

END OF THE YEAR REVIEWS: BEST OF 2010

# THE SOURCE

THE BIBLE OF HIP HOP MUSIC,  
CULTURE & POLITICS

#451 OCTOBER 2010

GHSTFACE KILLAH

NICK NATO

NIKI MINAJ

WAKA FLOCKA FLAME

YOUNG BUCK

DIPSET RE-UNITED

**DR. DRE**

SPEAKS ON DETOX  
....IS IT OVER?

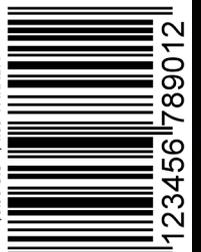
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AND THE INDUSTRY. IS  
HIS COMEBACK'S BARK  
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**LLOYD BANKS**

BACK WITH NEW ALBUM: HUNGER FOR MORE PART 2

GAME'S **R.E.D** ALBUM BREAKDOWN

OCTOBER 2010 ISSUE # 451  
\$3.99 U.S. \$4.95 CANADA



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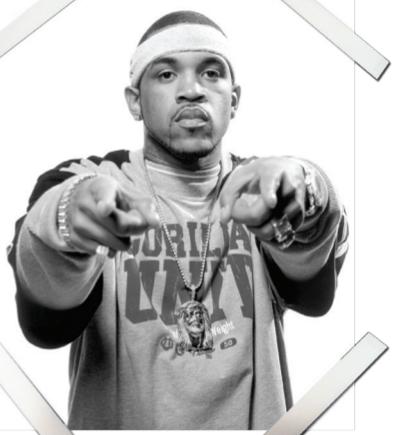
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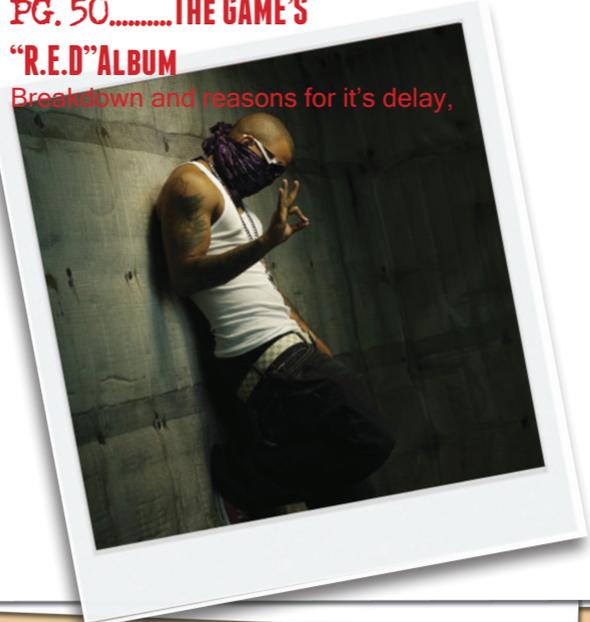


