



Photograph courtesy of Slick Watts

Yes We Can (verse 2)
Slick Watts
(inspired by Barack Obama and featured on AllHipHop.com)

*See this is what I mean,
 the educations key.
 Because with a book
 You can be around the world for free
 Just take a look at me,
 and you can see the truth
 never gave up on my dreams
 so today I'm living proof.
 I kick it with the youth...
 just to let them know it's real
 and it's all hard work
 there is no magic pill.
 You got to remain positive
 even if you fall
 because you can fight through it
 you can stand tall.
 You just got to believe
 that you can do it all
 It's time to make a change
 the future's on ya'll (Say yes we can)*

Ponce De'Leiou

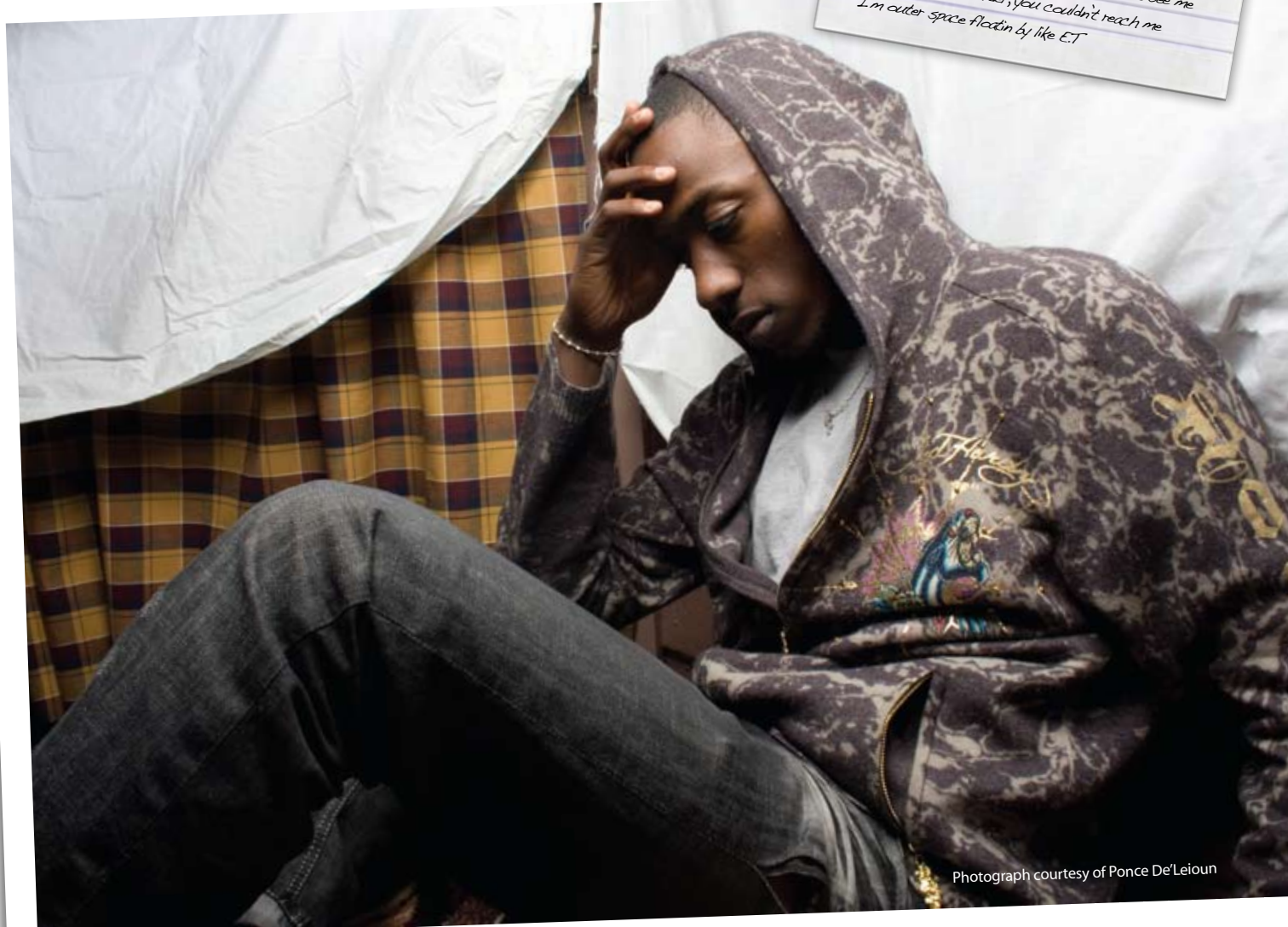
The self called "Fountain of Youth of Hip Hop" grew up in the projects in Los Angeles as the son of Dale and Chana Jackson before moving to Wheeling with his family. His hardscrap life in LA around "drugs, sex, and money" led him to the wrong people doing wrong things, and his expulsion from high school here locally allowed him to start all over. "I knew I messed up, so I can't do anything but better myself now."

Ponce began rapping as early as eleven and moved up through the ranks of local rappers in Wheeling. "I've never had any help. Everything I have, I have got on my own." This year, the young artist initiated his own group and label titled "Ponce Music," a combination of rap artists, photographers, and graphic designers. His songs have been picked up by various nationally recognized DJ's, and he feels that 2010 is his year. "My major move will be in 2010-- this is my year." His big break could be the recent inclusion of his music on DJ Green Lantern's "Unsigned Invasion."

>> Follow the rising star at www.myspace.com/PoncetheGreatest

I'm On Top of The World
Ponce De'Leiou

*(Check it) My flow is the world axis
 And so I keep it on point like a cactus
 So when I choose to move I'm tryna prove
 That you boys couldn't see me if you had a lot of
 practice(yeah)
 I'm on my way out galaxy
 And saying there's a better rapper is a fallacy
 Cuz we are nothing alike, we are not ellipse
 So when I shine you disappear like an eclipse
 Fresh flows like It was rapped in plastic (bags)
 I'm fittin crack the game out no chipp-stick
 When I was young my dreams were just a vision
 Now that vision I am living I ain't gotta be an actress
 Cuz now days a lot of people wanna be me
 But even if you had a satellite you couldn't see me
 And if you had a ladder, you couldn't reach me
 I'm outer space floatin by like ET*



Photograph courtesy of Ponce De'Leiou

HIP HOP

THE HILLS

From an Unlikely Source, Hip Hop Finds a Voice.

2010 could be the year that Wheeling finally delivers its own spin on Hip Hop to the nation. Local emerging stars Slick Watts and Ponce De'Leiou are on the cusp of spitting this city, better known for its twang and fiddle, onto the Hip Hop map. **IN Wheeling** takes a look at these two up and coming artists.

Slick Watts

The college basketball star put his college degree and everything else on hold to pursue his dream of rapping for a living. "It's my way to reach out to people," the eastern Ohio native says. "I feel I was born to do this my whole life. I decided to follow my dreams because of the death of my brother. You never know when time is up...so follow your dreams."

Slick has been named as the "Best Midwest Artist" at the 2009 7th Annual Underground Music Awards in New York City and has been nominated for a total of eight Ohio Hip Hop Awards. His music has been featured on a variety of mix tapes and on Sirius radio, and he has partnered with Stall & Dean/Rucker Apparel as his official clothing partner.

All of Slick's music is written by him and has evolved over the years from club joint to inspirational.

>> Follow the rising star at www.WattsyMusic.com