

nada's notes

From the Publisher



Camara & Kenya Sheppard with Ryan McCloskey visiting Pulse HQ

*STONE FREE DO WHAT I PLEASE
STONE FREE TO RIDE THE BREEZE
STONE FREE I CANT STAY
GOT TO GOT TO GOT TO GET AWAY
YEAH OW!

I'd like to start with a little explaining: Early on in writing these letters I took on the tradition of beginning and ending with a quote from "the song of the month" that best identifies not only the spirit of the issue, but also my state of mind as I pen "the notes." It's a gimmick really—music is the tie that binds and I'm banking on the fact that in using it, I can bring you that much closer to my momentary reality and overcome the inherent disconnect between writer and audience.

This month, Jimi's "Stone Free" jumped to the top of my iPod because few artists, especially in so short a time, were able to make such an impact on so many genres of music, let alone fashion, racial tensions, social issues and even politics. This song embodies not only a music god, but also one of the most radical eras in music history, and thus, the spirit of our issue.

Music is the time machine that can do the one thing we all want and can't accomplish: It can stop the clock. A song can transport us directly to the soul of the artist to suspend fear, make a heart-break delicious, sweeten our memories, rally our dissidence, make us drink, dance, eat, get romantic or just plain throw our heads back and sing away (as out of tune as we wish). Who doesn't love music? At some point, most people want to be rock stars, even Bernadette Castro (see p. 19), or they remember something from the past based on the music of the era, like our guests in this month's special *Pulse Rate* (the last page).

Running between those two pages, the features are dedicated to

the rising stars of Long Island who are molding their talents, as well as those who have been on the road since it was all dirt and tumbleweeds. Acoustic venues, open mics, the evolution of the music industry, American Gangersterism...they're all here, for you to experience.

Our arts section includes a piece on how time really is stopped in Northport. The home section boasts a new *Dream Design* component granting one lucky winner a solution to a decorating problem—we welcome designer extraordinaire Giovanni Nasso to the *Pulse* lineup (see p. 57 to win his consultation). Also making a show are Valentine's Day tips for singles and couples from match-maker Maureen Tara Nelson, how to serve and enjoy Champagne, and our new *Tech Trends* segment profiling the latest goodies and gadgets to hit the market.

We are happy to be back with a bang—help us in celebrating this issue, music, and The Sheppard Brothers with Ryan McCloskey on drums, my favorite band of the moment. Our first Cover Party of 2008 is on February 13, look to the page on the right for details.

*TEAR ME LOOSE BABY,

nada

*Jimi Hendrix, "Stone Free"