

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS



HIP HOP FAMILY TREE

TWO-IN-ONE

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MAY
02458

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY



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ROOTS OF HIP HOP

IT'S THE MID-1970S, IN THE DILAPIDATED SOUTH BRONX. IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR FUN, THE ONLY POSITIVE FORM OF RECREATION WOULD BE TO ATTEND ONE OF DJ KOOL HERC'S PARTIES, IN A REC ROOM LOCATED AT 1520 SEDGWICK AVE.



HERC IS ALREADY A LEGEND IN THE BOROUGH, BUT THIS DOESN'T STOP HIM FROM CONSTANTLY PRACTICING AND EXPERIMENTING TO MAKE HIS SHOWS AS ENJOYABLE AS POSSIBLE.



USING 2 COPIES OF THE SAME RECORD HE DISCOVERS THAT HE CAN LOOP THE INSTRUMENTAL "BREAKS" IN HIS FAVORITE MUSIC AD INFINITUM, IF HE CHOOSES SO, TINKERING IN HIS APARTMENT WITH THE WINDOW OPEN, HE REALIZES HE'S ON TO SOMETHING...



MIXING ONE BREAK INTO THE BREAK OF A DIFFERENT SONG, A TERM HE CALLS "MERRY-GO-ROUND," BECOMES A PART OF KOOL HERC'S ARSENAL. ADDING SUCH COMPLEXITY TO HIS PERFORMANCE, HE MAKES THE DECISION TO ENLIST A FRIEND TO EMCEE AND HANDLE DUTIES ON THE MICROPHONE.



BEING THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN, THESE PARTIES COMMAND HUGE CROWDS AND PROVIDE A WEALTH OF INSPIRATION TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE. A TALENTED CORE BEGINS TO BUILD UPON THE FOUNDATION THAT HERC DEVELOPS.

GRANDMASTER FLASH PERFECTS HERC'S MAJOR TECHNIQUES AND BEGINS INNOVATING NEW CONCEPTS AS HE GAINS POPULARITY PLAYING BLOCK PARTIES.



GRANDWIZARD THEODORE IS A YOUNG DJ* WHO INVENTS THE IDEA OF "SCRATCHING" RECORDS BY ACCIDENT.

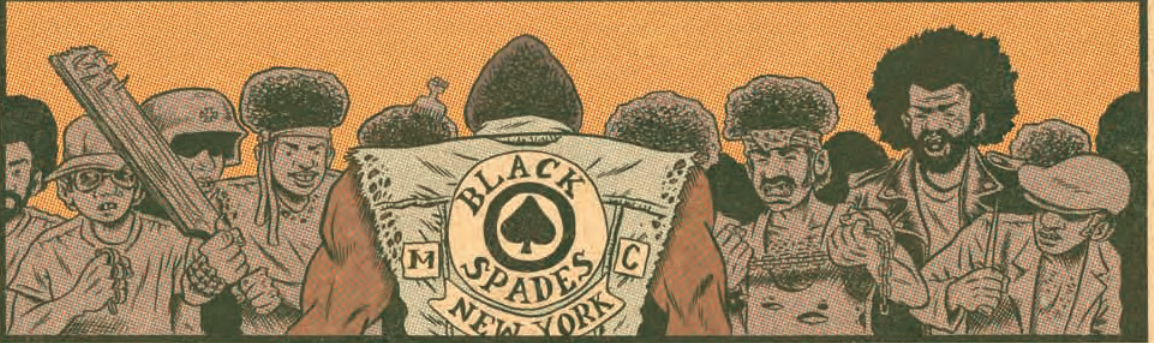


* MORE SPECIFICALLY, HE IS GRANDMASTER FLASH'S PROTEGE.

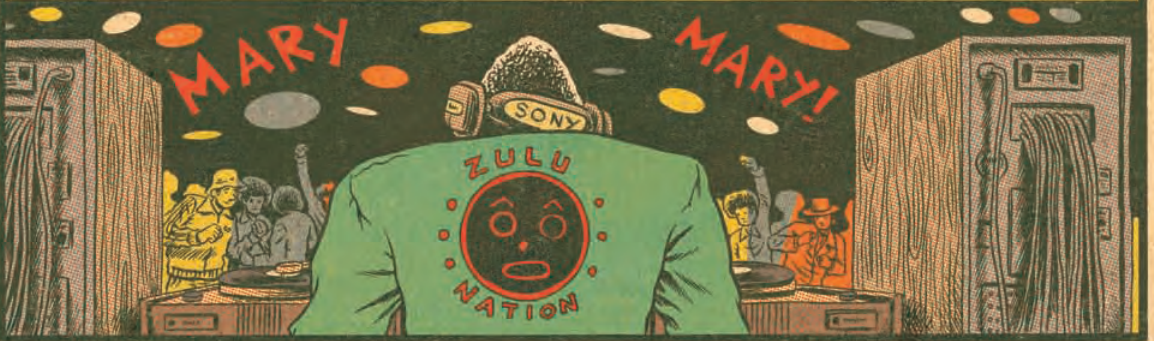
AFRIKA BAMBAATAA IS A PARTY DJ, TOO, KNOWN FOR BEING AN ADVENTUROUS "MASTER OF RECORDS," BY PLAYING THE WEIRDEST, MOST OBSCURE MUSIC. HIS INCREDIBLY LOUD SOUND SYSTEM IS SECOND TO NONE.



