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Right On

66

Pages Of
Colossal
Posters &
Pinups

SPECIAL
MEGA POSTER ISSUE

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A NINTENDO DS
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BOW WOW & CIARA

Are They
Dating?



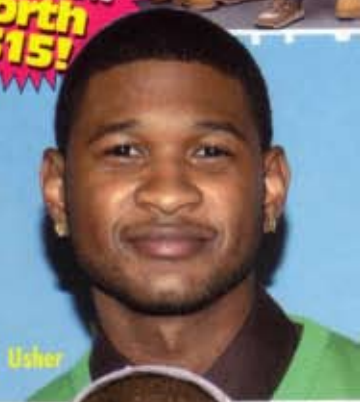
YOUNG GUNZ FIRE

The Truth About
BLING

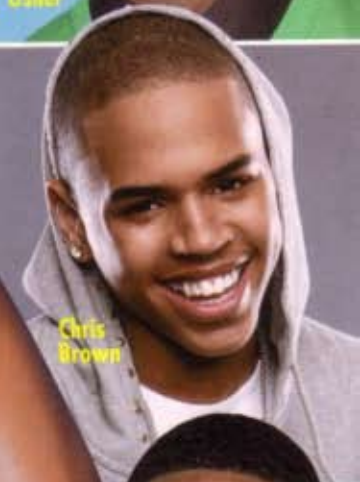
BROOKE VALENTINE

Confesses

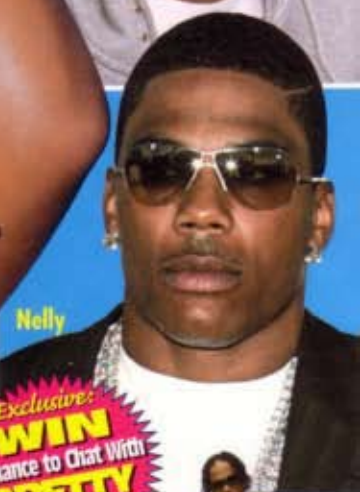
"Girl Fights Are Not Smart"



Usher

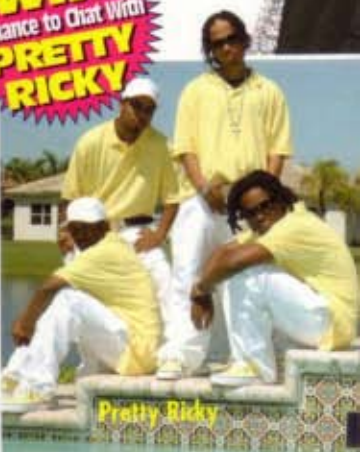


Chris
Brown



Nelly

Exclusive:
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A Chance to Chat With
**PRETTY
RICKY**



Pretty Ricky

SEPTEMBER 2005 \$4.99 Canada \$5.99
U.K. £2.75 WPS 35060



www.rightonmag.com

the jump off



Sitting pretty in my office in New York City. I have interviewed celebrities, written stories and, of course, played Solitaire all from this chair.



Cover girl, Brooke Valentine stopped by to show me how to defend myself in a girl fight.



Grind With Me? (From Left) Slick 'Em, Spectacular, Me, Baby Blue & Pleasure of Pretty Ricky get close for a photos after lunch at BBQ's.

Welcome to our famed **MEGA POSTER BLOW OUT ISSUE**. Right now you are thinking one of two things. Firstly, where in the world is the renowned Cynthia Horner? Secondly, and perhaps even more important to you: are **CIARA & BOW WOW** dating? To answer your first question, my name is Danica Daniel. Hailing from Brooklyn, New York, I am the new Editor-In-Chief of *Right On!* The torch has been passed to me and I intend to carry it proudly.

Of course, like many of you, I grew up reading *Right On!* I remember running to the drugstore every month, four crisp dollar bills in my hand, with one goal: to plaster every single *RO* poster I could find on my wall. Back when **IMMATURE**, **LL COOL J**, **MONICA**, **MARIAH CAREY**, **TLC** & **SWV** were hot, I had so many posters on my bedroom wall you could barely tell what color the original paint job was. Though the faces that grace the pages of *RO* have changed since I was a teen, one thing has stayed the same since the magazine was founded over 30 years ago. It is still the virtual bible of urban teen entertainment, hooking you up with your favorite celebrities and, of course, serving you a healthy dose of the insider gossip and exclusive contests that you have come to crave. Expect *RO* to undergo a major facelift. If you haven't already noticed, the issue that you hold in your hands is definitely super-sized with more pages filled with the industry's hottest celebrities.

Now to answer your second question, are Bow Wow and Ciara dating? To learn the answer to this question and to catch up with **USHER**, **DESTINY'S CHILD**, **Ciara**, **Bow Wow** & more, turn to our new out & about department, *Pavement* (p. 4).

