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MIDWEST LEAK #123 VOL 12 ISSUE 2



THE GRUBHOUSE MIDWEST LEAK 100 LIST DJ DAJON DJ STRICK TRIBUTE TO NAPTOWN DJS SACK MONEY ISO

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VOTE ON MIDWESTLEAK.COM VOTING ENDS 6/25 SHOW 7/7 @ 7P AT THE VOGUE A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

lea

MIDWEST LEAK 100,

THANK YOU FOR ACTIVELY WALKING IN YOUR PURPOSE AND INTENTIONALLY CREATING IN WAYS THAT ENGAGE, INSPIRE, AND IMPACT THE TRAJECTORY OF YOUR COMMUNITY ACROSS GENERATIONS. YOU DESERVE ROSES.

LOVE ALWAYS,

)eana

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1000 Words Gallery 40 West Digital A Seat at the Table Aaron Green Alpha the Stray Amani TreNiner Andre Carson Anthony Murdock III Ashley Gurvitz Ashley Nora Avachino Reeves Be Nimble **Belmont Beach Project** Big Walt's **Bill Collins** Black Dolla Indy Black Indy Live Black WorldSchoolers **Bloom Project** Briana Davis Brianna Membres BSwift CeCe Watts Coach K Coach Trina (Business As Usual) David Gibson **Deborah Whitfield** Deckademics **Demarco Plays** DJ Champ **Dominic Dorsey Dustyn Silk King Hamilton Eric Washington Eunice Trotter** Expressions Bookstore Fresh Start Resource Indy Gabe Flowers GangGang Culture Gene Allen George Hill Girl Gang Indy Ground Work Indy Hank's Brisket

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When you think of the town You can't help, but to think of the sound. Who is that? Who is that? Spinning a web of crisscrossing, hi tats and boom baps, from places, near and far. Settling right back in the middle of the map. Which is why you can hear traces of **DJ Screw** in that new **DJ Black**....

Style unmatched See, until Pimp Cee We, had never heard Babyface over Drakes "back to back" Or when DJ Danny merged Adele with JimEMac See the reason JF is the legend, and Champ is the champion, and King is king... it's because once they get done mixing this with that, And R&B with trap from that point on, we only wanted to hear the music like that! S/o to DJ Scream because them big facts.

See, anywhere else in the **DJ World** A DJ, is just that, a DJ. But this is Nap. But this is Nap. and since we are in Indianapolis, Indiana (Jones) lefs not breeze past the fact that DJs, like **Gus, Don Don, Goo, Jackhammer, Balo, BNasty, Chris, Skimask** and the list goes on made more money on mixes. Than the quys who were selling packs. You would've thought **DJ World** was selling crack The way the ted's came and shut down his trap

And then came the DJ Drama And thank God, it stayed on wax

Man, the whole city was waiting To get that new mixtape, to see what DJ so-and-so Had to say about DJ such n such turning a voicemail into a whole track but Thank God we got past all that

See We Thought Preny Mo was signed to Cash Money The way they had Rydaz in rotation. The DJS kept G-Stak shaken in every club and basement And then Wrekk1, Top Speed and BSwift started breaking Nag artists at the station And then, every rapper whose movement wasn't making the waves that they thought they should be making Swore up and down that every DJ at hot 96 was hatin

If it wasn't the radio it was the club From **Duck** spinning On My Momma in Cloud 9 Down to LP at the rink To **Skrill** havin them hittin the jiggalate in Bentley's East Rest in Peace. Then there's **Marcus Wain** or **DJ Long Green** spinning the home team with the OGS at the Point groovin **Watts** rockin Head Dumb in Live **Dajon** playing Ice Cold at Fusion

I'm talking from Haughville to Post And then they started to understand That If you really wanna get put in the game It must be approved by **DJ Reddy Rock** Better known as the Coach

Chooooooo Cheaaaa...

