

ertones

of HIP-HOP

When Akron is brought up in music discussions, the most common topics are rock pioneers Devo and Chrissie Hynde, maverick songwriter David Allan Coe or smooth R&B crooner James Ingram.

But ask the average music-loving Joe or Josephine about the Akron hip-hop scene and you're likely to receive a blank stare or the question "Anyone in Bone Thugs N' Harmony from Akron?"

Just as in most cities in America, hip-hop is alive and well in Akron with rappers, DJs, producers and small local record labels working diligently in their bedroom studios and offices, releasing rap in a variety of styles, although whether that constitutes a living, breathing scene is debatable.

There's plenty of good rap music being produced in Akron and it is easily available to fans willing to look in the local sections of chains or local record shops such as Taste of New York

Records and Tapes and Mixxed. Akron-producing brothers Ryan and Jay Wade recently released *S.C.U.L.L.Y.*, a compilation of their funky synth-heavy beats with tracks ranging from classic bragging and boasting to bling-bling materialism and gritty street tales.

The CD features verses from a host of area rappers including machine gun-mouthed, simile master Billy Chemicals, hard-edged Sincere the Esquire and Logic.

Local rapper Ace Boogie's mature *Don't Know Nothing But This: The Poetry Album* mixes live acoustic and electric guitar, vibes, flute and mellow mechanized beats to cushion Boogie's alternately rapped and spoken-word ruminations on life, love, survival and the lamentable state of mainstream hip-hop.

Also, Taste of New York owner D has teamed up with local club Voodoo to start

Please see **Hip-hop, G16**

Local music scene is alive in Akron with rappers, DJs and record labels keeping the beat

