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THE **REAL** STATE!

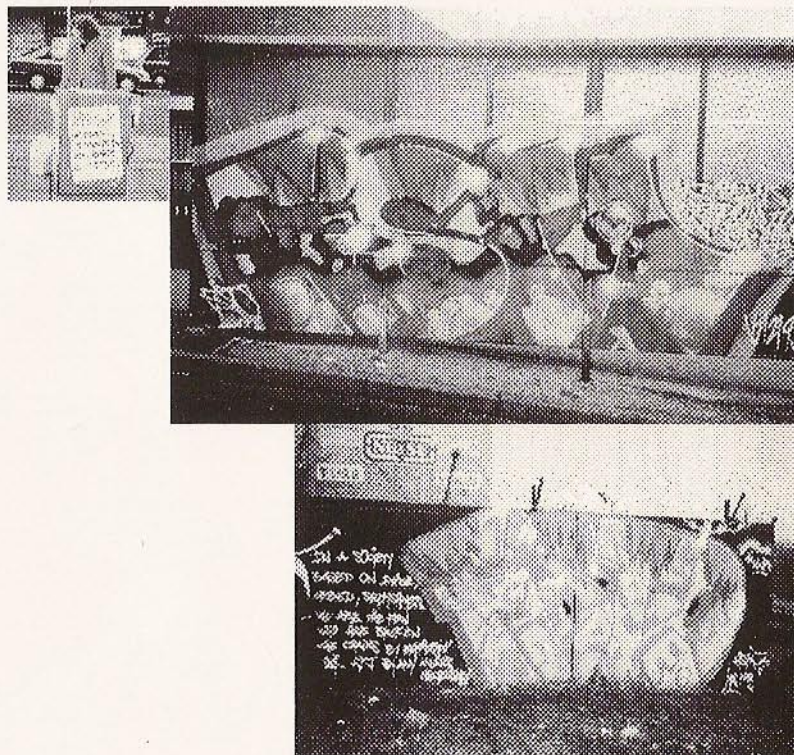
Do not judge
us by our cover

ART OF SURVIVAL

PAGES 8 → 15

FISTA

By now you know the name, but not the face nor why he has this urge to decorate the whole country...



DJ DEXTROUS



DJ Dextrous - named after the "Nightmares on Wax" record 'Dextrose', aged 19 years

When did you first start DJing?

I was 16 and playing mainly soul and reggae. I started seeing Easy D playing his music in 1988 and started playing little spots with his records. I played at CJs and found I was "not bad"! I also played at small parties and started collecting my own collection of records. Easy D and I used to plat on the radio, MIGHT FM.

What are your musical roots/influences?

Reggae and soul - "Bob Marley and the Wailers". I like the emphasis on the bassline. It's vitally important to the rest of the music and the effect it has. Also hip hop.

Where did you first play?

CJs and JDs. Later at all the "Damages" in 1990 when hardcore was really kicking.

When did you start playing on the radio?

1990

Why did you disappear for a while from the music scene last year?

I was supposed to be playing at a New Year's rave "Mentasm" in Doncaster. I brought all my records but wasn't playing. I went to put the records in my friend's car, but I put it in an identical model, not his! When we went back to the car, no records and I haven't seen

them since. My first intention was to give up. But then Easy D helped me out, lent me some records to get me going. People kept on asking why I wasn't playing, so I got back on it again and started saving my money for records etc. I had to start from scratch again.

How do you rate Sheffield for musical creativity, venues and dance?

When CJs were good, Sheffield was excellent. Now we have to go and play out of Sheffield instead of staying here. There are a few good DJs. When they mix records, they're really thinking about what they do instead of just chucking on anything. Not everyone can be a DJ. A DJ is somebody who has good taste in music and can watch the reaction of the crowd - to give them what they want, what will make them dance. You can play a certain tune and not get a response and you know that's not what they wanted. There must be an ability to mix, not to know where one record ends and one starts. The people should have nonstop dancing while he's mixing, just continuous music all night.

You play a lot of Jungle, Ragga and Hardcore compared to most dance DJs. What do you like about it - What inspires you to mix well?

It has an atmosphere to it - makes me feel good and it's not just drum beats or flat, one-dimensional like techno. It has a depth and a lot more quality to it. Jungle to me is a really complex break-beat but it also has a steady kicking beat behind it and a heavy bass.

Compare Jungle to Techno with regard to dancing and soul expression.

I think Techno is a music that needs drugs to dance to! It's just too basic, soulless stuff. It's good to mix in but by itself - no. It just doesn't bite like real dance music.

