

# ENTERTAINMENT



## Lo-Key?

## M E R L I N



Lo-Key? will be known as the group that put the "fun" back into "funky." At a time when many artists from the streets are making politically charged "street" music, full of anger and attitude, the Midwestern group Lo-Key? has leaped onto the scene with the audacity to have a good time with their music.

As group member "D" says: "I grew up on the street. I understand the street. And I know you can have a good time on the streets, too. Somebody needs to step in and talk about things that aren't so serious. You're gonna laugh

when you hear our record. Because somebody out there wants to have a good time."

Songwriter-producer Prof. T. adds: "Right now, things are bad. It don't take a G.E.D. to figure that out. Other artists are expressing how they feel about things (by protesting). It gets depressing to us. It's obvious what the problems are. We're trying to write about solutions."

As you'll hear on their debut album, *Where Dey At?* Lo-Key? is a group that can be silly and serious at the same time.

Which explains their unusual

name. If you hear one of their smooth ballads, like the single, "I got A Thang 4 Ya," you tell yourself that this group is low-key... hot but subtle, like candlelight. But why, you may ask, do they include a question mark in their name? Well...that's because Lo-Key? is actually anything but low-key on stage...and off.

Every member of the group is full of energy and personality. Each has a distinctive look. Each has a sense of humor. And together they've created their own little world, with a style, point of view and even a language of their own. It's so sophisticated that they have a dictionary of Lo-Key-isms.

One side of their album reflects this personality. That's the Lo-Key? side (spelled with a question mark). That side opens with "Where Dey At," which sounds like a live performance at a nightclub. Before the next song, the group performs one of many brief comic bits on the album. In this sketch, late one night a man tries to get his girlfriend to invite him to her place, indicating he'd like a taste of her "milkshake"-a Lo-Keyism that isn't defined in their dictionary. The lyric of "Milkshake" is boldly direct; "Yo, I can't front. I'm on a hunt./Yo derriere is what I want."



"You see, rap is now an art, don't take it for a game. I made this lyric slow so it can seep into your brain."

"The Approach"/Merlin

From the opening salvo, "The Approach", which lays down the rules for how this game is gonna be played, Merlin throws down with a vengeance, letting everybody know and leaving no doubt that this is the one rapper who has no time for soft rhymes and lightweight thoughts. With his debut Warner Bros. album, Merlin is poised, ready and will-

ing to show all doubters, cynics and pretenders to the throne that his seething and melodic brand of UK rap is for real, serious and very hard-core.

At the age of 19, Merlin has already chalked up a lifetime of living. Born in London and raised in the melting pot Brixton district, Merlin got into music early on and, by age eleven, was singing and playing at this church. "It was a funky sort of church" he says. "We had drum machines and synthesizers." His first band was a group of teens, calling themselves the Juveniles, who played school dances. By the time he hit the ripe old age of 14, Merlin had hooked up with some local rappers, in particular, future partner MC Blade.

The duo entered a big rap competition and won, their appearance caught the ear of DJ Master Mix, who was impressed by youthful Merlin's microphone technique and his wise-beyond-his-years savvy. Merlin was quickly signed to Rhythm King Records. Finding that he worked best as a one man crew, he released "Born Free," which was produced by the British house/rap posse The Beatmasters.

Merlin's moody voice and fierce raps were soon in demand. Other collaborations included work with Bomb

the Bass and S'Express, whose resulting records all hit the British Top Ten charts.

It was after this first rush of success that Merlin's youth caught up with him. "Well, I went into prison," Merlin says slowly, still hesitant to speak about that period in his life. "It's a long story, but I can say that I was innocent. But", he states matter of factly, "I was up to naughty things and I suppose if I hadn't gone then I would have gone another time."

After his six month detour away from music, Merlin had come to a few conclusions, the first one being that he wanted to leave Rhythm King. He was a man without a label when Warner's Craig Kostich "came to the rescue" and signed Merlin to Warner Bros. in the United States.

Don't go looking for fluff about cars and gold rings from this rapper; Merlin don't play like that. "A lot of rappers, they abuse the position that they are in," Merlin declares defiantly. "A rapper is supposed to be a poet. I think that a lot of them have become very lazy. You can explore words, they're wonderful things! There's so much you can do with them. A lot of these rappers aren't even thinking of what they're doing."

## There's A Ho-Ho-Whole Lot Of Holiday Excitement At The Walt Disney World Vacation Kingdom



The '92 holiday season shines brighter than ever as guests take in the sights, sounds and the spirit of the season on special "Christmas weekends" beginning Nov. 26 (Thanksgiving weekend). Among the highlights of the holidays is the traditional "Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Parade" which winds through the festively-adorned streets of the Magic Kingdom and the magic and mystique of the all new "Aladdin's royal Caravan" at the Disney-MGM Studios Theme Park.

The new holiday preview weekends are the perfect opportunity for guests to watch the streets of the Magic Kingdom, Epcot Center and the Disney-MGM Studios Theme Park undergo an enchanting transformation into a holiday wonderland with towering fir trees studded with lights and ornaments, animated ship windows and all the trimmings of the joyous season.

Special holiday shows, tree-lighting ceremonies and other seasonal treats are part of the festivities that begin with the Thanksgiving holidays and continue through year's end.

Magic Kingdom

Mickey Mouse himself is in the festive holiday spirit and is hosting his own holiday parade in the Magic Kingdom. "Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Parade" will wind its way down merry Main Street on "Christmas weekends" (Nov. 26-29, Dec. 5-6, Dec 12-13, Dec. 19-20 and daily Dec. 21-31.

On Christmas Day, "Mickey's Very Merry Christmas parade" becomes the centerpiece of a two-hour live television network broadcast.



Pictured here with Next Issue are Peabo Bryson (center left) and LeBaron Taylor, Senior VP of Sony Music Entertainment Inc. (center right).



Pictured here along with Next Issue are Congressman Ron Dellums, (D.CA) (center Left) and Mary Wilson (former Supreme) (center right).  
Class Act: The nation's best gathered at the D.C. Convention Center for the congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 22nd Annual Legislative Weekend. Sony Music Entertainment Inc. co-sponsored and elegant post-dinner gala where politicians savored the sounds of Epic recording artists Next Issue and Columbia recording artist Peabo Bryson.

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