

# WOLP

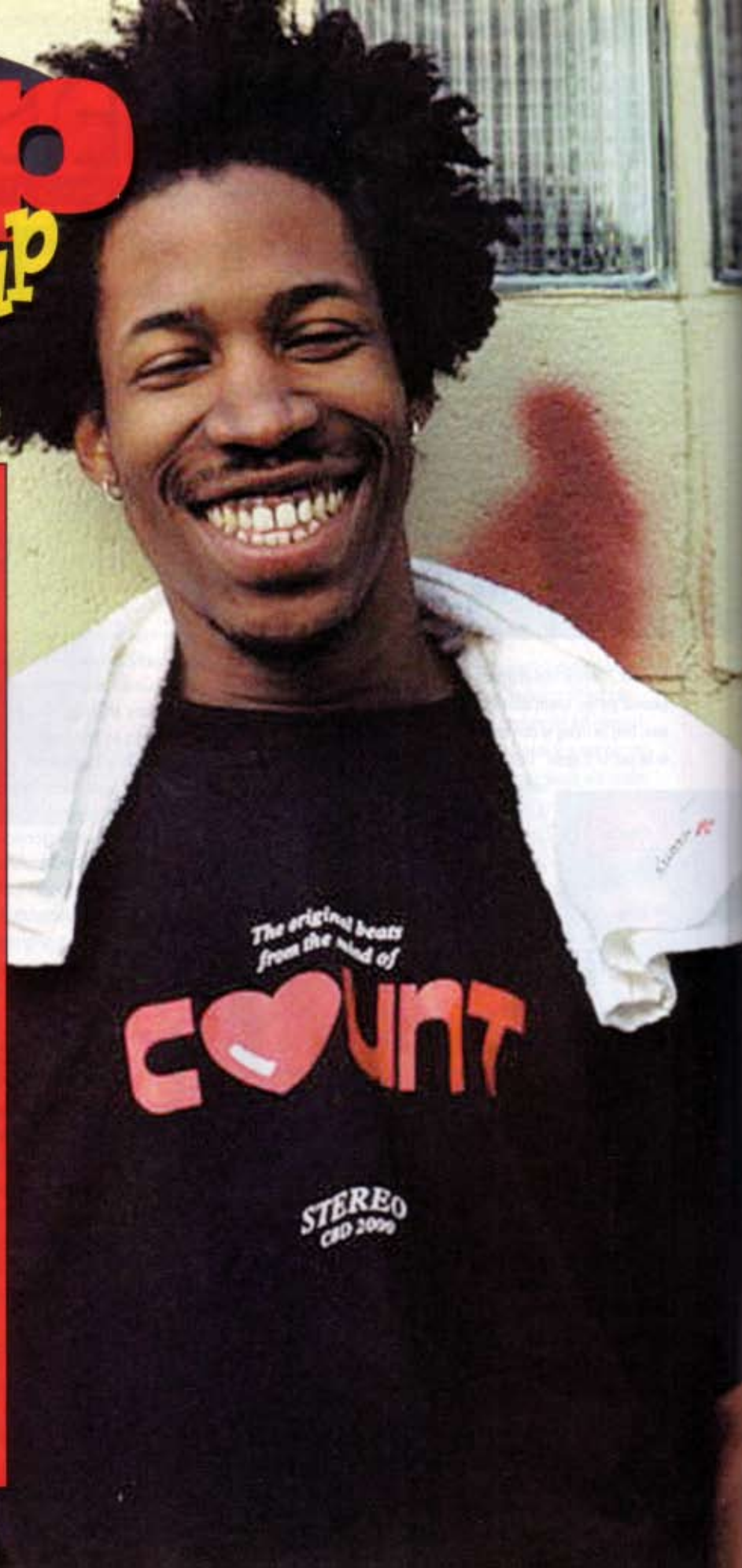
## Round-up

### COUNT BASS D

Rapper-Slash-Multi-  
Instrumentalist

It's a big deal in hip-hop to handle double duties as a producer-slash-rapper. Guys like Dr. Dre and Eminem have made it their business to work that sort of hip-hop overtime. Someone like Pharrell takes it even further by throwing that (overused) falsetto of his into the mix. However, not many hip-hop artists can make the claim that not only did they rap on and produce their album, but they also rocked the turntable, keys, drums, bass and guitars. By doing so, Count Bass D is out to prove that he's "the Gregory Hines of this hip-hop thing."

