## George Clinton To Receive Star On Walk Of Fame

George Clinton will receive his star on the Hollywood Walk Of Fame as part of this year's group of honorees. Clinton will join Martha Reeves, The Black Eyed Peas, Ashanti, the late Nipsey Hussle, DJ Khaled, Avril Lavigne and Los Huracanes Del Norte. Each recipient will have their own individual ceremony later this year. Clinton will be portrayed by Wiz Khalifa in the upcoming *Spinning Gold* biopic about Casablanca Records and its founder Neil Bogart. This weekend he and his Parliament-Funkadelic crew will perform at Capital One City Parks Foundation Summerstage in New York City.Â

### Throwback: George Clinton-Quickie

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George Clinton's Parliament-Funkadelic stopped releasing new albums by 1981 and he started his solo career in 1982. His move into releasing music under his name alone still had a lot of the players from his P-Funk collective. He started with the success of "Atomic Dog" from his 1982 Computer Games album. Shouldn't-Nuf Bit Fish was Clinton's sophomore recording. "Quickie" combined the synth-heavy R&B of Computer Games with the kind of rock guitar usually heard on a Funkadelic record. The description of a brief sexual experience was classy, fun and favorable to the dance floor. The funk was just as potent as his earlier music but there was a smoothed out edge to

"Quickie" that wasn't quite as raw as songs like "Flash Light" or "(Not Just) Knee Deep." Many fans believed that "Quickie" should have been promoted as the second single from the album. Shouldn't-Nuf Bit Fish was one of Clinton's well-received solo outings that pushed the P-Funk vision into the next decade. George Clinton released his last solo album in 2008 and Parliament returned after 38 years with Medicaid Fraud Dogg in 2018. [youtube id="3JbLbkjMXFQ"]

#### R.I.P. Pedro Bell

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Pedro Bell the illustrator known for designing several Funkadelic album covers has passed at age 69 from cardiac arrest. George Clinton and Bootsy Collins shared the information on social media and noted his contribution to the band. Bell was responsible for creating the album art for the Cosmic Slop, Standing On The Verge Of Getting It On, One Nation Under A Groove albums and many more. Bell's style was a perfect fit for Clinton's psychedelic funk-rock band with all the abstract images that still managed to touch the earth with figures of Black people in outer space. A He told the Chicago <u>Sun-Times</u> in 2009 that his work was "psychedelic from a Black perspective" and that his earliest inspiration came from his Baptist-preaching father's Bible. The teachings Revelations led to Bell reading science fiction. He reached out Clinton's record company in the '70s and offered his services.Â

In the '80s Clinton hired him to design several of his solo albums including *Computer Games* and *R&B Skeletons In The Closet*. Bootsy Collins released a statement to *Rolling* 

#### Stone:Â

"The wild and bizarre artwork gave our early audience a sense of seeing the visual side of the music and the language. He had a way of translating and communicating what all the weirdness was about, and that you the consumer really wanted to figure it out, because it truly was otherworldly. Every time the two were done together it would create the One. They there would be another satisfied customer! Thanks to our Captain Draw the Clone Stranger of Artistic Gratification to the Nation, Mr. Pedro Bell. The Funk got Stronger. Your service to this world can never be calculated.â€□

Bell's health had been deteriorating for the past nine years and he was receiving kidney dialysis three times a week. He eventually lost his vision and was no longer able to create. No fan of Parliament-Funkadelic can think of either band without thinking of Bell's art.Â





# Parliament's Chocolate City & Up For The Down Stroke Albums Reissued



Parliament's *Up For The Down Stroke* and *Chocolate City* albums have been reissued by Urban Legends/UMe on vinyl. The

albums were originally released in 1974 and 1975 and they marked the return of Bootsy Collins and the band's tribute to Washington, D.C. in hopes for a Black president decades before Obama. Urban Legends has collaborated with Feedfeed and on a Chocolate City-inspired recipe video co-hosted by chef Roblé Ali and cookbook author/blogger/artist Jerrelle Guy. They honor the iconic album by sharing some desserts invoked by the album, discussing its influence on current music, themes of the African diaspora and how music elevates the cooking and dining experience. Colleen Vincent of Black Food Folks and The James Beard Foundation will join the conversation and share her perspective growing up in Brooklyn, one of many chocolate cities in America.Â

Parliament's *Up For The Down Stroke* is available in a limited edition red vinyl while *Chocolate City* has a limited edition picture disc and both are available in black vinyl. Each album was reissued today on the <u>Urban Legends</u> site.Â

[youtube id="youtu.be/eYjG0b0RFh4"]