

Visionaries key on values

The Visionaries

With local opener Emire

Where: Pipeline Cafe, 805 Puhukaina St.

When: 8 to 10 p.m. tomorrow

Tickets: \$15; all ages welcome

Call: 589-1999

A SK HIP-HOP fans who their favorite artists are, and you'll usually figure out which side of the "Underground vs. Mainstream" fence they stand on pretty quickly.

It's not often that someone who sings the praises of 50 Cent, Murph Lee and Ludacris can flip the script and discuss works by the A-Team, Aesop Rock, Freestyle Fellowship or Optimus Rhymes in depth.

So it was refreshing to hear DJ Rhetmatic, one of six members in the Los Angeles-based underground hip-hop collective named the Visionaries, give props to his peers who have risen from obscurity to national prominence.

"Personally, I've come to a point where good music is good music," says the 34-year-old, citing artists like Jurassic 5 and Atmosphere. "If it's wack, it's wack, regardless if it's commercial or if it's underground."

"Right now, there's actually some good commercial songs



THE VISIONARIES

The Los Angeles-based underground hip-hop group performs tomorrow at Pipeline Cafe.

out there, and there's also some wack independent songs out there."

As their name implies, the Visionaries aren't too concerned with how much ice they rock, what kinds of cars they drive or the type of alcohol that needs to be waiting for them in the VIP

room of a swank Hollywood nightclub. "They're focused on the bigger picture, stressing the importance of love, truth and humanity instead of greed and gluttony."

Originally formed in the mid-'90s, the collective made its first appearance together on an album by KeyKool and DJ Rhetmatic called "Kozmonautz." They, along with the group's four other members — Dannu, Zen, LMNO and 2Mex — had long known each other

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Guests: Themed luncheon, Airbrush Face Painting, Clowns.

