

# The Cradle of R&B Fandom

AFTER THE WAR, THE DANCIN' STAYED HOT. JUMP SWING, JUMP BLUES, ALL THAT JIVIN', ALL THAT **SWANGIN'**. EVERYTHING MIXED IN ALL TOGETHER - LIKE THE KIDS ON THE DANCE FLOOR.



BY 1950, IT ALL CAME TOGETHER IN R&B AS THE **HONK!**

TEENAGERS IN WORKING-CLASS SUBURBS STAYED CONNECTED THROUGH CAR CLUBS, A.M. RADIO, AND DRIVE-INS.



WHEN SCHOOL AND WORK PACKED THEM IN SO TIGHT THEY COULDN'T MOVE THEIR FEET, KIDS STILL DANCED.

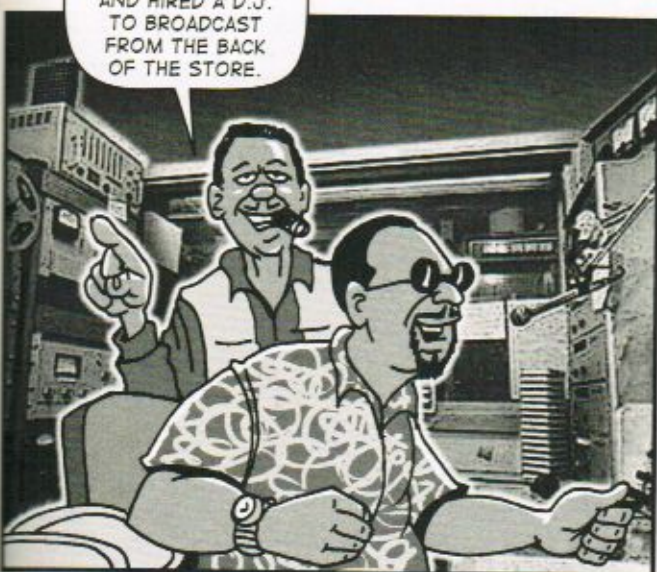


BEEN DOIN' THAT HAND JIVE ALL OVER TOWN.  
HAND JIVE, HAND JIVE, HAND JIVE, DOIN' THAT  
CRAZY HAND JIVE  
(JOHNNY OTIS, 1958)





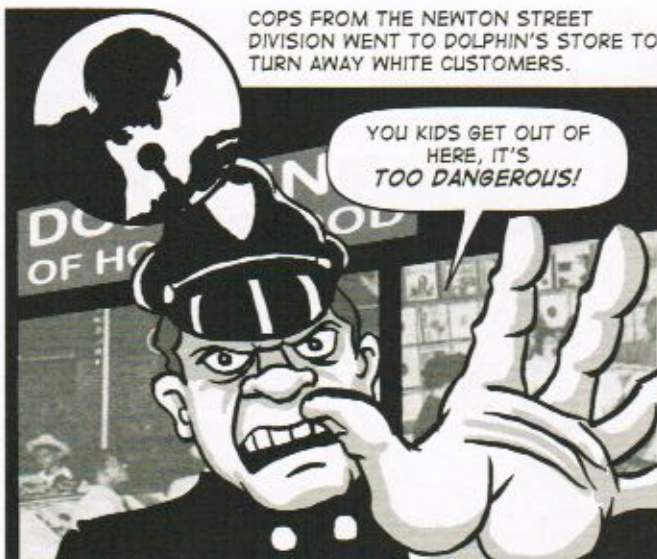
IN 1950, **JOHN DOLPH** OPENED A 24-HOUR RECORD STORE  
ON SOUTH CENTRAL CALLED **DOLPHIN'S OF HOLLYWOOD**.  
THE LARGE RECORD STORES DOWNTOWN AND IN HOLLYWOOD  
REFUSED TO STOCK RECORDS BY BLACK ARTISTS.



WEEKEND NIGHTS WERE BUMPER-TO-BUMPER IN SOUTH  
CENTRAL AS RESTLESS WHITE SUBURBAN KIDS, STARVED  
FOR CITY LIFE, DROVE IN TO BUY R&B RECORDS.







COPS FROM THE NEWTON STREET DIVISION WENT TO DOLPHIN'S STORE TO TURN AWAY WHITE CUSTOMERS.

YOU KIDS GET OUT OF HERE, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

IN 1954, A LONG BEACH RADIO STATION BURNED R&B RECORDS FOR **OBSCENITY**.



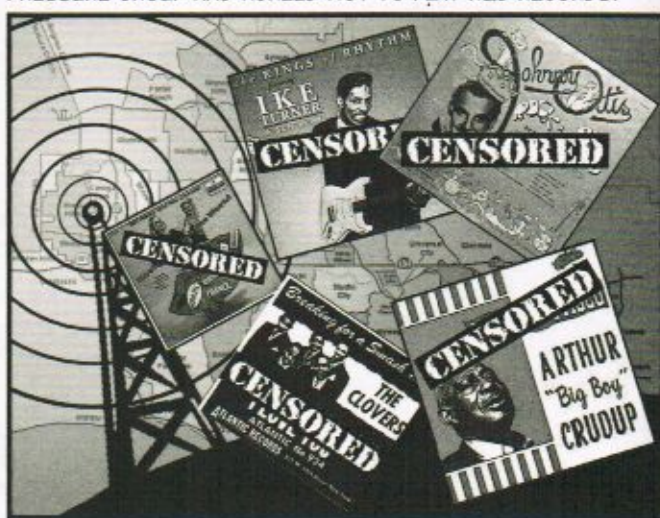
ONE NIGHT A DOZEN COPS LINKED ARMS IN A CHAIN AT THE FRONT DOOR AND DROVE THE KIDS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD.