Choococo Cheaaaa..... Whether we're blowing good bud with DJ Spudd, or it's a 'Wood with DJ Mary Jane, or on that Melo Mix, ring Tre-8 leavin Limelight after Boogie Bang did his thang mixing Kirk Franklin with Trina and Trick When that top comes off and that joing storkes and High notes from a Grapevine, Watts, BSlime, Yungen or Flip gets to blamg from the whip Or you're at a Pacer game or event with Draft Pick, Lady Locs or Space Bunz in the mix, Remember this Without DJ Metrognome Deckademics lessons have no home Without a Trill Tight PA and Cash There's no coals for Pimp Without DJ World in Nap There's no coals for Pimp Without DJ World in Nap Det oblight of Lifting Ball and G would just perform and dip But ever since DJ Black Hyphotized our minds With that Purple Truck wit thits We been hustin f n and tricking baby Like my dudes from 3-6 And that words to Rusty and WigSplitter DJ Kenny Kixx So In honor of the sound

So In honor of the sound That Nap's DJs made exist in the words of **Naptowns Prince**

Everybody say it Loud and Proud Chooooooooooo! Play that NAPTOWN SHIT!

Much love to Midtown Music, City Music, Rockin Billy's, Magnifiscents, Naptown Music, and all the DJ owned retail for keeping the culture.

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DJ/Awards Edition



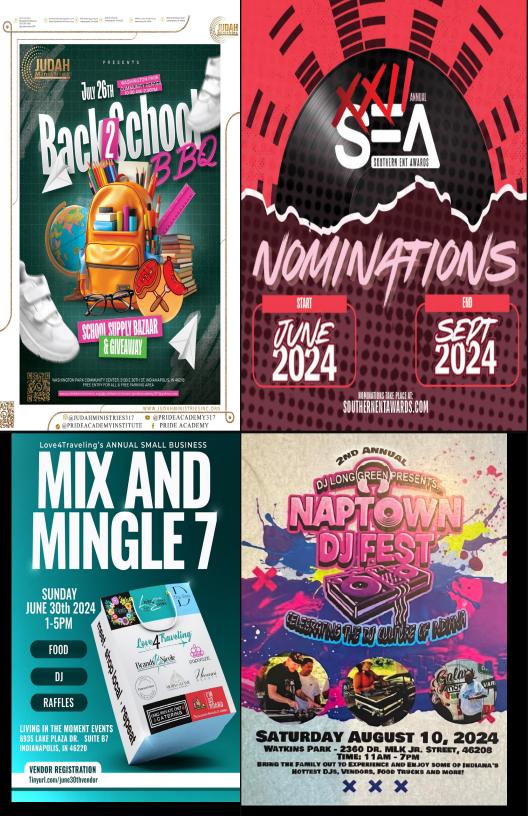
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Is a vibe Set the mood right Keep the party going Give your music life Without the DJ can't be tight I love the DJ respect the DJ need the DJ Working your hands, working your neck, working your brain... When the DJ put the mix down the vibe gets to upgrade Award... recognize the music... it's a show.... Where is the playlist? Recognize the favorite Recognize the recognized Let's LEAK it We Not all sleep n We know where to find the heat It's Nap-town We NOT for the weak.



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COVER STORY



Photos by: Taken By KO

Words By: @LeDeana

One of the highlights of the year is our annual 317 Day Celebration hosted by Midwest Leak And Nap or Nothing. We got to talk to Leak Awards nominee DJ Strick about the Naptown Sound and his role in pushing the culture forward. We've watch Strick come up in the ranks from soaking up game and earning his way as a part of Trill Tight DJ sto providing the soundtrack to a generation of events alongside fellow Leak Awards nominee Wudi Fresco and being a household name in the mix on your local radio station. Strick takes great pride in building relationships with local artists and can always be found playing the latest from Parris LaDame to classics from D Rock rather it's on the air or from the stage of the biggest major artist concert. And if you're looking for somewhere to go vibe out with friends and family just know he's got you covered.

What part of 317 are you from? I'm from the Far Eastside. Born and raised. Between Shadeland and Mitthoefer area. I kind of bounced around. To put it in perspective, I went to Lawrence Central High School. I went to Lawrence Township grades 1-12.

How did the area that you're from influence your art? When I was an up and coming DJ I rocked the local parties and kickbacks. I was like the high school DJ. We were on [Naptown] music heavy. I remember in high school we had all the mixtapes.



I remember Swoe had his mixtape. He flooded the whole school with the mixtapes.

Tell me about the Naptown sound. It speaks for itself. You can't find it anywhere else. It's a piece of the east coast, west coast, the south, the Detroit influence. It's everything rolled into one sound. That's why I love it.

Why is it important to you to represent 317 in all you do from the radio to the clubs? It's important for all of us to push the culture forward. Whatever I need to do on my part as far as the radio goes and as far as these clubs go, I have to do it.

