

April/May 2009

iMORRIS IP ARK CREW!

In This Issue:

Brotherly Love: ACE 5 and SLIP 3, together, after 20-plus years off the scene. The Bronx legend, CAVS SV visits Albuquerque. And a big shout-out to New Mexico's very own ROF/TUM crew.



FROM THE BRONX TO BURQUE, USA

Yeah, from the NYC to Albuquerque. I can't even believe it! I was the last one in my family to leave the Bronx – it was 1994, I remember it well. New York City had been buried under multiple snow storms. I was buried in an avalanche of Afro-Cuban music, Macanudo cigars, and santería rituals. Graff was the last thing on my mind.

The trains were like silver bullets and red sparrows – clean, not a drop of ink or tinge of paint on them. The golden era of 1970s and early '80s graff was over.

Several die-hards hung on, though, bold and dangerous, relentless and stoic; risking jail time and a felony just to smell train track tar mixed with paint on steel; to hear the sweet hiss of the nozzle flowing under the finger, and feel the can's heart beat pulsate against the hand.

That's a fragrance and a feeling a writer never forgets, forever burned in his or her memory like cattle after branding – whether they kinged a line or strictly pieced on weekends.

I had no clue how true this was until my brother, Slip 3, called me to do a piece – the first one in over 20 years for both of us. That was December , 2007.

From the first spray of the can that day, I remembered everything I loved about Graffiti: the power of creation, the flow of letters and colors and Esplanade lay-ups at 3:00 a.m. – freezing , stoned. I remembered raids, jumping off the trestle with my partner Rook 2 (RIP), raiding his parent's refrigerator and crashing on his bedroom floor.

I remembered hot days racking, listening to "In through the Outdoor," bombing insides and



The Tag

A tag, like your signature, used to mean something. Today, tags don't seem to mean much.

ROF/TUM CREW ALBUQUERQUE



AMEN, SOFA and DR. WENT

No, these brothers don't need an introduction because they're Albuquerque legends. But a big shout out goes to them for the love they've shown us and for turning us onto a spot to paint. These boys know the history of graff, too!

writers bench on the Concourse. I remembered 180th Street, Soul Sonic Force and watching burners sizzle off panels, setting fire to my pen and inspiration for my next piece.

I remembered the countless hours spent trying to emulate the best writers – white, black or Hispanic – from every and any crew, whether they were from the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn or Staten Island. It didn't matter.

I remembered no ethnocentricity on trains, but only in people's attitudes and minds and the neighborhoods that fostered them. Only a healthy competition existed on the trains.

I remembered cutting out of school to soak in and dissect Blade and Comet's tags on Lydig Avenue- mesmerized, inspired.

I remembered the thrill of seeing other writer's tags in the backs of buses, inside conductor booths, on platforms, dark alleyways, rooftops, paddleball courts, school yards, musty tunnels and noisy street walls, thinking, "Damn, that brother was here, too!?" It was a feeling of being in a secret society.

I remember standing struck with awe at knowing that in a city as large as New York, our paths had crossed, our feet stood on the same ground (or train), and our signatures adorned the same spots.

The day was even sweeter when I finally met the person – the mystery over – and could put a face to the name! I remembered most of

us, so young at the time, saying out loud, "Yo, I can't believe that's"

In essence, I remembered all that was good – the *only* thing that was good – in my childhood!

"Don't be caught slippin', SLIP"

That's too funny. Though you'd think this is a line from a spat back in the day, it's not. The quote is recent posted on Streets Are Saying Things, and is in regards to a photo of a piece taken in the mid-to-late 1970s and published in Martha Cooper's newest book, *Tag Town*.

"That ain't really you ..." the accuser, hiding behind a fake online name, goes on.

SLIP laughs, "Who gives a f*%#! These people act like we're still living in the '80s."

Since stepping back onto the graff scene after all these years, there are some things that strike us as amazing: all the drama (mostly carried over from the '80s), the incredible heights to which trained artists have taken it – now worldwide – and the impact MPC has made – some of it positive, much of it negative. (But that's a discussion for a future issue.)

Since that first piece in 2007, SLIP has been hooked once again and piecing nonstop. And ACE ... well ... he tags (no pun intended) along whenever he can.





PAULIE SKAY

One can't say enough about Paulie. Not only is he kind, but he's a walking encyclopedia when it comes to MPC history.

Paulie has one of the largest collections of graff pics in New York and is soon to release a book with Ale 1 – be on the lookout!

Thanks to Seen UA for putting SLIP in contact with Paulie.

DESISM

Des KTC was one of the first people we came in contact with in 2007. He said it was a pleasure meeting us, but the honor was ours – like a family member we never met before.

Des bombed in the '80s along with his KTC/MPC compadres ELF (RIP), ACCEPT, BEM and a host of other writers.

He's still active today promoting the craft and keeping graff history alive.

BRONX REUNION

All these contacts, both old and new, led SLIP to the Bronx in May of '08. So many writers and childhood friends (BLADE, ALE, PETE 13, TERROR 161, EDSTER, JOHN 150, FRITOS, ROCK 150, Cope 2), came out to hang.

SLIP did a COLTSLIP piece in memory of his partner and MPC original, COLT 1 (RIP).

SLIP hung and pieced with DES and did throw-ups with COPE.

