythm (Tape)
- 2) GO (Low Spirit Remixes)
- DJ Moby (Low Spirit Germany)
- 3) REVELATION 928
- Cybersonik (Plus 8)
- 4) THE BEAUTY OF DECAY
- Underground Resistance (UR Black Label)
- 5) NO CLAUSE 28
- Boy George (Virgin America)
- 6) THE KRAKEN
- N-Joi (De-Construction UK)
- 7) BOPULATE
- Xon (Network UK promo)
- 8) BEYOND THE DANCE 1991
- Rhythm is Rhythm (Tape)
- 9) RHYTHM TAKES CONTROL
- Unique 3 (10/Virgin UK)
- 10) SURKIT
- Real by Reel (White Label)

ITALO RAVE-UP OF THE MONTH:
STRIKE IT UP (Remix)
- Black Box (De-Construction UK)

BACK FROM OBLIVION
TRACK OF THE MONTH:
THE GROOVE (1987)
- Suburban Knight (Transmat)

SKIZZMATIC TOP 5

- 1) UP & DOWN
Edwards & Armani
(Beat Box Intl.)
- 2) GET ON
Trance Trax
(Dance Opera Belgium)
- 3) THE RE-TURN
Cold Sensation
(Beat Box Intl.)
- 4) THE PIMP
Miss Lie
(Dance Opera Belgium)
- 5) QUADROPHONIA
Quadrophonia (Beat Box Intl.)

DIGITAL DAN'S Sci-Fi 5

1. INTERGRATION - Kenny Larkin (Plus 8)
2. MANY MACHINES - Manufacture (Netwerk)
3. NO MORE WORDS - Carl Craig (Retroactive)
4. MOBILITY - DJ Moby (Instinct)
5. SUSPIRIA - Carl Craig (Retroactive)



WITH HELP FROM:
ALPHA SERVICES
GARY ARNETT
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FAST FORWARD PLAYLIST - 4/5/91

| ARTIST | TITLE | LABEL |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| SUBURBAN KNIGHT | THE GROOVE | TRANSMAT |
| CHRIS CONNELLY | STOWAWAY | WAX TRAX |
| GRUESOME TWOSOME | BURNT OUT CELEBRITY | SSR BELGIUM |
| N-JOI | RHYTHM ZONE | DeCONSTRUCTION |
| MIGHTY FORCE | DIVE | COMBAT |
| DEPECHE MODE | NEVER LET ME DOWN AGAIN | MUTE/SIRE |
| I START COUNTING | MONEY | MUTE |
| PENETRATION | BASIC PENETRATION | GO BANG! |
| MC SHAN | ... TO DEFEND OUSELVES | COLD CHILLIN' |
| LL COOL J | THE BOOMIN' SYSTEM | DEF JAM |
| COLD SENSATION | THE RE-TURN | BEAT BOX BELGIUM |
| BETTY BOO | BOO IS BOOMING | RHYTHM KING UK |
| UNIQUE 3 | RHYTHM TAKES CONTROL | 10 UK |
| MEAT BEAT MANIFESTO | PSYCHE-OUT (original) | MUTE/ELEKTRA |
| FRONT 242 | WELCOME TO PARADISE | WAX TRAX |
| MINISTRY | EVERYDAY IS HALLOWEEN | WAX TRAX |
| SYNSYNOI | JANUARY | TAPE |
| KENNY LARKIN | COLONIZE | PLUS 8 |
| ADRENALIN M.O.D. | ESCTACY | MCA UK |
| BASSOMATIC | FASCINATING RHYTHM | VIRGIN |
| M.I. GORE | COMPULSION | MUTE |
| SINEAD O'CONNOR | STRETCHED ON YOUR GRAVE | ENSIGN |
| ANGELO BADALAMENTI | LAURA PALMER'S THEME | WARNER BROS. |
| MOBY | MOBILITY | INSTINCTRHYTHM IS |
| RHYTHM IS RHYTHM | EMANON | NETWORK UK |
| CYBERSONIK | CAROUSEL | PLUS 8 |
| 808 STATE | PACIFIC STATE | CREED |
| SEVERED HEADS | BIG CAR REMIX | NETWERK |