

STUDENT LOANS UP TO \$50,000/YEAR **loan to learn** **APPLY NOW**

NEW YORK PRESS

- [HOME](#)
- [SEARCH](#)
- [ARCHIVES](#)
- [INFORMATION AGENT](#)
- [NEWS & COLUMNS](#)
- [FILM](#)
- [EATS & DRINKS](#)
- [SPORTS](#)
- [COMICS](#)
- [MUSIC](#)
- [ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT](#)
- [PHOTO ALBUM](#)
- [BEST OF MANHATTAN](#)
- [MENU GUIDE](#)
- [NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDE](#)
- [CLASSIFIED](#)
- [PERSONALS](#)
- [EMAIL NEWSLETTER](#)
- [JOBS](#)
- [FREE STUFF](#)
- [AD GUIDELINES](#)
- [MASTHEAD](#)

Sign Up Here For NY Press Newsletter, Events and Giveaways!

SUBSCRIBE
 UNSUBSCRIBE
 I HAVE READ and agree to our [terms and conditions](#).

[MORE INFO](#)

CATEGORY KILLERS

Professor Murder absorb NYC like a sponge

By Jesse Serwer

The fallacy of most of today's so-called "post-punk" is that it's not actually moving past anything. While cultural vacuums like Williamsburg have produced countless bands worshipping at the altar of The Clash and Gang of Four, few seem hip to the fact that those bands left their mark by applying a punk aesthetic to the hot urban dance music of their day (disco funk, reggae, etc.) as well as creating their own fierce sound. Yet, retracing the original post-punkers steps continues to be sold as the sound of today to ostensibly discerning listeners.

Consider as an alternative Professor Murder, which just dropped their debut EP, Professor Murder Rides The Subway (Kanine Records) last month. While the locally-based quartet share qualities with ESG and Liquid Liquid—early '80s NYC acts known for minimal, percussive sounds—it's HOT 97 listeners, not Other Music shoppers, who will pick up on the signifiers in tracks like "Camron's New Color (part three)." When lead vocalist Mike Bell-Smith chants "It's the P-P-P-P Murder, this is dem killa" (on the interlude-like "Pedigree") in his indie voice, he's co-opting the tuff talk of dancehall's deejays while riffing on his unit's name in the fashion of today's hip-hop MCs. Then, following a volley of cowbells (one of the band's calling cards), a Fugazi-esque bass kicks in.

"It's not about trying to be coded or explicitly referencing something," explains Bell-Smith (who also handles percussion) of Professor Murder's approach to music. "We're creating this collage that's drawing from our environment, and pulling in these disparate elements. We're firm believers in music being a dialogue and a lineage based on appropriation—borrowing and stealing ideas and transforming them."

Under the guise of King Oppression, the group's members have also performed Professor Murder songs over dancehall riddims like the Coolie Dance and hip-hop beats like Jay-Z's "Big Pimpin'" instrumental.

"What we're doing is a product of living in New York, and how it affects your psyche, just being in this crazy place with a million types of people and



The boys of Professor Murder sure love New York.

READER TOOLS

-
-
-

MORE ARTICLES

- Music**
- Robert Hicks : Still Breathing**
- Jesse Serwer: Category Killers**
- Brian Heater: Debaser**
- Robbie Mackey: Slowed Down**
- Music Listings**
- Ernest Barteldes: Jazz to the Skies**
- Jazz Listings**

advertisement

— ADVERTISEMENT —
paid advertising

NYC Real Estate
By Mark David & Co.
Rentals and Sales.
Thousands of Listings!

paid advertising
[Place Your Link Here!](#)
[Neteller Casinos](#)
[New york movers](#)
[Gambling News](#)
[Fundraisers](#)

[Charity Car Donations](#)
[Bingo.com](#)
[New York Blackjack](#)
[online](#)
[Credit](#)
[Bird Cages](#)
[Super Slots](#)
[Online Slots Free](#)
[Texas Electricity](#)
[Providers](#)
[Online Gambling](#)
[Casinos](#)
[New York Casino](#)
[Online](#)

Visiting New York City?
Check out:
[New York City Hotels](#)
[New York](#)

— ADVERTISEMENT —



CityKids' helps young people positively impact their lives, their communities and the world.



To learn more or get involved, check out www.citykids.com.

CityKids uses the arts to engage and train young people to create positive and powerful solutions to issues impacting their lives. Young people learn to improve their own educational status, become

music from all over the world," says Bell-Smith.

It's a melting pot worth getting down with.

August 18. Mercury Lounge. 217 E. Houston St. (at Ave. A), 212-260-4700; 9:30 p.m., \$10/\$12.

Volume 19, Issue 33

©2006 All rights reserved.

No part of this website may be reproduced in any manner without written permission of the publisher.

advertisement

advertisement

Looking for a real travel deal?
SHERMAN'S TOP 25



This Week's Deals:

- \$200 OFF** [Air + 5-nt CARIBBEAN trips](#)
- \$103+ RT** [AIR to top US cities](#)
- \$134+** [Last-min. air/hotel in VEGAS](#)
- \$558+** [HAWAII air/hotel \(up to \\$150 off\)](#)
- \$347+** [CHICAGO for Labor Day - 3-nt & air](#)
- \$35/nt+** [Circus Circus on VEGAS Strip](#)
- \$291+** [4-day FLORIDA beach trips w/air](#)
- \$534+** [PARADISE ISLAND resort 3 nts w/air](#)

agents for social change, take action in community projects, and carry positive messages to their peers. And they have a great time doing it.

**THE CITYKIDS
FOUNDATION**

— ADVERTISEMENT —

NEED A STUDENT LOAN?		STUDENT LOANS UP TO \$50,000/YEAR APPLY NOW loan to learn®
---------------------------------	--	--