

eclectic circus

a musical mishmash of
slammin' soums

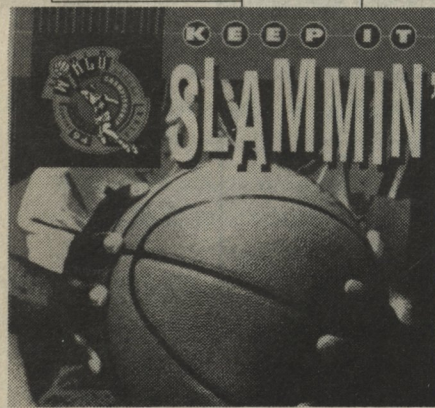
By Scott MacDonald

Various artists

Keep it Slammin' (Sony)

Created to capitalize on the commercialism of this summer's World Championships of Basketball held in Toronto, this CD contains + a versatile 13 man (song) roster. Up front it starts off with a mixture of funk (Devon's "Keep It Slammin'"), old school rap (Kurtis Blow's classic "Basketball") and hip hop (US3's "Cantaloop"). Toss in a little alternative (Red Hot Chili Peppers' "Magic Johnson"), rap (Lords of the Undergrounds' "Madd Skillz"), and jazz (the Harlem Globetrotters' theme "Sweet Georgia Brown") off the bench and you have a winning lineup. The perfect CD to listen to while shooting hoops in your driveway.

(4)



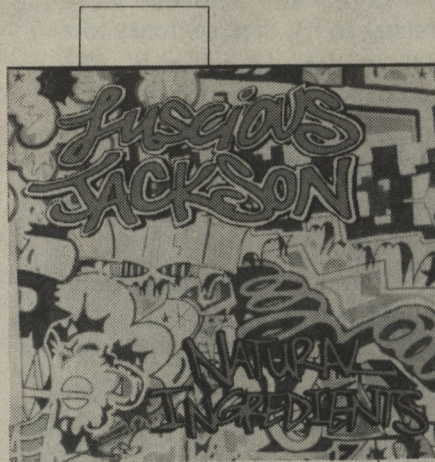
Chapter 29

Scenery (Crystal Palace)

While listening to this album I was suddenly flooded with memories of the summer before I went into grade seven. Then, it hit me: these guys are a bad '90's version of a combination of two bad '80's groups: Platinum Blonde and A-Ha! Their mindless lyrics go very well with the crappy syntho-pop melodies that they try to pass off as songs. In fact, the titles of the first two songs pretty much sum up the entire album: "Useless Party" and "Waste of Time."

(1)

October 4, 1994



Luscious Jackson

Natural Ingredients (EMI)

From the Grand Royal label of EMI, these four girls were the darlings of Lollapalooza's second stage. They try to bridge the barriers between rock, funk, jazz, and hip hop and come up with a decent debut effort. They look like one of the staple groups for the Reality Bites 2 soundtrack, as they blend funky guitar tracks with some excellent abstract lyrics.

(3)

Boogie Monsters

Riders of the Storm: The Underwater Album (EMI)

Nothing but a generic De La Soul bunch of wannabe's attempting to be philosopha-rappers. They fail to pull off the street-smart sound, and overall their CD belongs in the bottom of a lake.

(2)

Various

Reggae: Classic Song in a Reggae Groove (EMI)

Reggae used to be a form of music termed as alternative. On this CD, though, the best term would be commercialized. It's the type of music that you would find in a waiting room featuring songs like Phil Collins' "Another Day in Paradise", the Kingsmen's "Louie Louie" and Rod Stewart's

"Some Guys Have All the Luck" done in Jamaican style. It even features the eternal (infernal) disco 'classic' "The Tide is High" by Blondie. You're going to hear this while waiting in many elevators.

(2.5)



Magic Affair

Omen (The Story Continues....) (EMI)

From the land that brought us Snap, Haddaway, and Tuborg beer comes yet another techno-dance group. Once more producers have thrown together a European woman who can sing and an American who can rap (though not to any great extent), and mixed it all together with a trance-like melody. They will have a career for as long as this Euro-Dance craze thing is going on. Look for them to be this year's version of Culture Beat (another German group), although not as successful.

(3.5)

Buckshot LeFonque

Buckshot LeFonque (Columbia)

The Tonight Show's Branford Marsalis fuses basic jazz and bebop with the harder driving sounds of rap and hip hop to create funk worthy of Herbie Hancock. Excellent listening music, need I say more?

(4.5)