

# PARTIES OUT OF BOUNDS?

Detroit Electronic Music Festival makes U.S. dance music history; Chicago, Toronto and Florida implement crackdown measures; a concerned East Coast raver writes ABC a nasty but hopeful letter; James Lumb from Electric Skychurch reports on a rave in Colorado getting shut down for being "un-Christian."

## CHICAGO COUNCIL IMPLEMENTS CONTROVERSIAL ANTI-RAVE ORDINANCE

Under new provision, even residential loft living room parties face \$10K fine.

**A** week after the Toronto ban, Chicago's City Council unanimously passed an ordinance to fine anyone involved in an unregistered rave—from the promoters to the DJ—up to \$10,000 each. The ordinance stems from various complaints from both Chicago police and residents about underage kids attending unsafe dance parties.

Under the "juice bar license," any rave activity after 2am is prohibited. Promoters who've registered their party with city council will have to adhere to restrictions of venue size and party capacity, and fire safety codes. **Gabriel Palomo**, who throws the Conjugate parties in Chicago, says the ordinance is "a topic of concern for everyone." Palomo, however, isn't taking sides: "It hurts the 21-and-over crowd, but keeps kids from getting killed [from drugs]." Safety, Palomo feels, isn't the only reason Chicago passed this ordinance. "I know the city wants to make money off of this, but they shouldn't have to scare off anyone."

With rumors that Chicago Police have already arrested DJs and confiscated equipment for playing music in clearly non-rave residential loft parties with ten people at them, are Chicago promoters willing to take a big risk? Says Palomo, "Chicago promoters have to come together, and find the way to educate the kids about the drugs—they're killing themselves." Securing legal venues and following the ordinance may be beneficial to the promoters, who have been portrayed in a less-than-flattering light thanks to a spate of recent bad local press concerning rave overdoses. "We can show the community that the music is not a bad thing."



Another month, another picture of Richie Rave.

## TORONTO IMPOSES ANTI-RAVE LEGISLATION

Ravers, Plastikman and Plastikmom react with letter-writing campaign.

**THE** success of the Detroit Electronic Music Festival is an anomaly in the North American scene this summer as other cities are either banning or restricting raves. In May, city officials in Toronto banned raves on city property, citing drug overdoses and abuse by underage party goers. Last December, the city council passed an ordinance which set guidelines for rave promoters to keep the safety of Toronto clubbers their first priority, but was overturned after a drug overdose was reported at a rave (which was later proved false by Toronto's Coroner Jury). "This is not the Toronto I want to be part of, and these are not the things we want to see happen," said Mayor Mel Lastman in the *Toronto Star*. "When people take this ecstasy, they go nuts and you cannot control them, and the cops cannot control them."

Windsor resident Richie Hawtin called the ban "unfortunate," adding that the city was "frightened by something that they truly do not understand." "Pushing raves and all-night events back into illegal, unsafe venues will only increase the danger to the people they are trying so

dearly to protect," said Hawtin. In a letter to the editor of the *Windsor Star*, Brenda Hawtin (Richie's mother) wrote, "I feel I must inform parents that the raves kids so very much enjoy do not encourage kids to take drugs. Far from it." Toronto ravers voiced their concerns via the following letter, which was sent en masse to the Mayor's Office: "Dear

**"I FEEL I MUST INFORM PARENTS THAT THE RAVES...DO NOT ENCOURAGE KIDS TO TAKE DRUGS. FAR FROM IT."**

- Brenda Hawtin (Richie's mother)

Mel Lastman: Your motion to ban raves on City of Toronto Property is irresponsible and will only increase the danger to young people living in Toronto. We want safe places to dance in Toronto! Your actions will lead to the use of unsafe spaces for raves and parties. Be responsible, Mel, and support the safety of young people in Toronto. Withdraw your motion before council. - A concerned partyer."

