



Tim Kinley/Groove Maneuvers Archives

The return of the CINCINNATTI KID...

and revelations on Count Trackula, George Clinton, James Brown and the whole Funk thang!

WELL, our intrepid hero, William Bootsy Collins is about to wage war on behalf of Funkadelicity as he intends to defeat the evil advances of one Count Trackula, the anti-hero on our Bootsy's new and rapidly rising album, "The One Giveth . . . The Count Taketh Away".

That, folks, is going to be the theme for the upcoming Bootsy tour — a seventy day crusade that will cover every major American city and that may well be extended on an international basis.

"The first part of the tour will include some outdoor concerts and I'll be appearing with people like Rick James, Cameo and the Gap Band", the Cincinnati kid informs us. "I'm really looking forward to it because that's what it's all about as far as I am concerned. That's my *fun time*."

"We'll have the Rubber Band and the Sweat Band with us — as well as Godmama, who are three lovely ladies who have an album out on Elektra right now. We are just finishing off a whole new stage set and the theme will definitely be me against Count Trackula. That's him on the back of the album cover! There'll be enough glitter to last you for *days!*"

"Oh and were having a special staircase built as an extra prop. The other gimmick is that we'll be presenting Jammies every night. They're our version of the *Grammys!* So there'll be plenty going on to keep the people happy."

"THE One Giveth" is a typical Bootsy Collins album and is a decidedly big step forward from the rather pedestrian "Ultrawave" album that was released last year to coincide with the New Doo Tour that Bootsy participated in with the other master funkateers, George Clinton and the whole P-Funk brigade.

"I was never really happy with "Ultrawave" because it didn't leave me feeling comfortable," Bootsy admits. "I am happier about this album but it, too, is just another step towards my aim. I've got to get back to where I left off because I know I made the mistake of losing contact with the *people*."

"That period between has been difficult for me. That's one of the main reasons why this tour is so important to me because I've got to get back that contact with the people. Then — *and only then!* — will I be able to really go back and write and record the kind of material that I can be totally satisfied with."

"Even so, this album has opened some new doors for me and it's given me a lot of confidence back and that's why I know that the next album will be

a big improvement on it. Although I can *always* see room for improvement! When the day comes that I can't, then I know I'll be going downhill.

"It's no fun being on the top — but standing *alone*. Believe me, I know — I've been there. *It's scary!* It almost lead to a complete mental breakdown. It was only at that stage that I started to really realise that William and Bootsy are two different people. If I hadn't come to my senses then, Bootsy would have killed me! *For real!*"

"Now that I've brought the influence of William more into my life, I'm getting the right kind of balance and I can feel myself progressing forward. That balance is so important because when you have a split personality and can't control it, it can become dangerous.

"It affects different people in different ways but in my case, I was running scared and I reached the point where I wasn't myself and I wasn't able to hang out with the people anymore. And that had been the whole reason for me being out there in the first place!"



Tim Kinley/GMA

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WITH Bootsy sidelined for a couple of years, the funk attack was taken completely over by King Clinton and his Parliament and Funkadelic situations. Now, the proverbial boot is on the other foot because George is temporarily out of commission because of some legal hassles. Hassles that are serious enough to have kept his solo debut album still in the can (*despite EMI's premature announcement that they had pacted the good Dr to an exclusive recording pact and despite the fact that the album still gathers dust on somebody's shelf!*)

"We're real close, as you know, and I hate to see this happening to him," Bootsy says, obviously genuinely concerned. "I worked on the solo album and it's *dynamite*.

"We also just completed a new Parliament album — I think it may be on CBS or RCA. Musically, we stretched out a lot more than on past Parliament albums. The guys hadn't seen each other in a while and it was like a whole big family reunion type thing. Both albums are excellent, though.

"I still feel very much part of the family and I'm only thankful that I seem to have resolved all of my contractual problems now. We just finished a new Sweat Band album, too. That may end up on EMI, too, because I think the Uncle Jam label has folded."

For P-Funk devotees, however, the bad news is that the project that George, Bootsy and James Brown started together has never been completed.

"We never got any further because of the legal situation again," Bootsy smiles. "But we are still talking and hopeful that one day we'll get back to it. It's the kind of timeless thing that could be done *any time* really."

ANYTIME you ask Mr Collins about the future, you know you're taking your editorial life into your hands because he usually comes up with some entertaining but highly unlikely prophesy. *Not this time!*

"As long as I am happy being Bootsy, that's what I'll be," he says sombrely. "It's like asking Bugs Bunny if he ever gets tired of being Bugs Bunny! But I have changed my approach somewhat and you'll often see me in suits and talking sense these days!"

In closing, I thought you might be interested in knowing how to keep Count Trakula at bay. You can forget your crucifixes or your garlic. Too weighty and too *smelly*.

According to Sir Bootsy, a current copy of B&S thrust in the Count's face will force him away. It's the truth, the soul truth and nothing but the truth — and the Count can't deal with it! So there! (JA)