Why do you think a lot of the public is scared/prejudiced against Ragga and Hardcore?

There's a stereotype that black people have of being violent, anti-social etc and many people admittedly do live up to that stereotype. In a world where so much is against you, it's easy to give up and behave how people treat you. I don't blame the public for being a little frightened or anxious on encountering ragga. But it's not what ragga is about, if they'd listen.

Ragga is an attitude - it's that way of expressing yourself, very bold and determined. It's saying you're proud to be what you are, not being ashamed of it, and saying so. It's celebrating what you are. There is no judgement or "anti" flavour to it. It's a very positive thing.

Where would you like to play your music?

Go to America and play. To tour the whole of the world and see what response our music gets. Music is the main way I express myself, so it seems pretty logical!

Describe any strange incidents that have happened during your career as a DJ.

I've been mistaken for "Top Buzz" at a rave I was playing at. Also, another time I was mistaken for Simon Baseline Smith! A record came out called "Roughneck Business" by somebody called DJ Dextrose and I got people coming up to me telling me "I've got your record". If that DJ Dextrose reads this, I would like him to get in touch with me!

What do you think of the Rave scene now?

Unfortunately it has become split up - E, Techno, Jungle, Hardcore, Garage. The big mistake people are making is in splitting music into different sections. It's bad when people label music. Rave is rave, it's as simple as that. Rave is about expressing yourself through dance, coming together and enjoying yourself when you're with strangers. Breaking down the social barriers that usually exist.



Do you think there is a difference between the rave scene down south and that up north (apart from the prices of raves)?

Music is more hardcore and ragga up north - more soft, techno, 4 x 4 beats down south.

How much time do you spend finding/mixing new tunes (outside of playing live)?

Constantly - twenty four hours a day! (Easy DJ) Hand picked, home-made rhymes (MC Rush)

You play over 5 venues a week, rumour has it you will soon burn out!

The faster we move, the better we play. We'll never burn out because dance music will never die. People have to express themselves. What we do is second nature - it's simple. A need will always be there. By the rules of reality, people have to dance. My kids will probably dancing to computer bleeps.

Where is your dream venue?

(MC Rush) - Amnesia House, Tenerife.
(Easy DJ) - Amnesia House, Fantazia.

What is your favourite track?

(MC Rush) - "We are E" by Real to Real
(Easy DJ) - "Edge 1" and "Edge 1 Remix"

What about your social life?

Music IS our social life.

What would you like to be remembered for?

(MC Rush) - The line "Move your bottom, sexy bottom" on my gravestone!!!

(Easy DJ) - "We gave the music that made them feel happy"

What keeps you going?

The love of it. Peace and understanding. The music. The people.

What would you like to be doing in 5 years time?

(MC Rush) - I'd like to be doing PA's with a full crew.

(Easy) - The same just making music
(MC Rush "He'll be SWD, cleaning toilets")

What are your personal tastes?

(MC Rush) - Soul, Ska music, Ice Cube, Ice T.
(Easy DJ) - Lovers, Soul, Hip Hop.

Fista

THE HAND IN THE FIST

When and why did you first start writing?

In 1985, just copying what I'd seen, then in 1990 I started writing everywhere in Barnsley, especially Worsborough. I hung around with another writer called DUSK.

What inspired you?

Hip Hop to begin with, then just the act itself. From the middle of '92 I really got serious about it.

What was your first piece?

Well, it wasn't quite like that. I just bombed everywhere. My first big dub was on a Worsborough bus shelter. It felt good and afterwards seeing your production gives you a real buzz. Jealous boys all think you use stencils to do your letters. But I don't. I prefer to do it freehand even though you risk making more mistakes. I can't wait for summer to come. Right now, it is hard because of the rain, cold and dark nights.

Where did you first write?
What features did you look for?

I look for walls wherever I go. Anywhere that can be seen. I get annoyed when you've taken a risk and written something and next someone comes along and writes over it. That shows disrespect and no originality. Someone did that to me last week. I've just gone back over him now.

What are your main aims when you go out writing?

Others writers have their names anywhere. I just write and get spots where it will get noticed. But I don't write the same thing 50 times on a wall. That's not what getting up is about. My favourite places are railway tunnels, motorway bridges and main roads.

What's your ideal piece of architecture/locomotion for a piece?