@DJStrick_ #IfItAintStrickItAintLit



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365 ENTREPRENUR





By: @LeDeana

What is your specialty item? All of our breakfast is special. We deep fry our French toast on croissants. We make Nothing worth having comes easy. It's definitely a lot of skillet fried potatoes that we slice and dice ourselves. Our work. There's good, bad and uglý. There's great days! If catfish is really popular. Our chicken and waffles. And we're you want it, you've got to get it. Everything you want and one of the only ones in the city that sell turkey chops.

I know you've been on a fitness journey. What do you eat from your restaurant? I eat everything. I'm just going to grill it instead of frying it. For breakfast I eat protein. Eggs, meat, all the vegetables, greens, cabbage, green beans. We have vegan options. We have something for everyone!

How did you select the community that you're located in? It wasn't a selection. Someone came to me and offered the space. The restaurant that was here before me closed abruptly. It was a family friend and they knew I had food experience and offered for me to give it a try and it worked.

When did you know it was time to become an entrepreneur 365? This was a blessing that I didn't see coming, but How did the giving wall come about and how does it I put my all into it and it became something. I wasn't a cook, but I have a food background. I went to college. I have a paralegal degree, a dental assisting certificate, I have everything except something in culinary. I worked at Kountry Kitchen for a long time. I worked at Culvers and Chick-fil-A. It seems like God was preparing me for this all my life. I put my all into anything I do. Every job I've ever had, I've learned something and made sure I was the best at it. I've been getting experience all along the way. I definitely have to give you the meal. to thank Kountry Kitchen for my experience there. They taught me so much. Back office, front office, front line, and food. I just learned so much there it seemed like this was meant to happen.

Do you believe that girl bosses have it harder?

Absolutely not! I believe we have it a little easier and can finesse a little more. There are more opportunities for us in a sense.

What advice do you have for aspiring entrepreneurs? need is out there, but it's not going to fall in your lap. Give whatever you do your all.

How do you stay motivated on the hard days. I have no option. It's my life. I don't want to fail. I love nice things. No matter what.

How do you balance work and family? I'm ten years in. At the beginning work and family was definitely a problem because this was all I knew and all I thought about. This was what I gave my all to. That's kind of why I moved to Los Angeles. I relocated about five years ago to separate the two. Business and family. I have a son who is autistic that I need to pour into more so I made a change. Now I'm able to give them both everything they need.

work? I always donate to her pantry. It may have been a way of her showing her appreciation. She called one day and it worked! You come in and purchase a meal and give a meal of your choice. It doesn't have to be a certain dollar amount. Or you can just come in and donate. You don't necessarily have to support us. We appreciate you if you give. It's for anyone. If you come in and take a tag off the wall we're not going to ask any questions. We're just going

Is there anything else you would like to share? Do you have any plans to expand? No I don't. This is it for me. I would franchise if the opportunity came my way! We are open Wednesday - Saturday 8am-5:30pm. We appreciate anyone that has done anything to support us in any way.

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COVER STORY





Photos by: @FotosbyChino

What do you believe is your purpose? I believe my purpose is to help people. Growing up around this area in 46208 near Martin Luther King and Harding with a single mother of six it was always my desire to help people in this neighborhood. I grew up off 28th and Harding which is not far from this location which is why I put my refrigerator here first. The vision is to one day have a free grocery store.

What are the locations of your community refrigerators? I have this one on Eugene Street at CMDC Church. I have one on 38th and Post at C.A.F.E. and I have one on 30th and Forest Manor at a church as well. We're in food deserts. Places that don't have grocery stores. Places that Black people need community refrigerators.

What does it take for a location to house a refrigerator? We look for areas in need with businesses that have outlets outside to provide electricity for the community refrigerator. Some people are skeptical about putting it in front of their business. That was one of the first obstacles that I had.

Have you collaborated with other organizations that have similar causes? I have donors like Door Dash, Kroger, and Walmart recently reached out. They saw me on the news. Home Depot reached out to donate refrigerators now.

What are some of the needs you face in your work? Even though I do get donations from big grocery stores, the food goes so fast, we have to re-stock three times daily. We have non-perishable pantries as well. We accept anything other than home-cooked meals, dairy products and raw meat. I'm a one woman show. I do have volunteers, but the food goes so fast.

