

Bringing down the HOUSE



Horn music: Krystal Paco, on saxophone, plays with Junior Taijeron, on trumpet, during the band rehearsal at Ypao Beach Park on July 29.

Sessions takes over Club Denial tomorrow

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Sessions Media Promotions will be rocking Club Denial with an explosion of house music tomorrow night. House, an alternative genre of electronic music that the Sessions group is trying to popularize, thrived only in concealed circles decades earlier. Today, it blares from the speakers of most clubs, though most people don't realize it.

"It's going to be a pretty big party," says Jeremy Roberts, who'll be spinning the vinyl.

Saturday's concert will feature exclusively electronic sounds that Roberts describes as "having a smooth groove." Those who don't like hip-hop may still enjoy the upbeat, jazzy tempo that house has to offer, he says. People can expect to hear old-school house from Guam's Ronald Guerrero, who has been turning tables for 25 years. The show will also present a mix of Baltimore club with Chicago house live sets, he says.

A live set is different from what most partygoers hear on a night out in that the vinyl records played by the DJ are accompanied by live instruments — in the case of Sessions, it will be trumpets, saxophone, and percussion of congas, timbale and drums.

Plus, the first 200 audience members will each receive a free com-



Practice: Gilbert Unas beats his timbale during the band rehearsal at Ypao Beach Park on July 29.

pact disc of the group's live sets.

A full house

So far, the list of guests invited through Facebook.com seems to have reached capacity, Roberts says.

"More than 110 people have RSVP'd," he says.

The Internet has become instrumental in promoting house music, according to Roberts. In fact, it's how the band recruited saxophone player Krystal Paco. Roberts saw a profile picture of Paco holding her sax



Photos by Jacqueline Hernandez/
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Above: DJ Jeremy Roberts shows some scratching skills during the band rehearsal at Ypao Beach Park on July 29 in preparation for a Sessions Lights Out show at Club Denial on Aug. 8.

on Facebook.com. In addition, a feature on Myspace.com has allowed Roberts to upload and play music files for free, thereby promoting the group's music.

Off the record

Roberts started experimenting with mixing vinyl 13 years ago when he played at house parties in Seattle. Back then, turntables came in only three varieties, he says. These days however, DJs can choose from more than five dozen kinds, some of which are equipped with reverse/loop controls and digital displays to track beats per minute (BPM). Some even bypass the phonal output and go directly

IF YOU GO

- What: Sessions Media Promotions house event
- Where: Club Denial
- When: Tomorrow
- Time: 9 p.m.
- Tickets: \$10

WHAT YOU'LL FIND

- Deep soulful house, old-school house, Latin tribal house, Baltimore club, electro and fidget
- Each ticket comes with one free drink
- Free Sessions T-shirts and i-Connect giveaways

digital by time-coding the vinyl record.

"It's come a long way," he says, since it burst from the Chicago's underground "warehouse" parties — and one Chicago nightclub called The Warehouse in particular — in the '70s and '80s. DJs used to take disco and jazz records, mix the music, mash it up, and "warehouse" music soon became synonymous with illegal parties, says Roberts, meaning DJ's at those parties risked going to jail. Roberts says just finding records proved to be a challenge for him.

Roberts' story seems similar to that of fellow house-mate DJ Clyde Harris who hails from the underground scene as well. Harris played trance music in the Philippines before playing for five years in Baltimore.

"It's got a real sick beat with lots of ambient synth," Roberts says.

House music has until now been defined by the alternative edge it offers, but Harris says the band is hoping to use this event to popularize the genre on Guam.

"We want to take people from what they're exposed to," Harris says.

And since it employs minimal words, Harris says he's going to have to connect with the audience through just the sounds.

"That's kind of a DJ's job," he says. "They should be able to tell a story, take them (the audience) on a journey."

If you don't catch Sessions this time, don't fret. Roberts says there will be future shows. The group plans to make the concerts monthly or bimonthly, although those productions will not be as elaborate as Saturday's.