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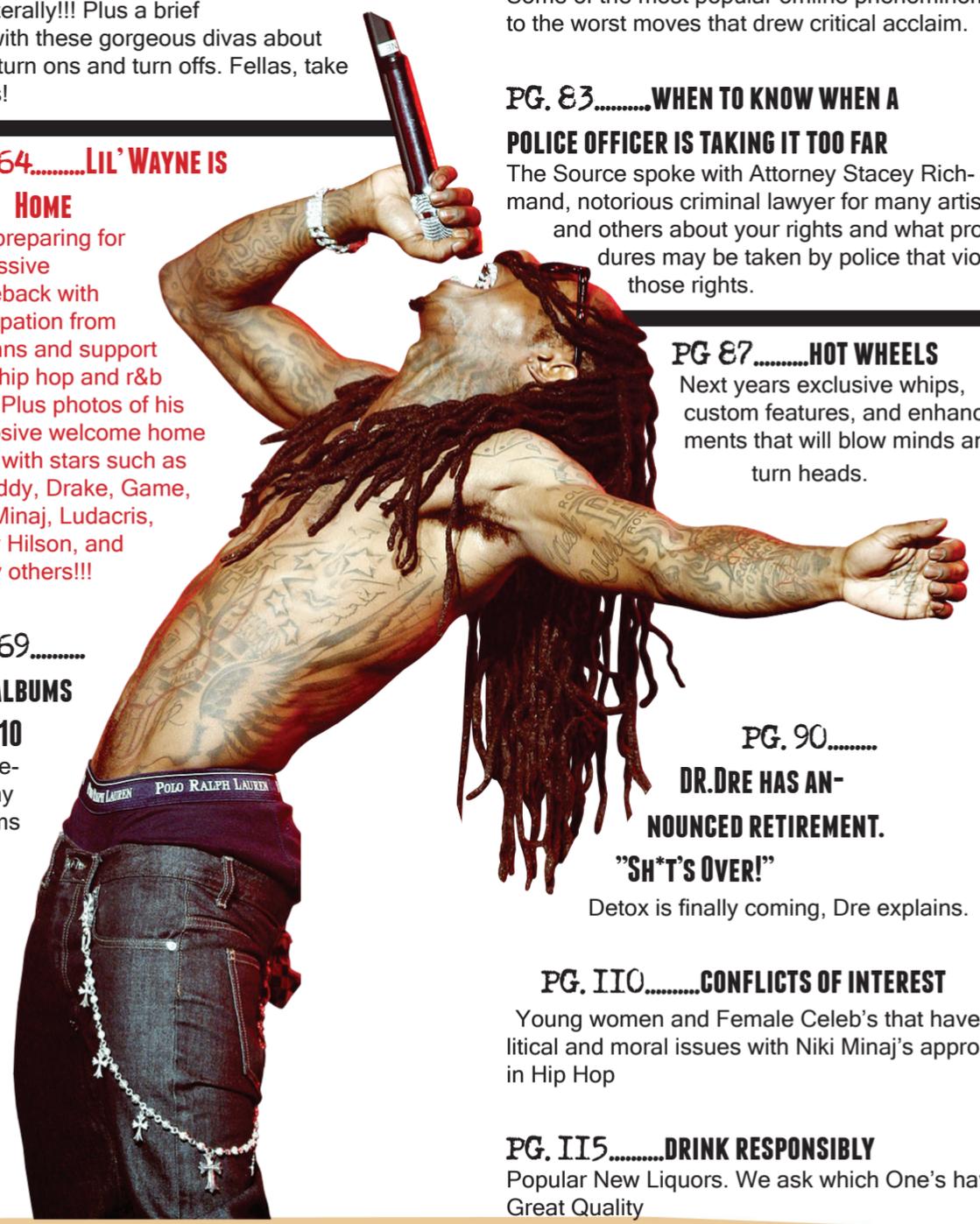
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# Bar To The Street

**Wu-Tang Clan's Ghostface Killah has announced plans to hit the recording booth and release three new albums heading into next year.**



Details on the albums were released on the Internet Tuesday (October 12). Aside from his work on Wu-Massacre and a few guest spots, it's been a while since we've heard new music from Wu-Tang favorite Ghostface Killah. The rapper's last solo release was 2009's Ghostdini: Wizard of Poetry in Emerald City, a weird, sexed-up R&B experiment. Fortunately, the rapper appears to be returning to form with three new albums on the horizon. The first is an album due out on December 14 called The Apollo Kids. Ghostface announced the record in a tweet earlier today (October 12), and while little else is known in terms of details -- like if this is a compilation or a proper studio album -- his 2000 hit "Apollo Kids" stands as one of his most universally loved songs. It would figure that this news would be released several hours after I read an interview with Ghostface wherein he said he was working on two albums -- Blue & Cream and Supreme Clientele 2. Word has it that Ghostface Killah and MF Doom are working on a new album as well titled "Swift and Changeable", with intentions of making this an official official release. The prior album failed to hit stores due to label technicalities. With "Pollen: Killer Bee Swarm Part 3", Wu-Tangs "Shaolin vs. Wu-tang" albums on the works, the Killah is definitely working on a lot of material for loyal fans to anticipate for in the year ending well into 2011. 

