

Focus

'King of Crunk'

Lil Jon expands new hip-hop beat

(AP) — With its irresistible hip-hop beats and shouted refrains, crunk music incites a fervor in fans that's reminiscent of a religious experience.

"I would define crunk as more of a spirit," explains rapper David Banner. "Have you been to a Baptist church in the South? It's similar to that. ... It's that feeling in the club that gets you through life."

But the Southern-based church of crunk also relies on R-rated chants and drink-and-toke party themes popularized by its leader: Lil Jon, a dreadlocked, metal-toothed producer whose trademark shouts of "YEAH!!!!", "OOOO-KAAAAAY!!!!" and "WHAAAAATTTTTT????!!!!" are saturating pop radio.

"The energy from these records, that's what makes crunk so popular; that's why it's winning, because it makes you move a certain way," says Lil Jon, sounding far more mellow than his bellowing stage shtick. "Like when you hear Aretha Franklin sing - it touches your soul. Crunk music, it makes



Lil Jon on the streets of New York. (AP photo)

you just wanna lose your mind - just be free and wild out."

And there's plenty more wilding ahead.

Last week, Lil Jon and his cohorts, the East Side Boyz, released "Crunk Juice." It's the follow-up to their 2002 double-platinum "Kings of Crunk" album, which included the infectious hit "Get Low," which crossed over from nightclubs to frat houses.

The new album, which includes guest appearances from Usher, R. Kelly, Nas, Ice Cube and others, includes the typical hollering, body-slammng anthems crunkheads crave. But Lil Jon wants to give them a little more substance - like

what he bills as the first crunk song with a story, a collaboration with esteemed producer Rick Rubin. The track tells the tale of a simple man struggling to fight against the problems the world puts upon him.

The title? It would get bleeped on MTV, but let's just say it asks to simply be left alone.

A former record executive by the name of Jonathan Smith - Lil Jon may be most responsible for the skyrocketing popularity of crunk.

"The thing I give Jon credit for is putting it all together and giving it a name and giving it a face," says Banner, a longtime friend. "The spirit has always been here. He defined it."

Fake Story Makes News

(AP) — A fake story about singer R. Kelly circulated on the Internet and attributed to The Associated Press was picked up by The Miami Herald and then sent by the Knight-Ridder/Tribune wire to newspapers across the country.

The story falsely contended that Kelly, who is facing 14 counts of child pornography in Chicago, had been accused of making sexual advances to the underage sister of the singer Ashanti.

Herald executive editor Tom Fiedler said the story was picked off the Internet because it "had the appearance of an Associated Press story or seemed to be attributed to AP. The editor took it and unfortunately failed to verify it moved on the AP wire."

The Herald and the Knight-Ridder/Tribune followed the error with correction stories.

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World Music and Dance
World music and dance is on Thursday, Dec. 2 from 8-10 p.m. at The Egyptian Club, 3701 S.E. Division. \$5 cover. For more information, call 503-236-8689.

Holiday Ballet
Oregon Ballet Theatre's production of George Balanchine's the Nutcracker shows at Keller Auditorium Dec. 10 through Dec. 23 at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, call 503-2-BALLET or visit www.obt.org.

Dreams and Desire
Dreams and Desire, The Films of Wong Kar-Wai, play at the Northwest Film Center through Dec. 19 at the Guild Theatre, 829 S.W. 9 Ave and Whitsell Auditorium, 1219 S.W. Park. Admission is \$7 general, \$6 members, students and seniors. Visit www.nwfilm.org for full schedule.

Have a Ball
Kids will have a ball at OMSI's new Innovation Station by exploring the human side of technology. For more information, visit www.omsiedu.

Church for Girls
DJ Boy, high priest in the Church of Girl, a Portland based radio program that showcases independent female music and art, busts out live sets at Doug Fir Lounge, 830 E. Burnside, from 5 to 11 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28. For more information, visit www.churchofgirl.com.

The Land Civilization Forgot
The simulator thrill-ride Dino Island: The Land Civilization Forgot has returned to the Oregon Zoo by popular demand. Riders become part of a scientific team whose mis-

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
show at 8 p.m. All ages. \$20.

Laugh Factory
Comedy returns every second Wednesday of the month at the upscale Bacchus Restaurant, thanks to EEI International. For more information, call 503-223-5236 or visit www.eei-international.com.

Festival of Chorale
The Columbia Chorale of Oregon performs at The Grotto for this season's Festival of Lights on Saturday, Nov. 27 at 7 p.m. Additional performances are at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 at the Peace Lutheran Church, 2201 N. Portland Blvd. and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5 at the Olmscheid Auditorium at St. Helens High. Tickets are \$12.50 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors. For more information, call 503-543-6620.