People will write that they went and it was empty and that wears on my heart. That makes me want to stop what I'm doing and go stock. People mention needing delivery. We are working with Door Dash to put a program together so that we can offer delivery. Who is Indy Community Pantry for? Us. The community. You don't have to be homeless to utilize the refrigerator. I had a mother tell me that she was short on her paycheck so she came at night to use the refrigerator so her kids didn't need to know. "Take what you need, leave what you can" is the motto. Anyone that's utilizing the refrigerator needs it. Everybody eats B! For Free. That's the goal!

Tell us about the Giving Wall. I started the Giving Wall because a lot of people that use the refrigerators have stoves or houses or refrigerators at home. But what about the people that don't? I partnered with Grub House to where people can buy meals for people that are in need and don't have the money or means to cook. You can take a receipt off the wall and claim your free meal.

Why GrubHouse? She is the first person I thought to ask. I reached out to her because she's a Black woman entrepreneur and her food is SO good. She loved the idea so that's the first store we got. I had a couple restaurants reach out after going on the news so we have three more Giving Walls coming soon.

What motivates you? The testimonies that I hear. When I come to stock and the refrigerator is empty. The people that tell me this has changed their lives. A lot of people don't like going to [traditional] pantries because they want your ID or want you to register or you can't go if you don't live in the area. Indy Community Pantry is 24/7.

To volunteer to stock, clean and/or pick up donations visit IndyCommunityPantry.net

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Dedicated to her passion, Loyalty drives a special engine running on pure talent and unbreakable will. Expanding her wings as a creator, Loyalty is building a dynamic empire.

From teen to adult, her creative writing has become the plateau for sassy lines, intelligent bars, and ear-catching hooks. As an author, she desires to see her words brought to life and this has become the engine that drives her music. With her new tracks, 'Well Behaved', 'On Me', featuring DJ XO, and fresh hits coming down the pipeline, she sneaks into the industry like a sheep in wolf's clothing.

Outside of the studio time and (ghost) writing, Loyalty stays on her grind. As a licensed massage therapist, behavioral specialist, and clinical counselor her loyalty to success is front and center!

"I want to help change a stagnant system and build up mental health. I know I can use my love for music and writing to help bridge that gap"

[LOI-UHL-TEE] - NOUN FAITHFULNESS TO COMMITMENTS OR OBLIGATION.

BEHIND THE MUSIC



By: @LeDeana

What makes you hold the title of R&B God? I was doing Trey Songz's sold out concert in Columbus, Ohio. The way I rocked it, Trey came up to me and told my I was the king of it and I kept rocking with it. The ladies love the way I mix my songs. I'm notoriously known for dropping R&B songs in the middle of a trap set. I can drop a song you haven't heard in forever and the memories hit and people enjoy it.

Why R&B? I dare to be different. I started throwing my own R&B events and created my own lane with the R&B stuff. Everyone started out laughing when I started going heavy on R&B then eventually everyone started doing R&B everything.

Where can people catch you in the mix? I'm on 106.3 FM Chicago on Sundays. Stay tuned to my social media to see when I'm dropping my next event.



@DJDajon



I was invited to speak to a group of fathers that are a part of the You Yes You Project at the Plainfield Correctional facility. When Ericka Sanders told me about the Midwest Leak Magazine readers she met while facilitating her program I was overjoyed at the opportunity to connect with them too!

To hear them speak to the impact me walking in my gifts has on them and to get to express the motivation their unwavering support gives me... My gratitude overflows!









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MUSIC



What life events have inspired your passion and persistence in your craft and how did you maintain despite the challenges? The biggest challenges I've faced include losing my kids mother becoming a single father the year of 2019. This changed my entire outlook on life. Navigating the music industry's complexities, balancing artistic integrity with commercial demands, and overcoming other personal struggles. To overcome them, I stayed in tunnel vision, surrounded myself with support, and persevered through creative blocks by collaborating and finding mentorship.

What got you into the music industry? My passion for music, innate talent, and relentless drive propelled got me into the music industry. Maybe it was a childhood fascination, a transformative moment, or a vision to share my voice with the world, my journey into music was determination and a deep-seated love for the art form.

What are you most proud of as an artist? Reaching over 400k views on YouTube from film I stared in "Two Side the movie" as well as collaborating with iconic artists and producers such as Bango, Skooter, Nico on the beat, Playbwoi the great, Finesse 2 Tymes, Dj Danny, Mobfam E, Yella Mrc, Craig Allen, CGF Hotboy, and Brick Wolfpack. I'm proud of achieving 100k organic views on music video "Profit" that's on YouTube and winning rookie of the year artist award at Leak Awards.



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