WHAT'S THE CRIME, OFFICER?

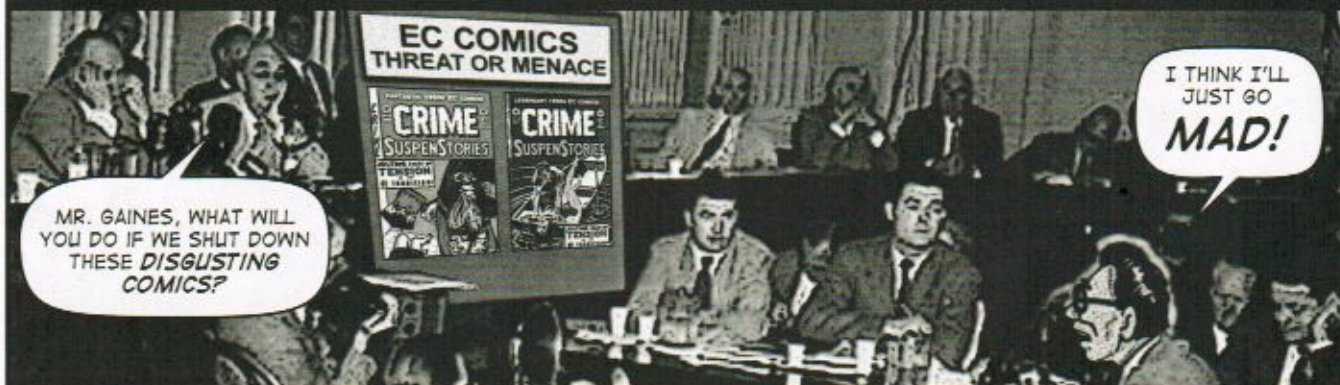
BLACK MUSIC?

IN LOS ANGELES, 25 DISC JOCKEYS CAVED IN TO A RIGHT-WING PRESSURE GROUP AND AGREED NOT TO PLAY R&B RECORDS.



## ZINNFORMATION

THE SUPPRESSION OF CULTURE EXPANDED WELL BEYOND THE L.A. MUSIC SCENE. IN 1954, CONGRESS HELD HEARINGS BLAMING **JUVENILE DELINQUENCY** ON **COMIC BOOKS**!



MR. GAINES, WHAT WILL YOU DO IF WE SHUT DOWN THESE **DISGUSTING COMICS**?

I THINK I'LL JUST GO **MAD!**

SOON, **WILLIAM GAINES' E.C. COMICS**, WHICH PUBLISHED **CRIME SUSPENSTORIES**, **VAULT OF HORROR**, **TALES FROM THE CRYPT**, AND MANY OTHERS, WAS ALMOST OUT OF BUSINESS. THE NEW **COMICS CODE AUTHORITY**, CREATED

BY THE INDUSTRY, BANNED THE WORDS "CRIME" AND "HORROR" IN COMIC BOOK TITLES, KILLING OFF ALL BUT ONE OF E.C.'S PUBLICATIONS. THE LONE SURVIVOR WAS **MAD**, GAINES' NEWEST AND WILDLY POPULAR HUMOR MAGAZINE.



BY THIS TIME, JOHNNY OTIS WAS PROMOTING R&B DANCE PARTIES ALL OVER SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

THE AUTHORITIES PUT THEIR FOOT DOWN AND BANNED "ALL-AGE" DANCES WITHIN L.A. CITY LIMITS. I MOVED THE DANCE PARTIES TO THE EL MONTE LEGION STADIUM IN L.A. COUNTY, WHERE THE PARTY CONTINUED UNTIL 1956. THEN THE EL MONTE CITY COUNCIL STEPPED IN...

I'M JOHNNY OTIS. MY DANCES REALLY STIRRED THINGS UP. WHITE KIDS WERE DANCING WITH AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND MEXICAN-AMERICAN KIDS. THE COPS HARASSED THEM BY CHECKING THEIR I.D.s AND ENFORCING OBSCURE LAWS ON UNDERAGE DANCING.

WE HEREBY REVOKE OTIS'S DANCE PERMIT! ROCK AND ROLL CREATES AN UNWHOLESOME, UNHEALTHY SITUATION.

MAN, THIS IS NOTHIN' BUT RACISM!

AND THEY CALL IT "ALL-AMERICAN MORALITY"!

WE'RE JUST HAVIN' FUN!

YEAH, AND GOVERNMENTS ARE SUPPOSED TO SERVE THE PEOPLE!

WE ARE THE PEOPLE!

AND THE PEOPLE WANT TO DANCE!