**Hip Hop celebs that are coming out of lockdown and some going back.**



T.I. born Clifford Harris, Jr along with his wife Tameka 'Tiny' Cottle were arrested after making an illegal U-turn in their luxury Maybach on Sunset Strip Blvd.



Lil Boosie, a Louisiana based rapper whose real name is Torrence Hatch is already in jail in the Hunt Correctional Institute in St. Gabriel, serving time for drug and gun possession.



Lil Wayne was sentenced to a year in jail from a weapon found in his tour bus that got confiscated from police on a search. He did his time in Riker's Island with plenty of fan and celebrity support. He comes out



Prodigy, the other half of the Infamous Mobb Deep was sentenced to 3 1/2 years in prison for a weapons charge. He claims that the hip hop police were "on his ass". He is scheduled to come home in February 2011.

# Bar To The Street

**End Of the Year 2010 Winter Fashion Outer wear to keep Ya swag on deck without freezing your @\$ off in the process!**



Our Buffalo Plaid Wool Jacket features: Button and zipper closure down front, detachable hood with zipper, pieced wool plaid detail, stylish elbow patch, 2-discreet chest pockets with snap closure, with 2-hand pockets with zipper closure, insulated material for comfort and warmth. [www.akademiks.com](http://www.akademiks.com)



The Hooded Chinese Lamb with Faux Fur Bomber Jacket by features: 2-faux chest compartments, with 2-hand pockets. Extremely soft, faux mink style interior, Zipper down front with snap closure. Sean John signature embroidered in back of jacket, insulated hood pull over. [www.drjays.com](http://www.drjays.com)



The Puffer by Rocawear features Multiple pockets, Puff style jacket Faux leather trim on shoulders and collar, Full zipper closure and snap and flap detail on chest, Tailored for a comfortable fit with hood inside collar for optional customization according to conditions outdoors. [www.rocawear.com](http://www.rocawear.com)



The Motorcross Jacket With Fur Lining by COOGI features Bomber fit, Synthetic leather exterior, Removable faux fur collar, Assorted pockets on front, Snap button and zipper opening, Satin animal print lining. True to size. Warm interior lining is removable for adjustment in climate changes. [www.drjays.com](http://www.drjays.com)



**MC Hammer Drops Jay-Z "Run" Music Clip, "I'll Bust You In Your Mouth"**

With a couple of days before his scheduled Jay-Z diss video, MC-Hammer has released a trailer for his retaliation music video entitled "Better Run Run." The video features a red devil-looking person dressed up and running through a parking garage. Smoke is also coming out of the masked person's face. After a long twitter rant by Hammer, the emcee announced that he would release a retaliation record on October 31st. "Better Run

**YO, CHUCK!**

*Words of wisdom from the legendary Public Enemy frontman.*



**W**hat's the link between Hip-Hop and politics?

Recently I had the pleasure of running into the great M1 of Dead Prez at JFK Airport in New York. Upon embracing for the few minutes that we did, we thanked each other. He was on his way to work—hitting Greece first, a place which erupted in student unrest and youth protest just a few months before, coincidentally after a Public Enemy tour in that country. Then he was headed with an envoy to the Gaza Strip in Palestine, to of course, involve himself with the unbalanced situation in that region. See, the world of Hip-Hop is definitely political, and politics is everyday life worldwide. Hip-Hop reflects and is reflected back into the cultural discussion in every other continent: Europe, South America, Asia, Australia and Africa. The movements are growing with voice and meaning, and the skills set a very high standard.

