

RUCKUS

BAY AREA RAP CULTURE

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THE DJ ISSUE

FREE

A photograph of DJ Qbert, a man with short dark hair, wearing a white baseball cap and a maroon hoodie with white graffiti-style patterns on the sleeves. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. His hands are on a DJ turntable, which is partially visible at the bottom of the frame. The background is dark.

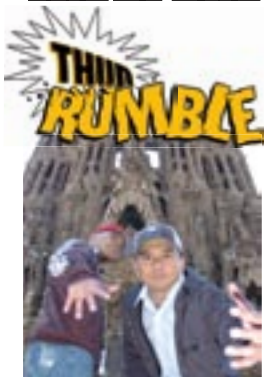
**GETTIN F-F-FRESH WITH
DJ QBERT**

MIXTAPE DJS
JACKIN' BEATS SINCE '93

THE CHOP SHOP
KEYSHIA COLE
DROOP-E
BALANCE

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INDEPENDENCE



DJ Qbert and YodaFrog Thudrumblin' worldwide

Original Invisibl Skratch Piklz DJs Qbert and YodaFrog, the pioneers of scratch with a "K" (the phenomenon of sound creation through manipulation of the turntable) have first-handedly molded the shape of the DJ industry.

Since the establishment of the Thud Rumble company in 1996, its products have become the standard of the scratch world: from the needle to the slipmat, right down to the cables, Thud Rumble has a say in how it goes with DJs.

2005 marked the launching of Thud Rumble's newest invention, the QFO, a turntable/mixer hybrid, which also happens to be portable and solar powered.

"Next we're coming out with a new needle," YodaFrog reveals. "We've created one that sounds amazing and really sticks, and we finally hooked up with Ortofon, the world's leading manufacturer."

As for returning to the Bay, Thud Rumble is collaborating with Apple on a project called In the Studio, a presentation of the next generation of DJing to be held in San Francisco.

With Thud Rumble going strong, DJs can rest assured: Qbert and YodaFrog are hard at work perfecting the art of scratch. **LL**

CHRONIC OF THE MINUTE



Grand Daddy Purple a.k.a. G.D.P.

The Nug:

Dark purple in complexion, with a strong sour scent, it breaks down with the greatest of ease.

The Session:

Fill it up in a swisher and light that shit! Just be easy with those Superman rips or you'll be coughing up whatever lungs you got left.

The High:

The ultimate high, you'll be giggling in the clouds giving God daps in no time.

The Verdict:

The name alone says it all. G.D.P. is the grand daddy of trees, and shuts down that fake ass bammer purple dude on the corner tried to sell you last week. Cannibus clubs got it all day, so get those caregiver cards ready. Ain't it great living in Cali? "Cuz if it wasn't for that Grand Daddy smokin'..." We feel you Keak, we feel you.

Purple, purple
gone off the liquor!

GET ON YOUR P'S AND

Q'S

TEN THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT

QBERT

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illustrations: Wayland Chew
photography: Vivian Chen



Richard Quitevis, better known as the world-famous turntablist extraordinaire DJ Qbert, is quite possibly the most accessible living legend in the Bay Area. Forget the fact that he was forced to retire from competing in the DMC Championships after shutting it down from '91 to '95. It became obvious that his talent superceded the craft tenfold. Qbert, deriving much of his inspiration from the king of improv Miles Davis, has redefined the world of scratching, turning obscure break beats into symphonies of sound with an endless amount of possibilities. Even after touring the world with his group the Invisibl Skratch Piklz (including DJs Shortkut, Mixmaster Mike, D-Styles, and Yogafrog) and revolutionizing the art by elevating it to an almost scientific breakdown of aural elements, he still manages to have house parties when he touches down at his immaculate Daly City crib. So besides the fact that Qbert is the best... DJ... ever, what do we really know about the man behind the infamous alias?

RUCKUS decided to dig up the dirt with the man who dug through the crates and made history with a couple well-timed flicks of the wrist.

10. Excelsior District HOLLA

Your boy got his start in the Outer Mission, a melting pot of culture and early hip hop geographic semblance. "A lot of cars would drive by with their system blasting, and you could hear it everywhere," he describes about the days where the ginormous ghetto blaster reigned supreme. With the density of Latino DJs in the hood, hip hop became inescapable for the young graduate of Luther Burbank Middle School and Balboa High School. Talk about being raised in the hustle.

9. He still has phat ass house parties

"You call this crackin?" he asks. On a Tuesday night with about 75 people mingling about admiring the graphic paintings, spotless white carpet, and chromed-out TransFormer collection, I don't call it "un-crackin'." I guess it's an every day thing to have camera crews, Lucas Film employees, and Goapele n' crew in tow on a random ass weeknight. "Luckily I've never gotten anything stolen after all these years, so it's very cool...knock on wood." After we all finish laughing, he adds "Watch, my car's all stolen after this." Umm, about that...sorry Q, I had to go on a beer run...

8. Humble is the word

RUCKUS: Do you ever get irritated when people scratch all wrong?

Qbert: I get irritated at myself because I feel I'm very behind in my scratching. There are a lot of really good DJs out there that don't get any light, and when I competed in those competitions, it just so happened I got lucky and won. I still like to keep learning." Come on now, luck is only half the story, and if Qbert is behind in his scratching, then the rest of us have a loong way to go.

7. The DJ's DJs

Qbert's faves will always be the homies, "Big up to the crew, Mixmaster Mike and the guys." He also has an affinity towards DJ Jazzy Jeff after being on tour with him, and highly respects DJ Flare.

**I WOULD BE A
REGULAR ME
WITH THE WINGS OF
A FALCON OR EAGLE**

6. Man vs. Beast

R: If you could be half animal, what would you be?

Q: I would be a regular me, with the wings of a falcon or eagle so I can look like an angel and bounce whenever I want.

5. Paradise redefined

R: If hip hop died tomorrow and you had to create a wildlife refuge for DJs what would it be like?

Q: It would definitely be like Hawaii where everything would be super-heaven with a palace on a hill, pillars, a view of the blue ocean. There would be a room for breakdancers, and turntables over there where you can scratch and look at the whales swim and tropical birds fly by. Drive down the hill and there's a record store with every single record imaginable.





4. White Chicks

R: Do white girls holler at you now that you're famous?

QB: Every once in a while, yeah. It's very strange

3. Health, Wealth and Knowledge of Self

If Qbert was to order a Filipino dish in an extra-bourgie VIP room, it would have to be Tofu Adobo. This vegetarian since '92, thought to himself "If I can win this competition, I can win this competition with my health." Discipline, young patawan, and pass that Tofu Adobo over here!

2. Eclectic Collection

- 5.) Ludacris - "Pussy Poppin"
- 4.) Anything by jazz musician Dave Brubeck
- 3.) First four albums by Eric B. and Rakim.
- 2.) Ali di Meola, playing the flamenco guitar
- 1.) Zakir Hussain, playing the tabla drums.

1. Give us a call E-40

"Him [E-40] with some really cool production and some scratching would blow everyone out the box." So are you offering, Q? "Oh yeah, I would love to scratch with him because I think he's really different." Damn, if those two Yay forces combined like Voltron, it would be f-in' bananas. Just make sure **RUCKUS** gets the first copy.