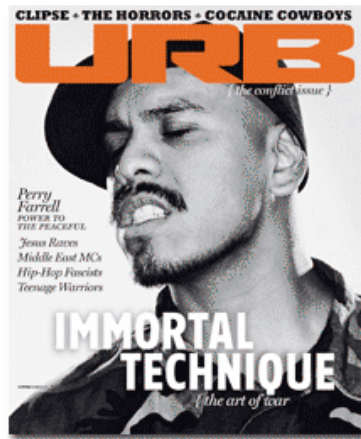




# VERBAL KENT



## Verbal Kent

*Move With The Walls* (Gravel)



This Chicago MC's latest is above-average indie ish. He's a worthy-enough lyricist, but his braggadocio rhymes—which are too far in the Eminem

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bag—don't always rise above. Still, the album stands strong, because of gritty, compelling production work by K-Kruz, Kaz1 and Oddisee. **ac**

**KEY TRACKS** "Barcode," "Remain Hungry"



## VERBAL KENT

*Move With the Walls*

★★★

Another Chicago sound

(Gravel Records) Representing Chicago like a motherfucker, the loquacious Verbal Kent is neither spiritual like Common nor speedy like Twista. He'd rather take his sweet time to deliver sometimes somber, always well-thought-out rhymes. The title track of *Move With the Walls* expresses his dying dedication perfectly with the words: "I wanna rap until my lungs collapse/until my soul leaves the body I've been usin' to fit in with humans." Verbal Kent is not the most charismatic vocalist but on songs like "Rewind" and "Dear Diary" he proves to be an engaging rapper. **Guests: Ill Bill, Lil' Flip, Longshot**

Longshot manage to squeeze through the wall cracks, but Verbal Kent owns his space even though he often feels trapped by it. You won't shake your ass to *Move With the Walls* but you will feel his grimy flow and dark beats. **Steve "Flash" Juon**



VERBAL KENT  
MOVE WITH THE WALLS  
Gravel Records

If your throat gets slashed and you live to tell about it, then there's a reason why you are here. I don't give a shit what anybody says. I know getting shot in hip hop has become cool, but having your throat carved up like thanksgiving turkey and living to tell about it is like surviving some Jason Vorhees shit. Now imagine that this happens to you only a few months after you release your first album and you've got Chicago's own Verbal Kent. Let me be the first to tell you that his newest album, "Move With The Walls" is an up close and personal view of VK's life after the attack. I'm not sure what type of therapy a person does after they get brutally attacked and almost murdered, but I can imagine that VK's writing was a cathartic process. So you already know that VK's lyrics are tight. Even with a few guests showing up and showing off their lyrical talents, none outshine their host, well there is one guest spot that is monstrous. Some of VK's best penmanship is heard on songs like "Duesday" featuring Tableek (of Maspyke), "Trapped" which has the UK's Blade, and "Trust Me" with blazing verses from Longshot & Rusty Chains. But the best guest spot comes from Ill Bill who crushes "Dead Serious." It might take some time for people to catch on to VK's tremendous talent, but one thing is for certain this guy will definitely be a great look for independent music coming out of Chicago.



**XXL (March '07):  
360 FEATURE  
ARTICLE**



**ILLINOIS  
ENTERTAINER:  
"Move With the Walls"  
BEST OF AROUND  
HEAR 2006**

**PLUS:**  
-4 Stars from HipHop Connection (UK)  
-Feature in HHC (Sept '07)  
-Favorable reviews in Blues & Soul (UK), Knowledge (UK), Echoes, DJ Mag & more