In this month's issue, our cover girl **BROOKE VALENTINE** explains why girl fights are stupid. Danica Dow goes inside the world of Bling ("The Notorious B.L.I.N.G.," p. 81) and we straighten out the rumors swirling around the alleged relationship between **MARIAH CAREY & MARIO**. Until next month!

WIN THIS!

The first person to send me a letter (333 Seventh Avenue, 11th Floor, New York, NY, 10001) with the name of the song where the Notorious B.I.G. says, "Super Nintendo, Sega Genesis, When I was dead broke, man I couldn't picture this," will win this amazing Nintendo DS tote filled with an electric blue Nintendo DS, 2 DS games, a sarong, a straw beach hat & mat, a water bottle, sarong hand cream, coconut foot cream and a shell necklace all valued at \$315.

Danica

P.S. If you can't wait until the next issue of *RO*, be sure to hit up our newly revamped website chock full of exclusives. Also, pick up a copy of this month's *Black Beat* magazine with **BOW WOW** on the cover. As the Editor-In-Chief of that magazine, I can promise you an issue as juicy as this one.

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reel deal

THE SIMPSONS: SEASON 6

A far cry from the ideal Cosby family, the Simpsons were America's most lovable imper-

fect clan. Everybody's favorite animated yellow family is back for their sixth season. Fans of this hilarious series consider seasons five thru nine a sort of golden era for the show. The best episodes aired during this season, and though Fox is being quite slow to release the DVD sets, we're slowly-but-surely getting some of *The Simpsons'* finest work.

This set is jammed with some of the most easily memorable episodes including Homer's butt-bearing tiny tricycle ride in "Homie the Clown," Jon Lovitz's *The Critic* making a crossover appearance in "A Star is Burns," and the notorious "Who Shot Mr. Burns?" two-part cliff-hanger that started at the end of the sixth season and wrapped up at the beginning of season seven. Of course, expect a plethora of featurettes, commentaries and plenty of deleted scenes.



KING'S RANSOM

Anthony Anderson stars in this madcap comedy about Malcolm King (get it? Malcolm... King? Ugh.), a wealthy businessman about to go through an expensive divorce from his wife (played by *The Bernie Mac Show's* Kellita Smith). Rather than pay up his share of the divorce settlement, King has come up with a lamebrain plot to secure his money in the only place he sees fit — his pockets. He plans an elaborate scheme to secretly kidnap himself and demand a ransom so high that the public will believe he's gone completely broke, thus unable to pay his wife. Little does he know that his wife has come up with her own hilarious scheme. The film is backed up with a solid supporting cast including Jay Mohr, Donald Faison and *Chappelle Show's* very own Charlie Murphy.

Special features on this Platinum Series DVD include audio commentary with actors Anthony

Anderson and Jay Mohr and director Jeff Byrd; over 20 deleted scenes; Gag Reel; *Down and Dirty* documentary; and theatrical trailer.



THE COSBY SHOW: SEASON 1

Before *The Cosby Show*, there were plenty of successful black sitcoms being aired on national television. However, none of them had yet to tackle the black family from the same angle as Bill Cosby's show — remember, George and Weezy were "movin' on up," whereas the Huxtables were already enjoying their fulfillment of the American Dream. Cliff (played by Cosby) was a doctor; his wife Clair (played by Phylicia Rashad) was a lawyer and their kids were all well-adjusted and would later make their way to college. Consistently funny and always heartwarming, *The Cosby Show* became a success by simply portraying a happy, loving and well-to-do American family.

In addition to introducing you to the likes of Theo, Rudy and the one tiny Raven Symone, this four-disc box set includes all 24 issues of the first season; a 12-page memorabilia book featuring extensive liner notes and rare photos; featurettes; bloopers and outtakes; and the 90-minute special *The Cosby Show: A Look Back*.



THE BREAKIN' COLLECTION Giveaway

Whether you want expand hip-hop film collection; enjoy some old school b-boy fun; or simply learn all the poppin'-n-lockin' moves performed by Ozone and Turbo, you need to be one of the first five readers to send us a postcard with your full name and home address to the address listed below.

You'll receive your very own *Breakin' Collection* boxed set, courtesy of MGM Studios and *Right On!*

Reply to:
The Breakin' Collection Giveaway
 C/o *Right On! Magazine*
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 New York, NY 10001
Good Luck!