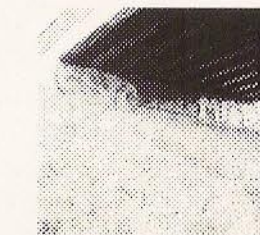
The middle of the city centre. The Town Hall or the Police Station.

How long does it take to do a piece?

A dub takes 15 minutes. If I'm in an easy spot, I'll take my time. A young girl watched us the other day and asked us what we were doing, but we've never really been bothered by passers-by. But I know someone who was chased by two lads and ended up getting covered in the spray himself!

What satisfaction does writing give you?
What problems?

It gives me a buzz when I see it afterwards. There's also a buzz when I'm out bombing. It feels like people know you. I like doing main roads. I've done Chesterfield, the next place I'd like to go is Nottingham.



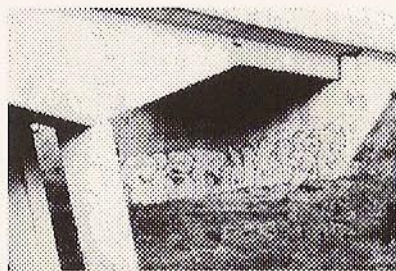
Since August 1992, "Fista" has become manic, big, in-your-face and everywhere! Why so much a short time?

I have a code which is if I say something, I'll do it. I can't stand hanging about or leaving things unfinished. If I say I'm going to do something, I'll get on and do it as soon as possible. It was probably also because I'd got nothing else to do. Even if I had a job or was at college, I'd still do it. I did start writing, however, because I was bored and wanted to express myself. But now I wouldn't stop.

Some people describe graffiti as anti-social, low-life or vandalism, or just something 'Kids' do. How would you respond to this?

It depends what type of graffiti. I'll do what I want to do. I don't want to do pieces just because I'm 'expected' to or because some snob prefers to see pretty pictures. It's blind society. Even day, everyday, everywhere we go we're bombarded with these big adverts, making money, selling lies. And people believe them. They're brainwashed even if they say they're not. But when someone is individual or real, they think it's some big crime. I don't feel part of this system or society.

I'd like to start writing more political messages in the future.



Music that makes people move!
(Rush) Ice T
(Easy D) Public Enemy and lots of hip hop. Soul.

What do you think the job of a DJ is?

To entertain the crowd, to play good. A good DJ is one who has the ability to keep the crowd moving. (Easy D) A good mixer is someone who drops a track at the E break, at just the right time.

What is the job of an MC?

To add a bit of injection/rush to the music. To direct the crowd.

How would you describe the music you play now?

Rave.

What rocks a crowd, makes them respond to the music and let go?

The beat (4 x 4). More force, more entertainment value.

Which do you prefer - radio or live?

Live. Radio is just practice.

Have you played much outside South Yorkshire?

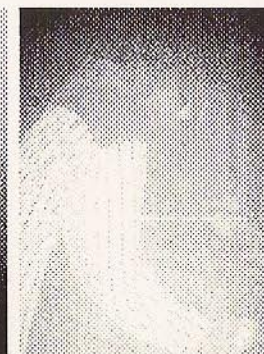
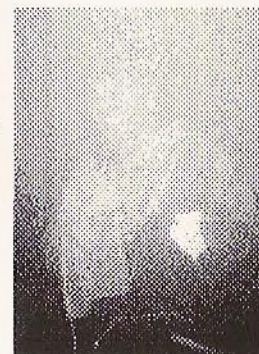
Folkstone, Bridlington, Cleethorpes, Manchester, Coventry.

Have you a favourite venue?

Bowlers - Manchester. It's huge and always rammed with people. Also the BYO - Doncaster, 'Leisure World' - Bridlington & Zest - Nottingham.

When you walk into a rave where you're going to play, what's the first thing you look out for?

(Rush) What the crowd's doing. We make them dance. They're usually on the coffees when we arrive.



Do you prefer the challenge of getting a static/shy crowd rocking or taking a manic crowd further?

The latter.

How do you find the right tunes?

(Easy D) Classified!

Do you ever go to raves just to enjoy yourselves?

No, just work! (MC Rush)
Yes! Amnesia, Perception (Easy D)

What are the pros and cons of being an independent team in the dance scene?

No cons! The perks are that you have the freedom of choice. We are our own boss. We get known through word of mouth. We don't have to peddle. The bookers know we deliver the goods.

You are both Sheffield born and bred. What do you think present music industry in Sheffield?

(MC Rush) On the dance scene, it's still looking good - lots of good mixers, creators, good kicking atmosphere at raves. It's well promoted and the raves are safe.

