



"OHSSHH!!" is available at Amoeba Records and other small, independent record stores, or by contacting Gamma Ray at RaydeBay@aol.com.

OHSSHH!! DJ's Release First Mix Tape!

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Guardsman Staff Writers

Last week was an exciting one for Ray Sutton (a.k.a. DJ Gamma Ray) and his mixing partner in crime, Eric "Fatgums" Strand. They had in their hands, hundreds of copies of their first self-produced mix tape, "OHSSHHH!" The seventy-minute tape is the culmination of an entire summer spent mixing and recording and it was all completed using mini-

disks and a four-track. "We drank 40's and scratched," said Gamma Ray.

He and Fatgums have spent years scratching together and listening to mix tapes. "Some [tapes] we liked, some we didn't," said Gamma Ray. "We decided to just do our own."

The mix began in the spring as a final project for Gamma Ray's Music 29 class, Electronic Music Lab. "It helped me to get an A," said Gamma Ray.



"You were supposed to use the equipment in there but I cheated a little bit."

At the end of the summer, Gamma Ray collaborated with other emcees to create the B-side. The guest emcees include other City College students as well as friends from Los Angeles and Santa Cruz. "Some of these people are my real good friends and some I just know," said Gamma Ray, adding that many of the emcees and producers he met through open-mic events. "If you're involved in what you do, you're going to meet people."

Among the dozen emcees and producers who are featured on the B-side, many have albums of their own or have contributed to other mixes. Emcees Asiatic and Mygrain, who wrote and produced the track "Extra Carne," were featured on "Elephant Tracks. Mygrain grew up in Los Angeles, and now attends UC Santa Cruz. Asiatic, born in San Francisco, has become a local youth activist, in addition to being a musician and producer. Jodeezy, who mixed "Credentials" and "Untitled Opus" is also a City College student.

"Hopefully, it'll help out the people on the tape. We definitely give them credit," said Gamma Ray.

Gamma Ray describes himself as a "hip-hop addict" and said that Bay Area hip-hop crews such as Hobo Junction and Living Legends have been

very influential to him. In fact, Gamma Ray and Fatgums see the Bay Area as a great place for underground hip-hop and have dedicated the first side of their tape to Bay Area samples and records. Both born and raised in the Bay Area, the DJs find it necessary to represent the area.

"It [the Bay Area] is a big part of who I am," said Gamma Ray. "People who grew up here know what I mean. I'll represent San Francisco."

Gamma Ray met Fatgums at the Marin County Day School when they were kids and they've been friends ever since. Fatgums started spinning when he was about thirteen and Gamma Ray soon followed along.

Gamma Ray and Fatgums plan on getting the tape in as many independent record stores as they can, however, they are ready to hit the streets (and the campus) with backpacks full of tapes. Although money is not their primary concern, Gamma Ray said it would be nice to make enough so that they can put out a CD next time.

Gamma Ray explains that the track "Extra Carne" is somewhat representative of the mix.

"It doesn't really have to do with anything, but we really like Gordo's [Mexican Restaurant] and the best part of going there is getting extra carne," Gamma Ray said. "That's what this [the tape] is like; it's the best stuff."

When describing the tape, Gamma Ray said: "Keep an open mind when you listen to it, it doesn't sound like anything else ... It's not a normal San Francisco-type compilation but, hopefully, people still like that."

Ray does not have plans to make a career of DJ-ing but will definitely continue spinning. "I'm not trying to be DJ superstar," said Ray. "I'll just keep doing it for a while."

So, if you spy a kid with a boom box and a bag full of tapes on campus, check him out. For just a few bucks you could get your hands on some music that most record companies haven't even conceived of yet. Gamma Ray puts it simply; "If you like original sounding underground hip-hop, then you'll like this tape."



DJ Gamma Ray with his box full of his first mix tape "OHSSHHH!"