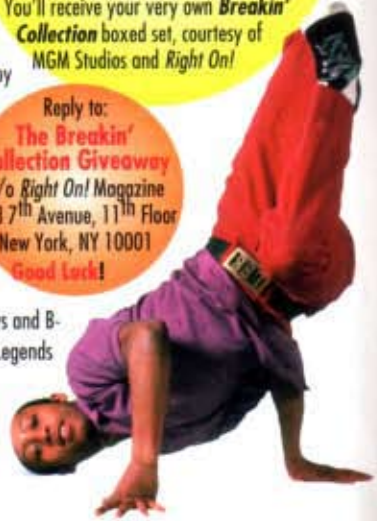
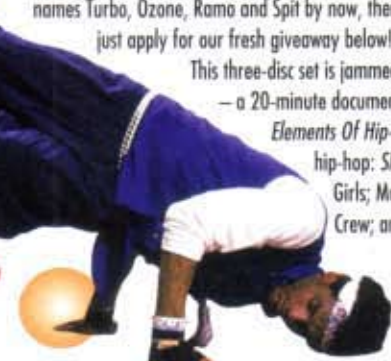
THE BREAKIN' COLLECTION

Once upon a time in the world of hip-hop, there were a few elements that no hip-hop head could live with out. Older cats who watch the three films (*Beat Street*, *Breakin'* and *Breakin' 2*) included in this must-have collection will probably shed a tear as they reminisce, whereas young'uns will probably enjoy watching hip-hop legends such as the Rock Steady Crew, Ice-T, Kool Moe Dee, Doug E. Fresh and DJ Kool Herc do their thing when hip-hop was still far from a mainstream industry. If you don't already know the names Turbo, Ozone, Ramo and Spit by now, then you better get your hands on these films today — or just apply for our fresh giveaway below!

This three-disc set is jammed with hip-hop features including *The Culture Of Hip-Hop* — a 20-minute documentary featuring interviews by B-Boys and B-Girls; *The Elements Of Hip-Hop* — an In-depth documentary about the four elements of hip-hop; *Shout-Outs* — Five minutes of hilarious shout-outs by the B-Boys and B-Girls; Music video: "Will Not Be Destroyed" performed by the Living Legends Crew; and a gallery of over 100 behind-the-scenes still photos.



10 RIGHT ON!



>play



Tyco R/C Dropstars

www.tycorc.com

Tomorrow you can tell all your peers – in complete seriousness – that back at your single mom's ratty 1.5-bedroom apartment in the PJs, you have a Chrysler 300C, Dodge Magnum and Land Rover Range Rover parked in the living room. If they laugh at you and respond with a "Girl, is you crazy?" Then you can be like, "Nah, I'm tellin' the troof, 'cuz The Tyco® R/C Dropstars™ line of radio controlled custom vehicles feature illuminated wheel wells, Phat Lip™ Ultra-Deep Dish Rims and soundtracks from the hottest hip hop artists. These small and mid-size vehicles are available at mass retail stores for \$3.99 and 13.99, respectively. It'll cost \$29.99 for 1:16 scale and \$119.99 for 1:6 scale." Dang girl, you is crazy!

20q Pocket Mind Reader

www.thinkgeek.com

Everybody's played 20 Questions at least once in their life. However, if you're one of those poor souls who had a childhood deprived of this simple-yet-fun game, this is how it works: your

A MATERIALISTIC STATE-OF-MIND

friend chooses an object in their head and using no more than 20 questions, you must guess the object they had in mind. This object can be pretty much anything.

Well, now you don't need your loser friends to play this game – kick those freeloaders out of your grandma's house and play the game all by yourself with 20q! The rules are the same, but this time you must try and stump a nifty handheld electronic device. You'll be surprised at just how smart this less-

than \$20 gadget actually is. Much smarter than your lamebrain friends, that's for dang sure.



Pod Skinz

www.macskinz.com

You finally got an iPod and while you love walking around listening to your customized playlists, we just know you're starting to feel like just another member of the white headphone club. You might be wondering how you can recapture some of that lost individuality. Well for starters, you can pick up one of these colorful skins. They're available in sizes that'll fit Minis, original, 3rd and 4th generation Pods. There are designs from artists like Tes Orie, Freddi Cerasoli, Ragnar, Jon Foster and they range from avant-garde and cutting edge to kitsch and urban. Or you could go for a solid color or even animal print if that's your thing. Oh yeah, they also protect your Pod from scratches too.



Lazer Tag

www.lazertag.com

What could be better than an old fashioned game of tag? A new fashioned game of laser tag, of course! This summer, pick up a few Lazer Tag sets and accessories, gather a group of friends and declare war. Accessories include Taggers (the laser gun) with audio/visual HUDs (that you wear like high-tech shades) to display when



A FUTURISTIC FIGHT FOR HUMANKIND!