(Easy D) Good. It's still kicking up here. People came from London for "Jive Turkey" last year.

Sheffield has been elected "Sound City Of The UK" for 1993, yet jungle hardcore ragga music isn't featured. Many people would say this music was it's life blood, so why is it not promoted?

It's been driven underground. The 'rave' scene, which was commercially fashionable, has been split up. Before, it was all one. Now garage has moved into one little section and 'ravey' tunes into another. The hardcore creative section has had to go underground to survive. We're just waiting for the right place and the right time.

Which DJ's, MC's do you respect?

Gemini, Carl Cox, Frankie Valentine, Phantasy, Such Des, Rhythm and Ecstasy, Mongoose, Asterix and Space, Dextrous, DJ Rap, Winston Hazell, Deano, Seduction, MC Natz, MC Uzi and MC Power.

How do think your music influences people or their lives?

Make them more streetwise. It's music about reality. It puts people in a happy mood.

The house is full, people bobbling about with watery grins and moving limbs. The music's safe, there's no trouble but still the volume of conversation vies with the beat, people are looking around for something, easily distracted, restless, a bit bored. Someone looks at their watch.

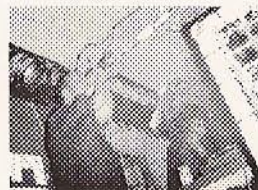
1.55 am. Two familiar shapes move through the crowd to the DJ box.

Within the next five minutes there is a drastic change in atmosphere. Suddenly, from nowhere it would seem, bodies appear on the dance floor. The place is rammed, and it's not just floor space. The atmosphere is concentrated, charged and expectant. Conversations stop, the bar empties. People know they are going to DANCE for the next one and a half hours, know that they will enjoy it, know they won't have to wait for a beat to start, that they are guaranteed nonstop rhythm, continuous rock-



"DANCE MUSIC WILL NEVER DIE"

EASY D AND MC RUSH



ing. Easy D and MC Rush have arrived. Crowd satisfaction a certainty, these two understand and practice the reality of dance music.

Why? How? Maybe it still remains a mystery...

"DANCE MUSIC WILL NEVER DIE"

The one thing these men are serious about

How long have you been together as a partnership?

Two years. (Rush) I bumped into him at 'Jezebel's' in Grimsby. It just happened. We share the problems - it's not nice to be on your own in this business. Besides, he (Easy D) likes company. He does the groundwork; I'm the voice and

the driver! We play between 5 to eleven venues a week - I drive, he sleeps!

How did you start DJing?

(Easy D) At home, on my mum's records. My main influences were gospel, ska, old reggae tracks and my mum's church music! I was 8 or 9 years old, I liked music and liked playing it. I still do.

How did you first start MCing?

(Rush) I was influenced by picking up the mic! It was a job I could do and always wanted to do. I'm a leader and can direct a crowd.

What music did you play and what/who are your influences?

How do you see life in the 1990's?

We've got to completely change everything to make things better. Some sort of revolution! You go to work where there's someone telling you what to do, but we were all born equal. We should be working together. Anyway, that's my dream, that we'd all be equal and treated as such.

What do you see as the biggest obstacles/threats to humans?

The USA thinks it owns the world. The United Nation's seven leaders get on my nerves with their attitude. They're right ignorant about other people and other cultures. It's all money and power. They have no thoughts or feelings about real people, no brains either it would seem.

Why do you think graffiti is not accepted by society?

We've been led to believe that anything not part of the system is wrong. I think society doesn't like graffiti because they don't like people having a free mind and doing what they want to do, nor the fact that they can have fun while they're doing it, enjoy it, help other people. They'd like to think life revolves around money and power.

A piece is special and individual - it's not done for money, it's real, yet it causes mass aggro. Why? Because people would rather see a big brain-washing advert? I've just about had it with this country really. Everything about this country makes me mad. Rich people ripping off poor people everywhere. USA and UK are ripping off Third World places. Journalism is supposed to be unbiased and give pure information but you get reports, like the bombing of Iraq. It's all 'good America, England', 'bad Iraq'. I don't support Saddam Hussein! But it's the other people involved that suffer, not the big leaders who couldn't care less. And wrong facts lead to prejudice.

I wanted to do a piece in Worsborough and go legal. I approached the town council and they really couldn't care less. It was all "Well, if you fell off your ladder while spraying, you could sue us". So I just did it without permission in the end.

When I got chased by the police, you would think I'd been doing robberies or mugging people. They found some paper on me and got so excited: "This is a list of all his hits!" HITS!!