Write Around Portland
Write Around Portland's free creative writing are at various locations around the city. For more information and locations, visit www.writearound.org or call 503-796-9224.

Amusement At Oaks Park
Celebrating 99 years of fun, Oaks Park in southeast Portland offers rides, picnic grounds, roller-skating and family games in the shade of 100-year-old oak trees on the banks of the Willamette River. Rides and roller-skating are open daily. For more information, call 503-233-5777.

Glacier Run
The Oregon Zoo presents Glacier Run, a simulator ride worth bundling up for. For more information, visit www.orgonzoo.org.

Sick Wid Holiday Show
Legendary hip hop group Bay Area Tycoon E40 will perform on Friday, Dec. 10 at Roseland Theater, 8 N.W. Sixth Ave., for Sick Wid It Holiday

Rock the Fir
Rock and other live shows bless the Doug Fir Lounge, 830 E. Burnside, on Nov. 26 with a Monster Mash Up Rally, Nov. 27 with a Morr Music Tour, Nov. 28 with Late Sondre Lerche and The Golden Republic and on Nov. 30 with Raw Power and DJ Gregarious. For more information, visit www.dougfirounge.com.

Laughing Through It
A Portland Jam Night plans to heal the community's ills through laughter at the Wave Theatre in north Portland. The live music and clean sketch improv comedy is at 9 p.m. Fridays. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for kids. For more information, call 503-735-4184 or visit www.jam-night.com.

Trippin' through Town
Take a trip through time to find the hottest poetry, hip hop and soul influencing Portland on Wednesdays at the Ohm. \$7 cover. 31 N.W. First Ave.

Local Artists Featured at Abbey Cafe
The Abbey Cafe, 441 N. Killingsworth St., invites musicians to sell their CDs and perform on Fridays and Saturdays. For more information, call 503-286-4847.

Patriotism Studied
"Between Patriotism and Fanaticism" is a temporary installation by artist Sebastian Garrido-Bor. His work is displayed by the Regional Arts and Culture Council in the Portland Building lobby through Dec. 7 at 1120 S.W. Fifth Ave.

Epidemic Grows More Diverse

continued from Front

now be categorized with many other manageable long-term diseases such as cancer and diabetes.

"We have lots of people we work with here who have been living with the disease for 15 to 20 years. Conventional wisdom is that people with HIV can live with the disease indefinitely," he said.

This creates a challenge from the perspective of prevention. With more people living healthier, longer lives with HIV and AIDS, the opportunity for transmission is greater, as is the risk of greater complacency.

Bruner calls this the flipside to AIDS progress and management.

"With people with HIV living a lot longer, this has created a sense of complacency with a lot of people; not just youth. They think if they get this thing, they can take some medicine and be okay. It seems less urgent, less of a crisis, less of a death threat," he said.

He also said the increase in new cases of AIDS stems from a disconnectedness from the suffering the disease brought in the 1980s and early '90s.

"Because of the progress we've made, there's also a whole new generation of youth that has never seen anybody die from AIDS, never lost a friend to the disease, never buried a lover or a partner, never watched anybody waste away from the disease," said Bruner.

The Cascade AIDS Project will thank its volunteers and supporters with an event at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Portland on the eve of World AIDS Day, Tuesday, Nov. 30.

While Bruner prefers not to view World AIDS Day as a "celebration," his non-profit does have bragging rights for their work.

In 2004, Cascade AIDS Project reached 22,971 youth and adults with educational messages, served 1,638 men, women and children with HIV and AIDS, and utilized the skills of 570 volunteers who gave 15,001 hours to the program.

Hope is Vital

continued from Front

7:30 p.m. at the Crystal Ballroom, 1332 W. Burnside. Tickets are available at TicketMaster outlets or by visiting www.africaaidsresponse.org or calling 503-225-0047.

Other Portland events include, an AIDS Action Project Northwest commemorative event at 4 p.m. Dec. 1 at the World Trade Center Plaza, 121 S.W. Salmon St., hosted by former Gov. Barbara Roberts with Mayor-elect Tom Potter in attendance and with musical guests Portland Gay Men's Chorus.

Catholic Charities AIDS Ministry will hold its 10th annual healing liturgy at All Saints Church, 3847 N.E. Glisan St., at 7 p.m. on Dec. 1. Archbishop John Vlazny will be the main celebrant. If you want the name of a loved one placed in the memorial book, submit his or her name and year of death to 503-963-8102.

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