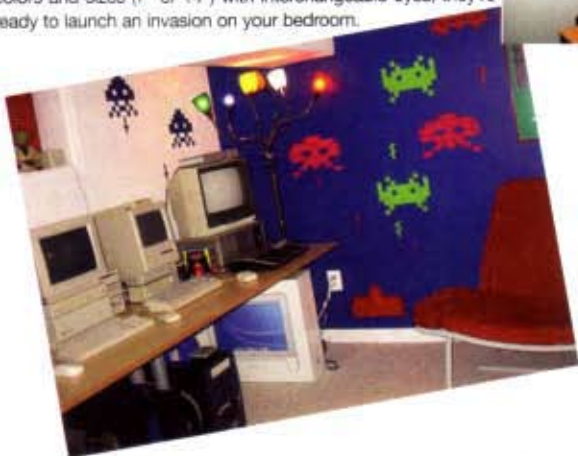
Giant Robot & Invaders Surface Graphics

www.thinkgeek.com

The invasion has begun. Giant monsters are storming City Hall and the nation's most-treasured landmarks are being zapped to bits by flying saucers from outer space. We knew this day would come. The acopolypse, the end of the world, and the final fate of mankind – it's all over...



...Oh, they're just your colorful and geek chic wall decorations. Yes, we knew that and weren't scared for a bit. These removable decals stick to any flat surface and can really spruce up a dull space. Available in various colors and sizes (7" or 14") with interchangeable eyes, they're ready to launch an invasion on your bedroom.



Lazer Tag Giveaway
1, 2, 3, 4. We declare a Lazer Tag War. Five lucky readers will win two-player laser tag sets courtesy of Hasbro and Right On! To enter the battle just be one of the first five to reply to the address below.

Reply to:
Lazer Tag Giveaway
C/o Right On! Magazine
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New York, NY 10001
Good Luck!

you've locked onto a target, along with real-time statistics; head-sets to communicate with teammates; Virtual Scopes to enhance the accuracy of your Tagger; and Thunder Packs that add rumble feedback when you're tagged. Now doesn't that sound better than regular old tag?

In 2005, the Roc-A-Fella legacy lives on. Despite the divorce of Diddy and Jigga, the label continues to thrive and is well on its way to proving to the world that it's bigger and stronger than ever. Memphis Bleek

kept it hot with the Jay-Z starring "Dear Summer," sexy newcomer Teairra Mari is giving the Roc newfound youth, and Kanye West is about to dropout of college all over again. Yet, it was the Roc's Young Gunz who had the most to gain. With their debut release, *Tough Love, Nicetown*, Pennsylvania natives Chris and Neef proved they could roll with the best of the Roc Familia. However, sales weren't quite up to their expectations. We recently caught up with the *Brothers From Another* to discuss how they plan on becoming the Roc's torchbearers; their business practices; recording on the road; and grillin' up a mean burger on the streets of Philly.

"My family is his family and his family is mine."

Ready. Aim. Fire!

The YOUNG GUNZ
set ablaze the
Roc Family
Torch.

BY ANTHONY Q. CASASNOVAS

SUMMER IN THE CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE

How the 'hood keeps it poppin' during the sunniest of seasons

Now that you're big time, are you still holdin' down Philly?

C: Yes sir! We moved our moms out, but we still in the 'hood! (Laughs)

N: In fact, we had our listening party back in May right in the city. When we're in New York we're just doin' the I-95 up-and-down!

What do you do for summer fun in Philly?

N: We cook out! Just last week we had a cook-out for a whole week – for nothing! It was just nice out. We had some nice days last week so we was cookin' out on the block.

C: Yeah, you know how we do! A few cases of Coronas, a bunch of burgers, a bunch of dogs, some sausages – we even got the old heads on the block do some salad up for us. We just out there partying!

C: We also go swimmin'...

N: And amusement parks. Last summer we took the whole 'hood to Dorney Park in a bus ride.

N: For the Fourth of July we head to South of the Border to get the fireworks for the kids, man! (Laughs) We do it all and we ain't ever leavin'!

So you guys are Philly-for-life?

Hopefully not! We love to be in the 'hood and that's all we know and everything, but we ain't sayin' that's cool. Everybody should get the chance to move out the 'hood. We just ain't make enough to move out us and all our loved ones yet. When we get to that point we'll have all the real family, all the real homies, all the real thugs up in big houses, you know what I'm sayin'? But as far as right now, we got our moms out. That was our priority – that was the thing we had to do. Otherwise, we're still good for right now.



BLACK BEAT: As your latest album title – *Brothers From Another* – suggests, you guys are practically like siblings.

How do you manage to keep your relationship so tight?

