

The Odds on 'American Idol' | Hilary Duff's Debut

100 • May 9, 2003

Entertainment Weekly

Halle Berry And Hugh Jackman

EVOLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE
Plagiarythm Nation
(Seeland)

→ Some blame "The Whipped Cream Mixes"—ECC's 1993 7" that fused Public Enemy with Herb Alpert & the Tijuana Brass—for spawning the computer-collage "mash-up" movement. But Committee spokesman Mark Gunderson, a record geek from Columbus, Ohio, is less interested in Frankenstein popcraft than in culture-jamming slapstick. Exhibit A: his

follow-up single "Rocked by Rape," which arranged countless Dan Rather sound bites into an apocalyptic rap riding a sample from AC/DC's "Back in Black." It's the money shot on this long-brewing second album, which turns garage-sale detritus, voice-mail jabber, and pop shrapnel into a musical comedy record where the absurd and the sophomoric duke it out. **EMBED MATES** We hope ECC are working on a postwar "Rocked by Rape" sequel, featuring CNN's Aaron Brown. **B**

NEW Favorites

CMJ CORE ESSENTIAL

The Evolution Control Committee
PLAGIARYTHM NATION

EVOLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE
Plagiarythm Nation (Seeland)
 Mash it up! Evolution Control Committee likes to take a song you know and change the lyrics with some creative editing and/or sampling to create a "mash up." Dan Rather becomes AC/DC's frontman, our nation's anthem is turned into a freakin' bologna commercial and you'll love every second of it. Most of the disc's tracks clock in between 30 seconds and a minute-and-a-half, so you'll want to squeeze as many of them on the air as you can. *Plagiarythm Nation* is 29 tracks of inspired surrealism that's funny, yet somehow thought provoking. After debuting at No. 33 last week, ECC moves to No. 23 this week, thanks to support from KALX, WZBC, WMBR and WNUR, among others.

R.I.V.L.: Negativland, Avalanches,
 2 Many DJs
Contact: Mark Hosler
Email: mark@negativland.com
Current Core Position: No. 23

02.23.06.03.01.06 FREE WWW.LASVEGASCITYLIFE.COM

MEDIA WATCH R12 Sun makes sweet love to Bill Walters, calls it journalism
 FILM R39 How do you make a movie out of *Tristram Shandy*? You don't

CITYLIFE

http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5665240

SOUNDCLIPS: AUDIO EXPERIENCES

That's No Drum, That's My Missile

npr

Listen

All Things Considered, August 17, 2006 · In our series of unusual sounds gathered by listeners, the audio artist known as "Trademark" plays an abandoned missile in a silo as if they are bells, gongs, and drums. He says the meditative sound that results is at odds with missile's violent purpose.

On Location

ETHER FESTIVAL: JEFF MILLS/PEOPLE LIKE US/ CORNELIUS
 LONDON SOUTH BANK CENTRE
 UK

BY KEN HOLLINGS

ETHER review, The Wire - June 2002

Evolution Control Committee's Mark Gunderson gave a lecture presentation on the ECC's activities like a Sesame Street presenter on coke; his homemade thimble-trigger system providing visual stimulus as he refashioned food and drink ads, Public Enemy raps and TV voiceovers into (a)musing infobursts.

Music

Trademark Gunderson of Evolution Control Committee

On the download

Evolution Control Committee samples at its own risk

BY DAVE SURRATT

Back in 2000, with Napster and the new file-sharing dilemma fresh out of the oven, some of us stumbled across a particular MP3 curiosity online: a meticulously constructed "song" consisting of four minutes of CBS News anchorman Dan Rather's voice issuing a heavily cut-and-pasted stream of what must have been the most dire, violent—in other words, shock news—phrases he'd recently uttered on the air, all atop a modified mix of AC/DC's "Back in Black."

It was an arrestingly cool listen. But who'd created it? Filenames for the track were all clearly wrong, variably attributing the work to AC/DC, Beck, Negativland, the Residents, the Orb and even the Grateful Dead. Very misleading to excited downloaders—just as the Ohio-based Evolution Control Committee intended it.

"We were trying to make this thing fall into as many hands as we could," confesses frontman Trademark Gunderson. "After we got the cease-and-desist letter from CBS, we were afraid we'd lose this song. So we gave different names and tagged most of the online copies with 'bootleg recording,' 'outtake'—anything to make it look collectible."

The ruse worked. In one disguise or another, ECC's "Rocked by Rape" soon found its way onto the hard drives of several thousand Net-surfers, compared with the few dozen who downloaded correctly titled copies.

Before any of this, the track had been pressed by the San Francisco-based label Erie Materials as a 7" vinyl single. When CBS executives finally got wind of it, they were predictably bemused by what they heard coming from Rather's mouth: "Danger. War. Killer. Fraud. CIA. Mayhem. Crisis. Horrible. Inflation. Military threat. The flaming debris. Fatal heart attack..." And that's just the first 20 seconds of a piece you have to hear to believe.

CBS cried copyright infringement and Gunderson shot back an outraged response, insisting that "Rocked by Rape" (the title itself came directly from Rather as well) was clearly parody and, as such, was considered "fair use" under current copyright law. Six years later, it appears he won. The network never followed up, and the single was eventually released in 2003 on ECC's Seeland label compilation, *Plagiarythm Nation Vol. 2*.

But the provocation began much earlier than that. In one form or another, Gunderson and assorted collaborators have been at it since 1986. ECC's work with music collages in the early '90s make them early pioneers of the now-ubiquitous mash-up, and they've always favored sampling material of dubious legality. As it turns out, the CBS riff wasn't just tangential drama; antiquated copyright law is a cardinal concern of Gunderson's.

"The message should be so obvious by this point," he fumes. "There's current copyright law, and then there's all this mash-up music which is getting huge, and yet it's totally illegal. The laws are way outdated, way behind."

Laws come and go. For now, there's the art. This Friday, with the help of ECC-member Assistant Frillpants, Gunderson will go live with his own Thimbletron. It's a device that utilizes sewing thimbles and electric current to trigger music samples during performances, and Gunderson insists it's dangerously radioactive. "Those in the front row are taking risks," he warns.

Dan Rather isn't expected at the show, but he has heard "Rocked by Rape" at least once—at his own televised roast several years back. It's still unclear how Rather felt about it, but for Gunderson, it's a source of pride: "I know many bands can say they've been on C-Span2." **CL**

Evolution Control Committee
 Fri., Feb. 24, 8 p.m.
 Aruba Hotel and Spa
 1215 Las Vegas Blvd. South
 736-4313
 \$15, \$10 in advance