This Count has been around. He grew up in the Bronx, London and Canton, Ohio. He was encouraged by his father — a West Indian minister — to take up music. By age four he was rockin' the drums at his father's church. This gave the young Count the opportunity to add instruments such as the piano and organ to his repertoire. Hip-hop quickly became his number one love and he was soon doing the street corner rap battle thing with friends. Following his stint at a music school in Pennsylvania where he pursued R&B and jazz, Bass D enrolled at the Middle Tennessee State University in Nashville. It was there that he produced the demo that'd launch his decade-plus long career. Since then the multi-instrumental emcee has worked with the likes of the Beastie Boys, MF Doom, J-Live and Van Hunt. His latest release, *Begbarrowsteal*, has him proving once again that this emcee can literally do it all. Eat that Pharrell.





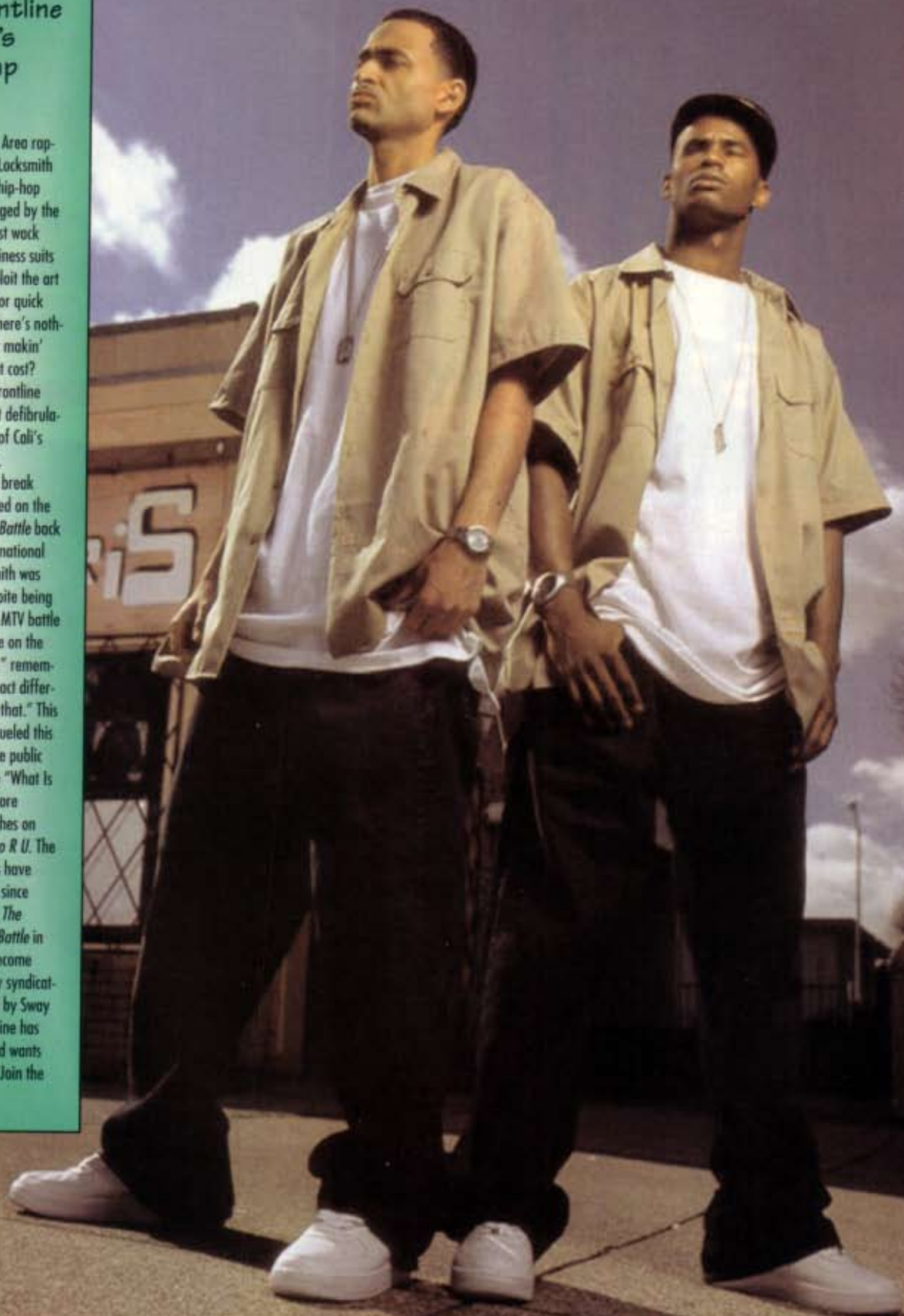


## THE FRONTLINE

### On The Frontline of Hip-Hop's Ongoing Rap Battle

California's Bay Area rappers, Left and Locksmith know that the hip-hop game is a war being waged by the realest of emcees against wock rappers and men in business suits who seek to further exploit the art and culture of hip-hop for quick monetary gains. Now, there's nothing wrong with a rapper makin' some dough, but at what cost? These men are on The Frontline and they're ready to put defibrillator paddles to the chest of Cali's flat lining hip-hop scene.

The duo's first major break came when they appeared on the first ever *MTV Freestyle Battle* back in May 2003. They won national acceptance when Locksmith was awarded runner-up, despite being the crowd favorite. "The MTV battle gave us more perspective on the east coast hip-hop scene," remembers Locksmith. "They react differently, you have to know that." This experience only helped fueled this group's fight. They hit the public with their radio hit single "What Is It" and two mixtapes before putting the finishing