NEEF: [Unlike us] most things you see in the industry is put together and time will tell whether [other groups] will split up. But with us, it was before this rap thing. It was before Chris even knew how to rap! We was ridin' with each other, going to school together and comin' up together. You know, we was even doin' what experimental young'uns do: smokin', gettin' into trouble – you know. We was wildin' out! (Laughs) But we stepped up early, with a lot of light. Our fathers were never around and our stepfathers was doin' time, so we had to hold it down for the family. My older brothers was gettin' into s#t, so we was close to our mothers. You know what I'm saying? We was puttin' it down and on the same page. Just tryin' to get our moms up on an out that m"the"

f*#ker, but we still in it. We still hungry, man. We still puttin' it down. We really is *Brothers From Another*, this is real rap. My family is his family and his family is mine. **CHRIS:** We ain't get what we expected [from *Tough Love*]. We recorded this album on the road during the Jay-Z & Friends tour. You know, there was that R. Kelly situation with Jay, Roc-A-Fella split up around that time and there was stuff goin' on back home. It kept us together and basically [during the recording] we were also dealing with day-to-day stuff.

So did all of those experiences somehow make it into *Brothers*?

C: Yeah! You know we had the [Apple] G4 with us every night, so we'd just go into the "studio" and talk about what happened. The "studio" was really just our hotel or bus! We'd be recording in hotels, from room-to-room every night. By the time we came off the tour, the album was done.





"For the Fourth of July we head to South of the Border to get the fireworks for the kids, man!"

I'm sure recording an album like that kept the album way under budget too, right?

N: Exactly! We were saving all those recording costs, because this time around we were definitely more business-minded than anything. We got our lawyers together and accountants right, man. That way everyone can just remain focused [on the music] and be on the same page. First time around, it wasn't like that. S#t was unorganized. We felt good recording *Brothers*, we was comfortable.

Do you feel like you're carrying the torch of the "new" Roc-A-Fella?

C: Well, we was carrying the torch before the split up, you know what I'm sayin'? We put it down, we wasn't in nobody's shadow. We was comin' with Chris and Neef out the gate. Our first single, "Can't Stop, Won't Stop" was nominated for a Grammy. We came out real strong and appreciate all the love and sup-

port that everybody been showin' us. We made a hell of a statement in the game with the *Tough Love* album, but we ain't really sell as much as we thought we should. As they say, "It gets greater later" and our new one is just retarded.

Is that the reason you decided to also go with fewer guest spots?

C: Yeah, we actually did a song with Jay, but it ain't come out right. [It's funny] because even with Jay on a track, we ain't gonna throw it out there just because his name is on it. If it ain't quality we ain't gonna put it on the album, otherwise we'll come off lookin' crazy and [in this case] Jay would have come off lookin' crazy.

N: Yeah, and like I said, this time we were much more business-minded. We know about our publishing now and everything. We don't want a bunch of features. We don't want everybody eatin' up our publishing. Granted, if we get something hot we'll consider it. We got a west coast joint on there called "Tonight." Daz did the beat while we was on the road and it came out hot. You just can't deny heat, but I'm not just gonna be callin' everybody to be like, "Get on this joint. Get on that joint." It's a waste of money and eats up our publishing. There's already two of us and we split everything 50/50 from the gate! From now on, we're doin' fewer features. On our first album we had damn-near the entire squad off the Roc. (Laughs) That's how we got down! We got love for everybody, but now they on our level with that bulls#t.

Now that you're talkin' all this business, tell us about your label...

N: Yeah, we had to start up our own label, man. You know what I'm sayin'? We got a business mind. That's what I'm sayin' — we ahead of the pack. We had to step it up early up in Philly, 'cause it gets real out there. So we started up our own label, G.I.F.I.: **Get In where you Fit In.** We got our artists, like Pooda Brown. That's my [older] brother — we lookin' out for him, 'cause he's

"From now on, we're doin' fewer features. On our first album we had damn-near the entire squad off the Roc!"

retarded [on the mic]. We also been keepin' the mixtapes out. We already on *G.I.F.I Part 3*. You can also check out *Young'ns In Charge* and *30-Minute Shootout* with Whoo Kid. We done did mixtapes with

everybody, with every one we switch it up.

With all of this stuff poppin' off, what's the girl situation like?

(Both laugh)

C: Nah, we both bachelors right now.

What about any celebrity crushes?

N: You know, I love 'em all! (Laughs) But, you know, that'll only be for the moment. Once you get 'em — like 50 says — when he had Vivica, he thought he was on to something, but not a week went past where it was nothing. That's how it be, man! **RO**

HOT OFF THE BBQ

WHAT'S (LITERALLY) HOT ON A PHILLY BLOCK?

What's the Young Gunz's favorite food off the grill?

C: Cheeseburgers! You know, cheeseburgers with the barbeque sauce. It's all about keepin' it simple.

What about Philly Cheese steaks?

C&N: Yeah!!!

N: That's our s#t!

C: That's the twist!

N: There's a lot of other stuff goin' down though — that's the last thing!

What's your favorite summer drink?

N: I like clear fruit drinks.

C: Yeah, I like VitaminWater too. Iced Tea — Mystic Iced Tea...