GANG CULTURE IS RAMPANT IN THE BRONX AT THIS TIME. BAMBAATAA, HIMSELF, IS THE FEARED LEADER OF THE BIGGEST GANG IN THE BOROUGH.



SEEING THE POSITIVE POTENTIAL IN THIS NEW "HIP HOP" SCENE (CONSISTING OF BREAKDANCE, MC'S, DJ'S, AND GRAFFITI ARTISTS), BAMBAATAA STARTS GUIDING HIS FOLLOWERS IN A LESS VIOLENT DIRECTION.



THIS INHERENT GANG VIBE MIGHT BE THE SOURCE OF WHY MOST OF THE CREATIVE PEOPLE DECIDE TO ESTABLISH GROUPS, RATHER THAN EXPRESS THEMSELVES ON THEIR OWN. THE "BATTLING" PHENOMENA OF EACH HIP HOP DISCIPLINE IS CERTAINLY DERIVED FROM THE GANG MENTALITY.

THE TREACHEROUS THREE



THE COLD CRUSH BROTHERS



FUNKY FOUR PLUS ONE



THE FANTASTIC FIVE

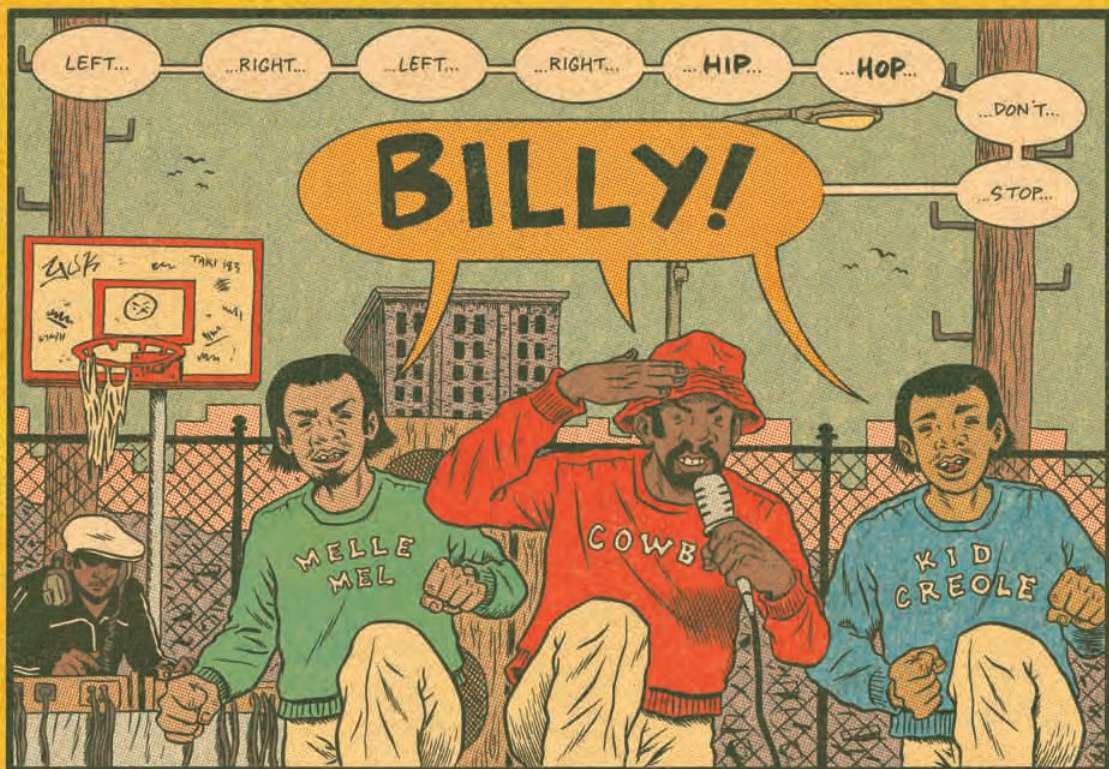


ORIGINS OF THE TERM

IN GRANDMASTER FLASH'S NEIGHBORHOOD, A TEEN NAMED BILLY ENLISTED HIMSELF INTO THE MILITARY AND HE'S HEADING OFF TO BOOTCAMP AFTER THIS WEEKEND. FLASH, HIS 3 EMCEES, AND THE BRONX CELEBRATE THEIR FRIEND THE BEST WAY THEY CAN:



TO KEEP THE CROWD AWARE OF THE REASON THEY'RE ALL THERE, COWBOY CREATES A SPECIAL, SLIGHTLY SATIRICAL ROUTINE FOR THIS PARTY. COWBOY, MELLE MEL, AND KID CREOLE REPEAT THE ACT EVERY HALF HOUR FOR THE DURATION OF THE GET-TOGETHER.



AFTER THE SHOW, FOR WEEKS AND WEEKS, THE PEOPLE AT THE PARTY DEVELOPED SOME SHORTHAND WHEN RECALLING THE EXPERIENCE.



SOMEWHERE IN THE BRONX