Peace, Chuck. D. [yochuck@thesource.com](mailto:yochuck@thesource.com)



# WAKA FLOCKA

It's been a quick rise to the top for Waka Flocka Flame. The Queens-born, Atlanta-bred rapper began garnering attention in hip-hop circles after his mixtape *Salute Me or Shoot Me Vol. 1* hit the streets of Atlanta in January 2009. It featured his breakout record "O Let's Do It." The rowdy club track quickly became a fan favorite, and a year later, after he peppered the streets with more mixtapes and a guest verse on "Bingo," from Gucci Mane's 2009 LP, *The State vs. Radric Davis*, "O Let's Do It" got an official remix featuring Diddy, Rick Ross and Gucci Mane. On top of all that, the singles "Hard in Da Paint" and "No Hands," from his debut LP *Flockaveli* (released October 5), garnered him enough buzz and attention to be voted the #8 Hottest MC in the Game, his first time making the list. While Atlanta has been a hotbed of hip-hop talent for many years, a lot of artists who make a name for themselves off club records disappear as fast as they arrive. Right now, though, Waka isn't just hot in the clubs; he practically owns them.

"[Waka] put out three consistent records in a row," MTV senior producer Rahman Dukes said during the Hottest MCs roundtable. "He's coming out a region that's known for putting out one great record." Still, there are many in hip-hop who question the upstart's talent. Critics have derided him, claiming he's more flash and rowdiness (witness his shouted ad lib "Waka! Flocka! Waka! Flocka!") than lyrical substance. "He's not the most lyrical dude," MTV News senior writer Jayson Rodriguez admitted, defending Waka's place on the list. "But these joints, they're ubiquitous. You can't go places without hearing 'O Let's Do It.' You hear it everywhere." "There's always been a lane for different artists who just control that 'get drunk, get crunk, just go hard' ... and those artists usually haven't always been the most lyrical," said MTV News supervising producer Sean Lee. "Right now, he's owning that lane."



### Lil' Kim, Nicki Minaj feud sparks Opportunity, Awareness, and Industry Hype



On Nov. 26, hip-hop artist Nicki Minaj released her first album, *"Pink Friday,"* selling close to 400,000 copies. On Nov. 28, MTV premiered Minaj's documentary, *"My Time Now,"* bringing in 1.17 million viewers. Yesterday, Nicki turned a young 26 years old, prompting media hype about her planned Las Vegas birthday. If you don't know who Minaj is by now, you need to get out of E.S. Bird Library. Prior to releasing *"Pink Friday,"* Minaj released three mixtapes and, after signing with Lil Wayne's Young Money imprint of Cash Money Records, recorded tracks with Usher, Ludacris and Robin Thicke. Minaj has found a strong support group within today's music industry, receiving props from artists such as Jay-Z and Kanye. However, she still hasn't managed to win over Lil' Kim, and she doesn't care to, giving Lil' Kim's career a desperate boost. Lil' Kim hasn't been relevant since 2005, when she released *"The Naked Truth"* and was sentenced to a year in prison for lying to a federal grand jury. Wait, she did appear on *"Dancing with the Stars"* in 2009, but that did nothing for her career. Until Minaj mimicked Lil' Kim's *"Hard Cord"* album promotional poster pose on her *"Sucka Free"* mixtape cover art, Lil' Kim was headed toward being the next replacement *"American Idol"* judge.