N: Homemade Iced Tea from the Chinese store! (Laughs)

C: We keep it simple, man!



on the VERGE

ERICA LYNN O'KEITH The Actress

Why is she on the verge of blowin' up?

"I remember when I was four; my teacher asked me what I wanted to be when I grow up and I wrote on a piece of paper that I wanted to act," says actress and co-star of Nickelodeon's *Romeo*, Erica Lynn O'Keith of the childhood aspirations she's turned into her current career. It wasn't long before she started to make her dreams come true. Her mom started to take time off from work to bring her daughter to any auditions that rolled into town. "She really sacrificed for me," admits Erica, but the sacrifices paid off.

She landed parts in national commercials for major companies such as AT&T, Right Aid and Hershey. Her parents continued backing her every move, insisting that she "do everything until you find what you love." She honed her skills at the Amazing Grace Conservatory — a school where Los Angeles youths express themselves through acting, singing and dancing. She starred in Conservatory productions of *The Little Shop of Horrors* and *Westside Story*, and upon graduating high school, landed the role of Jodi Miller on *Romeo*. Since then, she's grown infatuated with directing and readily states that she "would love to be a director of Hollywood feature films."

The Spark:

While her first love is acting, Erica admits that she's always had a love for sports. "I am such a tomboy, as a kid, I played every sport out there: basketball, softball and even football," she confesses. "You can still find me out there playing with guys, or watching the game on TV, I'll be the only girl out on the field or in the room." One day we might have to report that she's also on the verge of blowin' up in professional sports too!

PRETTY RICKY

The Boy Band

VERGE

Why are they on the verge of blowin' up?

Every generation has their pick of boy bands. From the Jackson Five to Immature, girls have always had their choice of dancing and singing heartthrobs to spend every last penny of their allowances on. The current round of these industry-manufactured fresh-faced lads includes Diddy's own B5, but not to be outdone, Miami's produced the catchy and interestingly named foursome of Pleasure, Slick 'Em, Baby Blue and Spectacular.

"We want to be trendsetters. Everything somebody is doing, we try and go against the grain and do something else just to be different," says Baby Blue — the apparent business-minded member of the group. They've been doing their thing around Florida since 1997. They started as a cute group of pre-teen backup dancers for their older brother and have since grown into their own stardom and becoming known for their sparkling outfits (earning the nickname "glitter boys"). They've even developed their own clothing line. Their combination of boy band aesthetics and Miami boss pushed the brothers into the spotlight, performing with some of the South's biggest such as Lil Jon, Trick Daddy and Miami's current favorite Cuban, Pitbull. Their debut album, *Bluestars*, promises to be just the thing these boys need to make them blow.

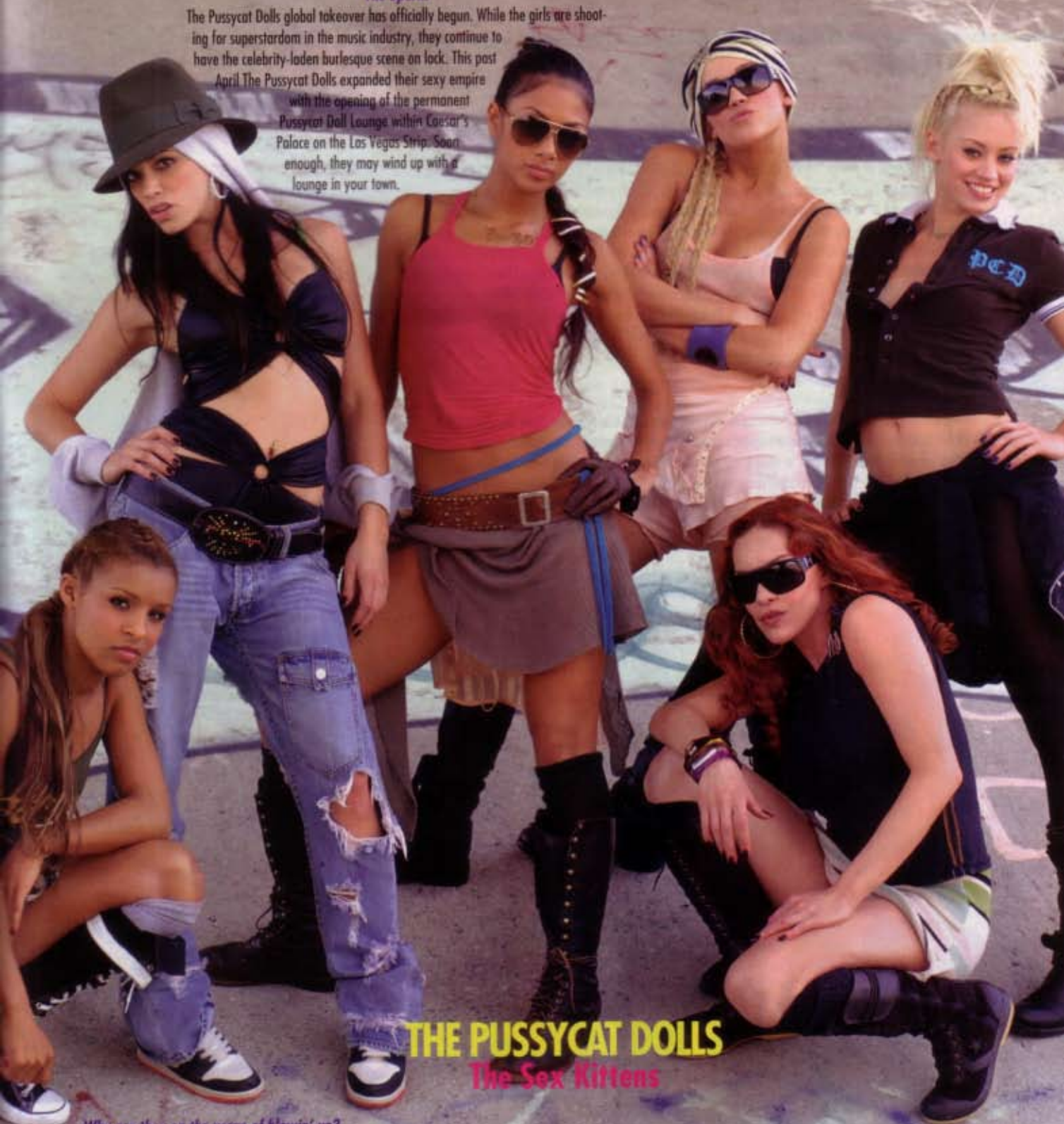
The Spark:

Like many other boy bands before them, Pretty Ricky is quick to draw comparisons to the all-time greatest (and most talented) boy band: the Jackson 5. However, unlike their peers, the brothers of Pretty Ricky have someone in their corner who will make sure they'll set off the spark that'll cause them to blow — no matter what it takes. Just like the notorious Joe Jackson, the father of this foursome, Blue Smith, is considered a staunch disciplinarian who ensures that Pretty Ricky continues to keep their game in check. They've lovingly given their daddy the name of "ol' boy."



The Spark:

The Pussycat Dolls global takeover has officially begun. While the girls are shooting for superstardom in the music industry, they continue to have the celebrity-laden burlesque scene on lock. This past April The Pussycat Dolls expanded their sexy empire with the opening of the permanent Pussycat Doll Lounge within Caesar's Palace on the Las Vegas Strip. Soon enough, they may wind up with a lounge in your town.



THE PUSSYCAT DOLLS

The Sex Kittens

Why are they on the verge of blowin' up?

You've seen and heard of these colorful girls before. Founded by dance choreographer Robin Antin in 1995, The Pussycat Dolls have built a name for themselves as a now star-studded female burlesque dance revue based in Los Angeles. What does this all mean? Well, the Dolls would perform dance numbers dressed in old-fashioned pin-up costumes (remember the "Lady Marmalade" video? Then you're on the right track) without resorting to nudity or overtly sexual performances. The show caught on quick and was featured on MTV, VH1, a number of ad campaigns and movies such as *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*.

As their popularity grew, so did their guest stars. Everyone from Christina Aguilera to Fergie of the Black Eyed Peas has donned the Pussycat Doll wardrobe and with the upcoming release of their debut album, there's no doubt that their popularity has reached all new levels. Their first single, "Don't Cha" featured hip-hop heavyweight Busta Rhymes, with the soulful genre-bender Carole Green handling production duties. These cool cats made up of Robin, Carmil, Melody, Nicole, Ashley, Jessica and Kim have also appeared on the soundtracks of *Shall We Dance* and *Shark Tale*. By the time their debut drops, they'll have the whole world purring for more.

T.O.K

The Kingston Kings

VERGE

Why are they on the verge of blowin' up?

The quartet of Xavier "Flexx" Davidson, Craig "Craig T" Thompson, Alistaire "Alex" McCalla and Roshaun "Boy-C" Clarke are more than ready to dominate the ever-expanding dancehall scene in the United States. Hailing from Kingston, Jamaica, this group of 20-somethings knows what it takes to "make it" in the states based on their upbringing and steady diet of MTV, BET and American hip-hop. Like many young musicians on their home island, they got their big start at the annual Tastee [Patty] Talent Contest and have since released an album (2001's *My Crew, My Dawgs*) and now their sophomore effort *Unknown Language*.

In addition to simply taking dancehall by storm, T.O.K. is bringing additional island flavor with their sound. They already merge their R&B and hip-hop influences with dancehall, but also throw soca and reggaeton (with help from Pitbull) into the mix. Further, these guys are bringing (along with their party-ready anthems) music with a conscience. Three of the members were choir boys through Campion College and bring this sort of education to light with song such as "Footprints" which is a tribute to Alex's brother and the countless others who have died through the violence found across the world. As it turns out, their *Unknown Language* is a dialect that is familiar to all.

