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music



Get Hyphy

Although the original ethos behind Earl Stevens' hip hop moniker developed from his love of 40 oz. bottles of malt liquor, the name **E-40** will soon stand to represent the longevity of the collar-poppin' MC's career. At 39, the Bay Area rapper has stepped out of the underground and onto the charts as one of the most prolific figures in hip hop music. Fueled by his 12th album, *My Ghetto Report Card*, E-40 has brought the synth-heavy beats of crunk heavyweight Lil Jon from Atlanta to Northern California — reinventing himself as one of the leaders of the newly popular "hyphy" movement. On the album's first single, "Tell Me When to Go," the lyricist delivers rapid-fire rhymes over a hollow, trunk-rattling beat while keys jingle in the ignition. Fellow rapper Keak Da Sneak also appears with a raspy growl that makes you think his favorite drink is Cuervo and gravel.

But before E-Fonzarelli's Nor-Cal gospel hit teenybopper top tens around the country, a young Stevens cut his teeth in The Click — a group he founded in his native Vallejo, Calif. With other members B-Legit, Suga-T and D-shot, The Click released its first album, *Down and Dirty*, in 1994. The group would go on to record five more albums and establish themselves in the Bay Area music scene.

As a solo artist, E-40 has worked with everyone from Snoop Dogg to Jay-Z, introducing a lexicon of slang that continues to influence hip hop's top wordsmiths. In addition to his work in the studio, the "Ambassador of the Bay" has explored other business ventures such as opening a Fatburger franchise in Pleasant Hill, Calif., and expanding his record label, Sick Wid It Records. Currently on tour with Twista, E-40 will show the rest of the country why his recognition in hip hop has been long overdue. E-40 plays at 8 pm Friday, April 27 at the Lane Events Center. \$35 adv., \$39 door. — Zach Klassen

Irreverent Reverend Packs Heat

A DJ / A DJ / Let's get out of here / A DJ... / Let's get out of here / I know a place with a little better atmosphere / It's cool let's go!

Never invite the **Reverend Horton Heat** to go hear your favorite DJ, no matter how well that DJ drops a needle. As the above lyrics from "If It Ain't Got Rhythm" (*Revival*, YepRoc Records) suggest, that won't fly.

Like a devilish musical hellhound, the hatchet-voiced

Reverend Horton Heat (aka Jim Heath) brings divine nutriment (straight up rock and roll) to the less than virtuous (people like me). It's raw, fun, psychotic and feels better than having drunken sex in public.

"If you're a musician, you play music," Heath says. "You don't sit around waiting for some golden record deal. We live in a really topsy turvy world where people who can't sing are making millions of dollars selling records, but the guy that studied and has a Ph.D. in music is playing piano at the Hyatt Regency."

Geniuses are playing on the street, Heath says, while, "some cute little girl who can bounce around and knows the right dance moves is making a million dollars."

"Rock and roll never really had a chance," Heath says. "People act like, oh, rock and roll — they've been doing that forever. But it really died in the 1950s. Rock and roll is Jerry Lee Lewis pounding straight-eighths on the piano. Then in the 1960s all of a sudden Mama and the Papas are singing these folk song harmonies, and they're rock and roll. And then you had these art bands in the 1970s. That's not rock and roll. We play rock and roll."

Amen!

Reverend Horton Heat and Murder by Death play at 8 pm Wednesday, May 2 at the WOW Hall. \$20. — John Dooley

!!! Dammit !!!

Dance music, in all its various incarnations, acts as a barometer for the times. Disco, punk, New Wave and hip hop are all intrinsically connected to the '70s and '80s; without the tumultuous global and political situation that riddled those two decades,

