MISSY ELLIOTT GETS FREAKY

JADAKISS: INDEPENDENCE DAY

DENISE RICH ON SONGWRITING, SOCIALIZING, AND POLITICAL SCANDAL

DESTINY'S CHILD'S NEW ALBUM

JON B REDEFINES HIS SOUND

CLIVE DAVIS: GRAMMY BLOWOUT

CHECKING IN WITH JIMMY JAM & TERRY LEWIS
DROPPIN’ DIME
VIBE’S TOP 10 LIST
COMPILED BY REBECCA LOUIE

1. Muay-Thai. Can you kick it? Yes, you can. Thailand’s any-limb’s-a-weapon martial arts craze has fists and feet flying all across Europe, South Africa, and the U.S.

2. Miles: A Miles Davis Retrospective, Missouri History Museum (314-746-4599). Back that jazz up into this exhibit and celebrate the birth of the cool.

3. Champion Ventures (www.championventures.com). Pro Football Hall of Famer Ronnie Lott keeps ballers from bankruptcy with this investment group for athletes.

4. Trojan Magnum XL. If you’re packin’, but can’t pack it in, this brand new, 30 percent larger prophylactic will keep your big willy covered. (But let’s keep it real—only 6 percent of men fit the bill!)

5. Grenada Spice Jazz Festival, May 26—June 4 (www.grenadaspicejazzfestival.com). Legendary guitarist and R&B smoothie George Benson is one of many performers at the Caribbean’s hottest arts and culinary festival.


7. 2964SL customized faux boxing gloves by Everlast (800-221-8777, ext. 214). Mama said “Knock you out,” but don’t use those tired red mitts. Pack colors like pink and gold to your punch. (Ring-ready gloves out later this summer.)

8. City Gym Boys (www.citygymboys.com). These 10 amateur urban bodybuilders/fitness trainers will make you sweat—in more ways than one! Mmm-mm!

9. Rap Snacks. Hip hop’s potato chips bring bling to your local deli by featuring Universal artists like the Cash Money Millionaires on their bags.

10. Cover Girl All-Day Lipcolor. No need for constant mouth resuscitation. Line your lips with kiss-, food-, and sweat-proof shades.

Groove Merchant
Windy City Web site simplifies the search for the perfect beat

Where can DJs and hip hop and dance producers go to find hot break beats to sample? The same place European jazz heads and South Side Chicago soul brothers go beat-digging: the Chicago-based online record store Dusty Groove America (www.dustygroove.com). The site offers sonic esoterica ranging from the Crash Crew’s self-titled full-length LP to the trippy jazz fusion of French pop singer Serge Gainsbourg’s Histoire de Melody Nelson.

“We sell music that you can’t find elsewhere, whether you’ve been looking for it for 20 years or you’ve never heard of it,” says Chicago college-radio veteran Rick Wojcik, who—with partner John Schauer—started the Web site in 1995 as a hobby. The pair began selling hard-to-find records online out of Schauer’s bedroom, using one computer and a tiny collection of albums as inventory. Their company now has 15 employees and reported more than $2 million in sales last year.

Former Talking Heads leader David Byrne is a frequent customer, as is Chitown’s No ID, who has produced songs for Common, says Wojcik. Kenny “Dope” Gonzalez, who’s remixed songs for Michael Jackson and Madonna, has also bought hundreds of albums from Dusty Groove. Recently, he purchased Groving in the Trash, a compilation of the Soul Fire label’s classic-style funk 45s, and Tribe Vibes, 26 full-length songs and 10 drum skits sampled by A Tribe Called Quest. “It’s good for me to constantly keep checking on them, because you never know what’s coming out,” says Gonzalez.

Vinyl junkies can visit Dusty Groove’s new retail store, which opened this April in the city’s bohemian Wicker Park neighborhood, though the heart of the business remains online. And despite the dotcom fallout and the rise of digital music, Dusty Groove remains a vital outlet.

“The recording industry says MP3 is the future,” says Wojcik. “But we still sell a lot of vinyl. Even albums that are available on CD, some hip hoppers just have to buy it on vinyl.” —Jonathan Lesser