

New & **Noteworthy**

The State Of Music

(NAPSA)—Some of rap's hottest artists are pushing messages of nonviolence. For instance, hip-hop artist Prez-E-Dent, who cites such inspirations as Bob Marley and Tupac Shakur, is considered a leader in the new "rap renaissance" that aims to spread a posi-



tive message to listeners. "The industry is in a state of emergency," says Prez-E-Dent, born Samuel Joffre Payne.

After signing with the Relativity label, his first single, "Gotta Be Like That" (recorded under the name 2020), was a commercial smash. But he soon became frustrated with management practices, paid back his advance and became squarely in charge of his career.

His hotly anticipated album "New World Industry" is expected to make a huge impact. With political and thought-provoking content, coupled with hip-hop beats, Prez-E-Dent may well live up to his moniker as the "Executive Officer of Rap." For more insight, visit www.prez-e-dent.com.