Fista is written like a big hard fist, with marks of stones or bricks in a fist shaped

dub - like a brick wall fist and its in your face because you can't help but notice it.

How do you see what you write?

It's not aggressive or meant to show violence. My tag was going to be FIRST but I went wrong on my dub and FIST/FISTA stuck! I like using more bright colours but the paint I usually use (Japloc, which is smooth) only comes in red, black and silver which are hard, fierce colours. I like Maribu paint too - it's thick and gives you good control. I don't like doing shabby work. I want it to be complete and look good.

The older writers in Sheffield have really helped and encouraged me. They are the true writers and I have a lot of respect for them, look up to them. When I told YEAR I was moving to high green, he seemed surprised and impressed. They make feel like my work is worthwhile. Space said "I don't know where you get your inspiration from" because I'm young and have not seen "Style Wars" or been part of that scene that kicked off in Sheffield.

Writing is not about making money but being free to do what you want to do. It's not anti-social - you're doing it to communicate. I didn't realise when I started how much so. When people appreciate your work, it makes it worthwhile. When there's understanding, it's good. My mum agrees with graffiti but she doesn't like me getting into trouble. She did a questionnaire on myself, Eazel and Mist 1 for her Social Studies diploma.

I think jealous toys and taggers who destroy other writers' works are as bad as grasses and vandals and all those type of people. It's a tough enough world without fighting each other. We should stick together and give each other respect. When that person went over my dub in Wombwell, I felt really mad. I'd done no harm to anybody - didn't even know that person, and they did that.

But writers in Sheffield have the best attitude anywhere, in my opinion. It's a good environment for a writer. They are genuine and serious about graffiti. There are writers on about 'progression' in graffiti and not doing trains, but they don't understand. There is no challenge when you doing commissioned work, just money. But, as MIST 1 says, it's the best buzz going out all night and bombing till morning.

There are people who say "You just want to be black". But that's not true. Just because I don't feel a part of this society. While people without money and status are oppressed too. I watch

the news and try to learn stuff. The rich say the problems in the world have nothing to do with social state. The real thieves and robbers, if they've got money and power, get away with ripping people off. Look at Robert Maxwell and Ken Dodd. Tax fraud makes me mad. They've got so much and they still want more.

It's all money and material things; : get a nice house, car, property - they don't care about people and life. Or they don't know what it's about.

I suppose I was greatly influenced by KRST from B.D.P. (a hip hop group). I liked what they said. But at the end of the day you've got to make your own mind up about things.

I get mad about the way people are treated. I love bombing - sometimes I never want to do a piece, just go on bombing. But just recently I've started to think I'd want to write messages. I believe in God and that, but I'm not religious or political.

My first would be: "Racism is a superstition caused by oppression brought on by mass confusion".

I'd also like to do a piece on Palestine and also one on Malcolm X. He got shot because he was bringing white and black people together.

What would stop you writing?

Having my hands chopped off.



KEEP IN TOUCH!

Photographs, letters,
communications in general to:

THE REAL STATE
P.O. Box 295
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
U.K.

THIS IS THE REAL STATE.

For those who believe art is expressing what you
feel and what you know to be true and real.

Dedicated to those brave enough to live it.

The people's voice.

Respect to Heather, Felix, Marco, Darren, Steven, Pete, David,
Leroy, Nathan, Marcus R. (didn't forget you this time! Glad you're
out. Stay that way) for believing in it when there was every reason
not to, Marsha, Emma, Graham and Karen (BYO), Dr. Tom,
Tibarney, Scott W, Bertie, Ali, Carl, Ellie and H, Ben and Rob.

**You have a choice.
Freedom is possible.**

"The measure of life is not in the heap of goods or honours nor the length of days one gathers,
but in the overcoming of hate and despair, the sharing of burdens, the celebrations of joy and
love that each day offers. If you want your measure of life to be filled, pour it out freely."

If you got no money for DJing, lots of hassle and little appreciation, would you still do it and why?

I do and have! Because I like what I do. It's part of life. If I didn't have hassles, I'd probably be playing at big raves. There are lots of people out there who don't want you to get anywhere but you can't keep a good man down! So I'll keep going regardless.

What would/do you think your music does for people and why do you think it survives, despite all the cash problems and prejudice?

It gives people the chance for one or two days a week to really let go and enjoy themselves - to let off steam and tension etc. Good music sticks in the mind - gives you memories, brings people of like mind together, starts friendships and that. It survives because it's supported through bad times like now - but not enough financially!