The Spark:

The group's name is an acronym that used to stand for Touch of Klass. However, over the years it has taken on a few different meanings including "Taking Over Kingston." Regardless of what their name has been in the past or what it will be in the future, critics are going crazy for them right now. The New York Times called the group the "world's greatest dancehall-reggae boy band" and Blender Magazine listed their song "Gal You Ah Lead" as one of the top songs of 2004. These sorts of rave reviews are bound to make T.O.K. a proverbial T.K.O. in the music industry. And boy, was that a weak attempt at a pun. **RO**



Page Turners



What I Know is Me: Black Girls Write About Their World

By Christen Satchelle & Natasha Tarpley
Harlem Moon, an imprint of Broadway Books
\$10.95

What I Know is Me: Black Girls Write About Their World is the first book by and for African American teenage girls. It is the brainchild of Christen Satchelle, a student at Seton Hall University who wasn't satisfied with the media available for young black girls. "Ever since I was a young girl, I have felt that I could not relate to TV shows, magazine, or music that were available for young women my age. I have always felt as if there was something missing," she says. Satchelle teamed up with award-winning writer Natasha Tarpley to create a book, which she hopes will fill the gap. *What I Know is Me* is packed with short stories, essays and poems by teens from all over the US. It offers first hand accounts on racial identity, family, sex and relationships, body image, neighborhoods and spirituality. The experiences in this book bring to light just how crucial it is for African American girls to see and hear themselves. This groundbreaking collection will serve as an invaluable roadmap for the African American girl's journey through adolescence.

Video Cowboys A Georgia Barnett Mystery

By: Yolanda Joe
Simon & Schuster
\$23.00

Best-selling author Yolanda Joe is back with the third installment in her Georgia Barnett Mystery series. *Video Cowboys* features wise cracking, crime-solving TV reporter Georgia Barnett and its

jam packed with fast-paced suspense, delivered with Joe's trademark comic edge and sassy attitude. In this book, Georgia's trip to the ATM turns into a life-or-death standoff when Brett, a recent escapee from a mental hospital, commandeers the bank with a homemade bomb. But Brett isn't your typical bank robber looking to get some quick cash. He's simply a father desperate to find his missing daughter. Since the police ignored the case he was forced to take matters into his own hands. Georgia strikes a deal with Brett: in exchange for her freedom she'll air Brett's videotape ultimatum on the Channel 8 news. When Georgia finds herself with the hottest story of the year in her hands and her cameraman's life on the line, she decides to find the missing girl herself. She enlists the help of a trio of veteran cameramen called the Video Cowboys. Georgia and the Video Cowboys follow leads all over Chicago, dodging bullets and engaging in a high-speed car chase along the way. Mystery fans hold on tight. Yolanda Joe's *Video Cowboys* is a wild, funny ride.

We Beat the Street

Drs. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt with Sharon M. Draper
Dutton Children's Books
\$16.99

Sam, George and Rameck could easily have followed their childhood friends into drug dealing, gangs, and prison. They grew up on the mean streets of Newark, New Jersey, where survival, not schoolwork was the priority. When the three boys met in high school they made a pact to get each other through high school, college and medical school. Along the way they made mistakes, made foolish decisions,

and found themselves in dangerous situations but by working hard and resisting negative influences they achieved their goals. Today, Sam and Rameck are both doctors and George is a dentist. They call themselves the Three Doctors and they all work in the same community where they grew up. *We Beat the Street* is full of revealing anecdotes and personal remarks from the Three Doctors that they hope will inspire readers to form pacts of their own.

How to Win Friends & Influence People for Teen Girls

Presented by Donna Dale Carnegie
Fireside
\$14.00

Want to know the key to successfully surviving your teenage years? According to Donna Dale Carnegie "It's all about making friends and being a good friend." Donna is the daughter of Dale Carnegie, one of the most successful self-help authors in history and she's bringing her father's time tested, invaluable lessons to teen girls. *How to Win Friends and Influence People for Teen Girls* offers concrete advice on teen topics like peer pressure, gossip, and popularity. Carnegie gives readers fun quizzes and "reality check" sections as well as powerful techniques to influence others, defuse arguments, admit mistakes and make self-defining choices. Of course no book for teen girls would be complete without mentioning their favorite topic... boys. Carnegie gives advice on how to maintain friendships with boys and deal with commitment issues and break-ups with boyfriends. She even touches on issues for older teens like driving and college interviews. *How to Win Friends and Influence People for Teen Girls* will set any young woman on her way to becoming a savvy, self-assured friend and leader.

