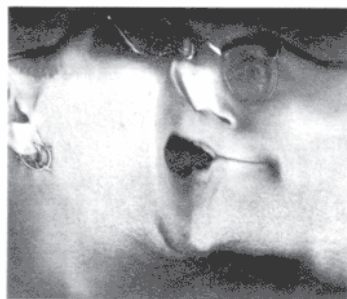


Sound Files by Douglas Wolk

Dummies for Napster

Tired of the same old Napster (or Gnutella, or whatever) grind? Use these tricks to give file-swapping a refreshing dose of randomness!

▪ **Play toy soldiers** Just enter any well-known artist into a Napster engine, followed by the word *vs.*, and you'll discover, for example, this Spice Girls/Nine Inch Nails "collaboration": "I wanna—I wanna—*fuck you like an animal!*" The reigning champion of these home-edited battle tracks is Britney, who even emerges victorious from "So Fucking Crazy," her tussle with Metallica. On the undercard: TLC vs. Christina



Rocked by rapier wit: Evolution Control Committee

Aguilera, 2Pac vs. Phil Collins, and Eminem vs. everyone.

▪ **Feed your favorite rapper some syrup** DJ Screw has effectively worked over a ton of hip-hop tracks in the file-trading circuit, simply by slowing them down from the equivalent of 45 to 33 RPM. "Bling Bling"—now 30 percent blingier! "Back That Azz Up"—now with 30 percent more azz!

▪ **Impersonate a celebrity** If you've ever thrilled to comedian David Cross' impression of a certain famous wheelchair-bound physicist trysting with a prostitute, you'll love the ridiculous computer-generated voice of "MC Stephen Hawking." Best of his oeuvre: "Fuck the Creationists."

▪ **Make a political statement** Some civic-minded individual has been posting the likes of Patsy Cline's "I Love You, Honey," retitled to include the message "China OWNS Al Gore" in Napster client windows. But wouldn't the Ross Perot anthem "Crazy" be more appropriate?

▪ **Mix everything together really well** Thanks to Joshua "Jukebox Culture" Clover for pointing out these killer megamixes: DJ Loe sifting a cappella verses from DMX, RZA, Ice Cube, and Eminem onto the Prodigy's "Firestarter," and "DJ Skcizo vs. Everyone," a jam on the "It Ain't My Fault" riff that features the sounds of DMX, Mos Def, Britney, Christina, and that guy whose initials are alternately M.M. and S.S.

▪ **Mix everything together really badly** The "Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, Backstreet Boys, LFO, Jessica Simpson, Ricky Martin, etc. Megamix" appears to be an 11-year-old girl switching CDs in her boom box while singing "oh bay-beh bay-beh."

▪ **Fake out the overeager** Earlier this year, the sonic pranksters in Ohio's Evolution Control Committee uploaded copies of their "Rocked by Rape" single, disguising the files to look like unreleased nuggets by famous artists. Anti-Napster musicians soon created similar "Napster bombs." Last summer, something purporting to be a leak of the new U2 album turned out to be a bunch of Peter Gabriel tracks. We at Sound Files, along with other Radiohead fans, were overjoyed to discover a *Kid A* "bonus track" and got what we deserved: 40 seconds of Styx's "Mr. Roboto." All right already, computer! ■

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THE EVOLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE "Rocked by Rape" / "Racked by Rope" (Eerie Materials)

Network news has gone the way of mother-in-laws as far as comedic relevance, but these fans of Negativland collage plunge the knife hilariously deep into anchor/stiff Dan Rather. Notorious for writing his own crude rhymes, the CBS hairpiece intones about "fraudulent drug thugs" and "hidden Nazis next door," and the ECC splice it all into a wicked language poem, backed by an endless AC/DC drone.

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The mash-up revolution
Destiny's Child vs. Nirvana! Britney vs. Chic! The Ramones vs. ABBA! How pop's hottest DJs are creating those wild bootleg remixes — and why they're so hard to find.

By Roberta Cruger

PRINT EMAIL

Aug. 9, 2003 | In the 1993 club hit "Rebel Without a Pause," Chuck D. raps over Herb Alpert's chirpy trumpet: "A rebel in his own mind/Supporter of a rhyme/Designed to scatter a line/of suckers who claim I do crime." That incongruous hybrid of hip-hop and bouncy pop, created by the group **Evolution Control Committee**, sounds as startling and amusing today as it did a decade ago, and still ripe with meaning.

The wacky juxtaposition spawned its own kind of revolution, inspiring legions of the club remixes now called "mash-ups" — with one classic example being "Smells Like Booty," in which The Notorious B.I.G. raps over Nirvana's classic *Smells Like Teen Spirit*. Also referred to as "musical mayhem."