Which DJs do you rate and why?

Carl Cox - he's a seriously bad DJ. I've not seen anyone who can mix like him. He knows his records inside out and you can tell he knows them. Easy Groove - he's a bad DJ but he doesn't get breaks he deserves. Easy D - he's a unique DJ. DJ Mental Power, Top Buzz for originality, Rat Pak.

Which MCs?

Rush, Uzi, Power, Mad P and the Mc From Rat Pak.

How would you describe your style?

I try to play music at a rave that other people either won't play or can't play. Mad and different. Give them something to move to!

What is your dream/goal?

To be in a film, like "Terminator" but where I won't speak that much; the acting will do all the speaking for me. And also a film involving some form of karate!

If someone stole or lost all your records again, would you give up this time?

No Never! What made me carry on was that a lot of people came up and asked me why I wasn't playing that much anymore. People's appreciation and commitment to music encouraged me.

If there is something you want to change in society/the world, what is it?

People's attitudes towards each other. When I walk down the street, even if I don't know the person walking towards me, I say Hello, smile. But there are some people who don't understand the meaning of being friendly. People should respect each other more and give each other a break, a chance.

DJ Dextrous' Top Ten Tunes
(not in order)

Top Buzz

"Living in Darkness" Basement Records

Edge One Edge Records

Wax Doctor Basement Records

Citizen Kaned "Set Me Free"
Oz Records

Johnny 'L' "Hurt Me So"
Tuch Wood Label

DJ SS "Breakbeat Pressure" 1 & 2
Formation Label

Oz Beat F Project label

Jumpin' Jack Frost "F Project Label" Blue Side

Doc Scott "As Nasty As I Wanna Be"
Reinforced Record Label

DJ Seduction "DJs Unite" Volume 3
Impact label

Dance, music and art are not self-indulgent ego-trips but a means of survival in a world which does not listen, does not understand, for whom pain and injustice are just words in a dictionary, despair a momentary emotion.

This world knows how to talk, but not how to communicate. It knows how to persuade, but not how to touch, or to feel. It knows its own lies, but does not believe in nor see truth. And it is not real.

Graffiti is the most natural self-expression in such a world. Violent emotions are not accepted or believed. To express them is better than to internalise and act on them. They are real to every living being, more real than our benches of JPs, our councils, newspapers and society wants to believe.

The one who expresses them isn't the mad one; he is the brave one, the real one. "In the city you don't get any say in what they build. You get some architect that does crappy glass buildings or grey buildings. No one comes up and says 'we're building this, do you like it? Here's the drawings, we'll take a poll.' So why should I have to explain what I do? I live in a city I'm a citizen. Maybe in the eyes of this town I'm not so important, because I don't have all that high status, as in class and job, but I live here so I should have as much say as anyone else, and that's why I go out and paint cos I want to say something and I don't want to be told when I can do it." 3D

SAVE yourselves from this corrupt generation.

"People will never really understand what graffiti is unless they go to New

DANCE IS THE EXPRESSION OF SOCIETY

York to live surrounded by abandoned buildings and cars that are burnt and stripped and the city comes out saying graffiti is terrible, but then you look around at the neighbourhood and you've got all this rubble and crap and yet you come out of there with the attitude toward life that you can create something positive." BRIM

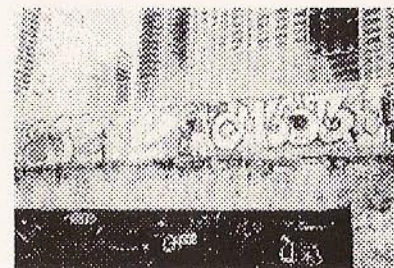
"You ask someone, 'Do you like birds singing in the morning, do you think it's beautiful?' and the person will most probably answer 'Yes'. And then you ask the person, 'Well, do you understand them?' and the person will go 'well no'. And then you say, 'You don't have to understand something for it to be beautiful'. BANDO



HAD
TIMES

GREYERS NOT
CONSUMERS

3D



25.
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ISMET by TEMPT
(Manchester)
at HAUFAX 1992

18

WRITERS GLOSSARY

A La Sheffield

TOYS A beginner, a 'no-good' writer, an ambitious writer trying to get respect.

GETTING UP Spraying your name EVERYWHERE, as much as possible. Getting known. Having your name on 'the danger list'.

TAGS Just the the name, single spray.

PIECE Colours, theme, direction, higher style, fully developed work.