After multiple remarks about Minaj as an unwanted wannabe, doppelganger and copycat, Lil' Kim cleared the ambiguity in a radio interview and said, "My thing was, homegirl got a nice little buzz going. It's obvious I'm who she wants to be like. It's obvious that she likes me and wants to be like me, but she's not paying this homage." Lil' Kim's remarks angered more than just Minaj and prompted Young Money label mate and friend Drake to speak out in a recent interview with DJ Envy. "Lil' Kim is a 'G' in the game. She's part of an era that's classic, that we'll never forget as young kids, me and Nicki. You don't have to get on stage and announce your presence and tell people to pay homage. That's a given. I've watched Nicki pay homage to her time and time again." When *"Pink Friday"* was released, Lil' Kim took the opportunity to release a rebuttal to Minaj's *"Roman's Revenge,"* which Lil' Kim claimed took shots at her. However, if it's Minaj who wants to be like Lil' Kim, why did Lil' Kim's rebuttal to Minaj's *"Roman's Revenge"* track bear the name *"Black Friday?"* Setting comparisons aside, both artists should be happy their music is being listened to and that not one but two talented female music artists are currently at the center of the media's attention. Regardless of a "respect" issue, Lil' Kim is making music again, people are listening to it, and Minaj is unstoppable. Publicity-wise, the beef can only benefit the two artists in trying to make themselves household names. And in a couple of years, when the egos are set aside, I'm sure their collaboration track will be worth listening to. 



like, 'I like that. It's cool,' " he said. "But it doesn't bring out the passion." MTV News associate producer Steven Roberts strongly disagreed, claiming that hip-hop music reaches more than just a street audience, and that another audience, perhaps one not being spoken for at the roundtable, felt just as strongly about B.o.B's music as Waka's. "It's definitely a different crowd," Roberts said. You have to look at the hip-hop circle as bigger than just the streets. In hip-hop, there is a pop circle. [And] you got a lot of dudes in hip-hop who just don't mess with Waka Flocka; who are like, 'This is just ignorant.' "Waka's charting," MTV Jams' Sheila Grullon countered. "Not on top 40 [radio], but he's charting. And the urban charts are crazy right now. You go to the clubs, and nobody's gonna play 'Airplanes.'" Grullon is right: "O Let's Do It" hit #7 on the Billboard Rap Songs chart, while "No Hands" hit #6. In the end, the Brain Trust kept Waka at #8, because he's on the rise at the moment, his songs are continuing to get hotter, and the spotlight is definitely on him.

Flocka believes his love for music outweighs an urge to perfect his rhymes on records. "I don't feel like I'm no lyricist. I'm not in the booth trying to godd\*mn rap big words," Flocka explained in an interview. "I'm not tryin' to show off my intelligence. Anybody could memorize big words, put 'em together. I could do that. But if I don't use the words on an everyday basis, why use the words in my rap? I just like music. I'm a lover of making music. It could be a big record, small record--as long as I'm making songs. One day it'll pop; that's how I look at it. Yeah. What I did in one year--one year--a lot of people accomplish in 10 years. A lot of people don't like that. They feel I don't deserve what I got. I'm a hard-a\*\* worker. And I'm here for a reason. This sh\*t ain't luck. I don't believe in luck." A perspective well put. **S**

"He's coming out a region that's known for putting out one great record."



**M**TV News' Shaheem Reid agreed. "When I listen to Waka, it just takes me back to the audacity when Onyx came out, that spirit," he said. "You put the song on, you go into the club, and you just gotta be prepared for anything" But MTV Jams' Tuma Basa wasn't as easily convinced that having a handful of hot records in the club was enough to warrant the attention Waka is currently receiving. "Does Waka have the lasting power?" he questioned. "Does he have the ability to sustain, where a year from now everybody's going to admit that they liked the song?" These proved to be questions that opened up a great deal of debate among the MTV News Hip-Hop Brain Trust, and Waka ultimately found himself pitted against eventual #9 selection B.o.B for his slot at #8. "I feel like that's a question of commercialism versus what's hot in the streets," said RapFix editor Hillary Cro-sley. Dukes added: "Waka, he has the soul of the streets right now." Lee felt that Waka's music, because it's so hard and so raw, hits listeners in a way that B.o.B's shimmery pop tunes can't. "You hear the B.o.B records, and you're