touches on their 16-track debut, *Who R U*. The junior high school friends have been doing the rap thing since 1996 and participated in *The Source's Unsigned Hype Battle* in 1997. They went on to become regulars on the nationally syndicated *Wake Up Show* hosted by Sway and King Tech. The Frontline has invaded the rap game and wants all b-boys and b-girls to "Join the fight!"







## COPYWRITE ● ● ● ●

Ohio-Based Rapper  
Keeps His Game On  
*Cruise Control*

Now that we're well into 2005, we can look back at 2004 and reminisce about all the funky stuff that happened. Things like Janet having her top pulled off by Justin or the tragic and unexpected death of ODB. But the biggest news item of the year was the 2004 election, which almost escaped much of the controversy experienced in 2000. There seemed to be some controversy stirring as the nation awaited the final tally in... Ohio. The reason they took so long? It was probably due to Copywrite's inability to hit the polls on time, since he was too busy putting together his *Cruise Control* mixtape.

Hip-hop headz already know the name Copywrite. Back in the '90s this Ohio-based cat was a member (rapper/producer) of the group MHZ, who got their break through Bobbito Garcia's now defunct Fondle 'Em Records. In 2002 he dropped his solo debut, *The High Exalted*, which featured production from the likes of the masterful RJD2. This earned him stage time with artists such as The Roots, M.O.P., Dilated Peoples, Chingy, and the High & Mighty. And in 2003, Copy took home the prize at the Jay-Z and 50 Cent sponsored *Roc Da Mic Battle*. Currently dealing with the majors, Copy decided that before he winds up with the perfect recording contract, he'd drop a 27-track mixtape. With tight rhymes from Copywrite and production duties being handled by guys such as underground poster boys Jay Dee and J-Zone, it seems that Ohio loves its delays, because not only did they help hold up election results, but this cat should've been signed years ago.