WRITER Both Tags and pieces and is good at both. Has original ideas and acts on them. Has purpose and direction. Style.

19

JOIN
(Nottingham)

20

TWELVE

DUB Filled in letters.
BOMBING Dubbing on something

ALL CITY Name everywhere and in every city.

A THROW UP Part of a larger job of your own name, where you're hanging by a thread, and have to run for it. May be unfinished piece but it's a piece with risk and style.

GOING OVER Someone tags over your piece. BIG disrespect.

CREW A group, loyal friends, not brats that will grass you up, but people who feel, think the same, who inspire you and whom you can trust.

21

CRYSER
(Birmingham)
at YORK 1992

22

TDK Totally Destructive Kings

NCD New City Def

TCE The Criminal Element

ACT All City Taggers later Awesome Crime Team

TPC The People's Choice

FIK Fixed in Krime'

TTR The Tunnel Rats

WRITER'S ESSENTIALS

Spray paint
Car spray
Art spray

The best paint is BUNTIACK but it's expensive at around £6 a can when you may need 10 cans per piece. A writer should never run out of paint!

A good piece must have the most style.

PAST SHEFFIELD CREWS

PSST

WSK Wild Style Kings

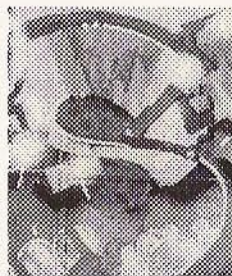
CAW

PART 2
(YORK)
1992

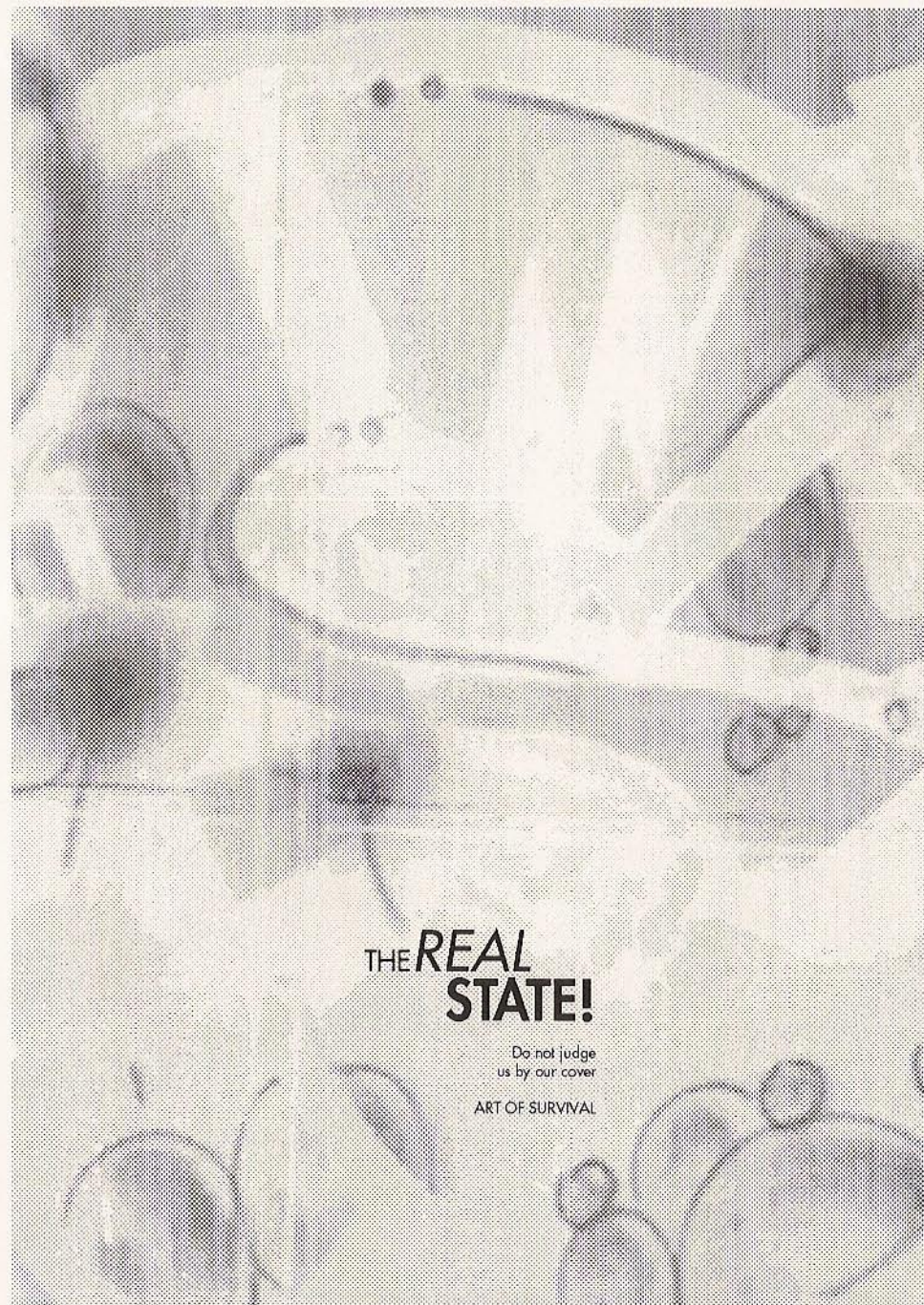
ALERT
(Nottingham)