Albuquerque Jam

Albuquerque holds an annual graffiti event called “Bomb the Canvas.” Writers come from all over to showcase their talent. On that same weekend we held an informal event we later dubbed, “Albuquerque Jam” – an impromptu get together with some of Albuquerque’s pioneer writers who often feel outside the very scene they created and, who are tired of dealing with people who have no respect or knowledge of graff’s history.

Just like NYC’s drama from the ‘80s, Burque has it’s own history of drama. But this day the paint flowed, people chilled and all was good.

Representing that day was not only ROF/TUM crews, but also

TNB members PESA and STRIKER. Though a native New Mexican, PESA visits New York City often and is tight with T-Kid KTC and KD. It’s a small world for sure.

“PESA is real cool and has shown nothing but love since the first day we hung out,” says SLIP, whose already pieced several times with PESA.

Also representing that day was ANTI and STAIN, both from Santa Fe and both up on freights.



CAV, ACE 5, SLIP 3
Day after the Jam – Albuquerque 2008



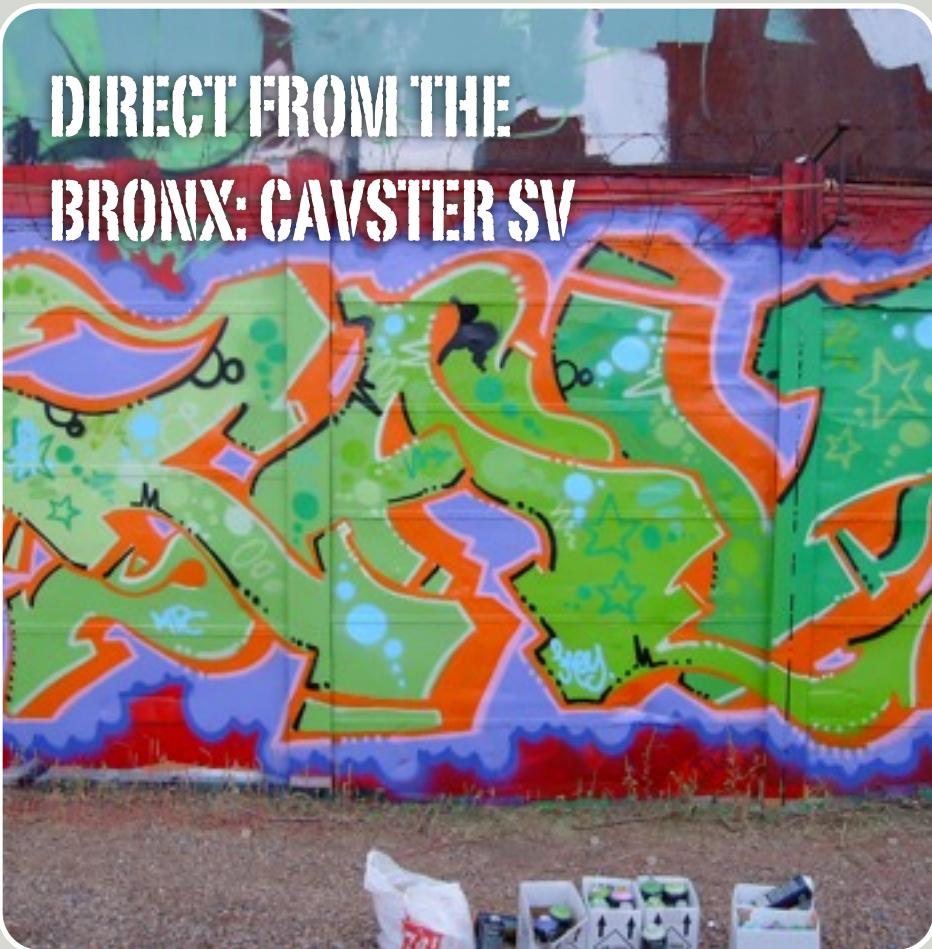
ACE 5 with
CAVS and SLIP
Albuquerque, NM -
2008

NEW MEXICO



PESA, STRIKER, ANTI and STAIN – Albuquerque Jam

DIRECT FROM THE BRONX: CAVSTER SV



CAVSTER ROCKS ALBUQUERQUE

After a quick meeting in NYC with CAV, SLIP invited him out to New Mexico – and he came! CAVS bombed NYC subways throughout the '80s. When the MTA clamped down, he then blasted freights with his unique style. He's been there, done that ... and is still doing it.



CAV – Albuquerque 2008

This is a shout-out to Albuquerque's Graff and Hip-Hop store: THE LA UNDERGROUND

These guys – brothers, Ken and Smooch – founders and owners of the LA Underground in Albuquerque have shown us nothing but love since the first night we stepped foot in their store. Okay, at first, they didn't believe we were original MPC members – or, MPC at all. They didn't actually say that, they're too kind. But they did have it written all over their faces.



I think it took a while to convince them – not that they really cared. What matters though is the respect, friendship and support they offer has been awesome. They turned us onto to Beat paint and, of course, all the other European paint that we had no clue about. We have a lot of learning to do, but we're getting up to speed!

MPC Newsletter

This newsletter is intended to give some history of the crew, mixed with some present going-ons, chit-chatter, opinion and observation. Since the crew spans over 3 decades, we'll do our best to get snippets and interviews of pre-1983 members and all those who followed after – there are many!

Comments? Questions? Ideas?

If you have any stories, comments, questions, ideas, or just want to share your thoughts, drop us a line:

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