23

THIRTEEN



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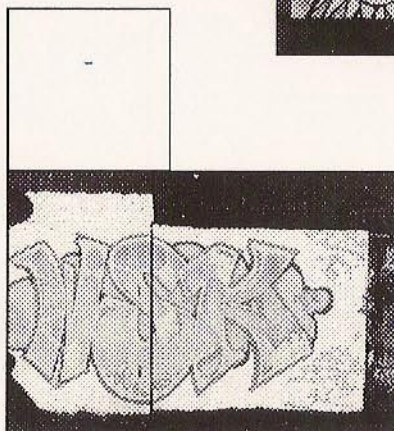
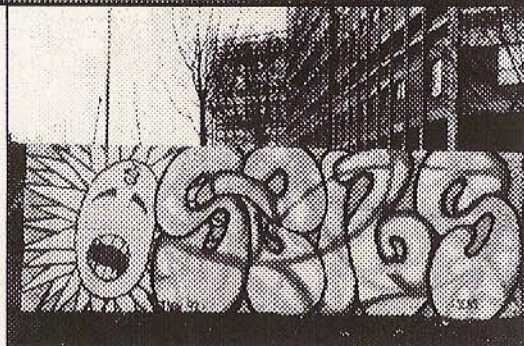


THE **REAL** STATE!

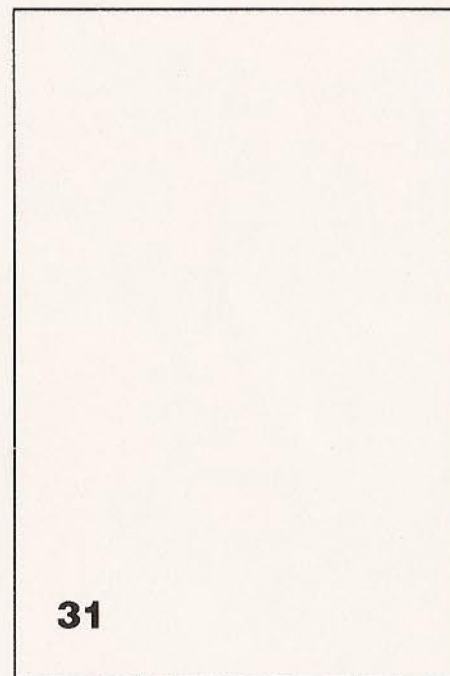
Do not judge
us by our cover

ART OF SURVIVAL



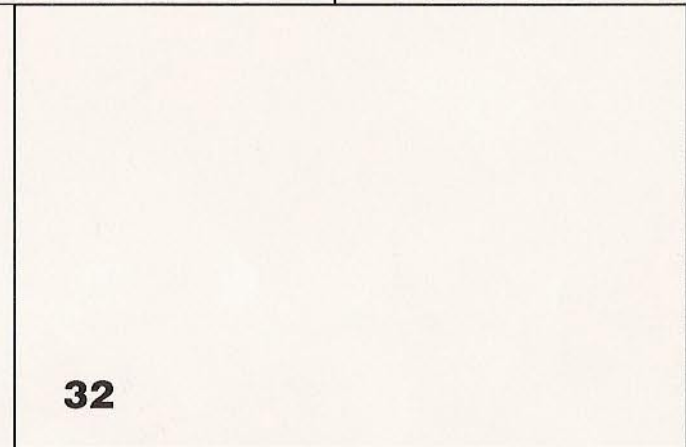


THE **KELV**
(SHEFFIELD) FL



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COST
The NAVELESS FACE
all over NEW YORK CITY



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The beautiful BRONX