

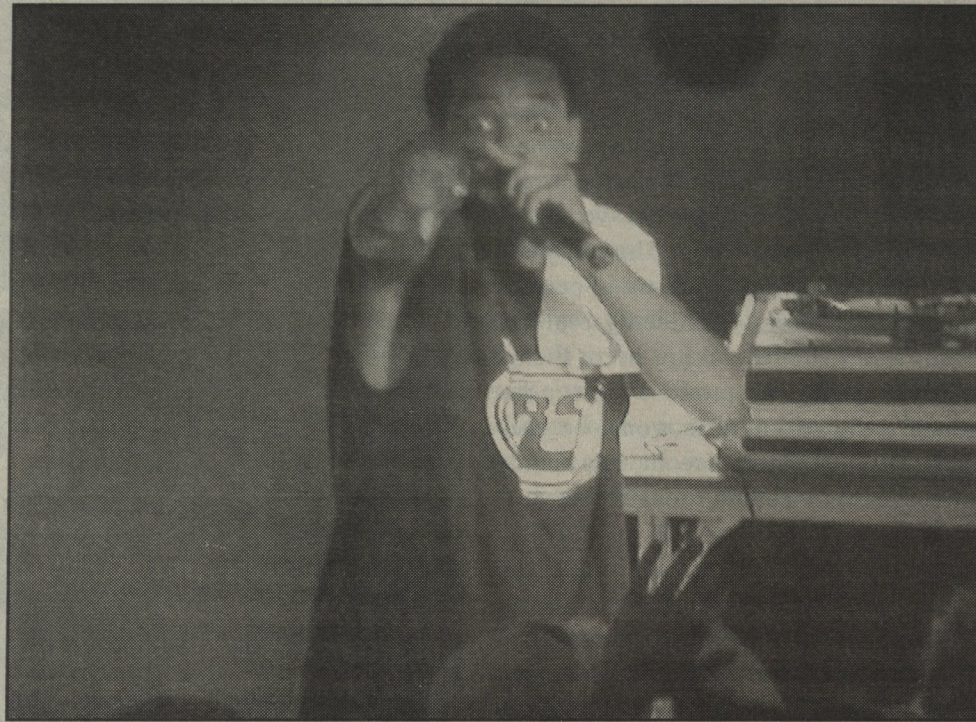
Choice Cuts

Reviews of Everything

Show: The Firestarter Tour
Location: The Barn

The Firestarter tour hit the Barn on Tuesday, October 16th. In attendance was an interesting mix of people who make up Charlottetown's hip hop scene: the media types, headz, posers, fans, local MCs, groupies, and people who fit into several of those groups. By the time a tour member hit the stage it was about 10:30 p.m. This was Jelleestone's DJ, and he did not appear to have deejayed much before. Dude played Jay-Z and other American raps songs that are currently hot as well as some bullshit R&B tracks. Finally, sometime after 11 p.m., Jelleestone appeared on the balcony above the stage with the UPEI Panther mascot's head on. He proceeded to jump down onto the stage and start his set. The weaknesses in his set were many of his rhymes, constant music interruptions, rapping over a fake-ass P-diddy song and most annoying of all, stopping songs half way through (a trend that appeared later in the night and is all too apparent in current commercial hip-hop shows). However, Jelleestone worked hard at entertaining the crowd and used gimmicks such as Which Girl Can Gyrate the Best For Free CDs and throwing out Canadian hundred dollar bills with his face on it. Up next was IRS who did all right but seemed to perform better when they appeared later with Kardinal Offishial. Raskalz took the stage third and did well to rock the house. They played songs from *Cash Crop* and *Global Warning* as well as some upbeat songs of their forthcoming album. Finishing up the night was Kardinal who kept the crowd revved up with his reggae infused party raps.

Some things were obviously missing from the show. The Raskalz b-boys Dedos and Zeb were not there. Neither was K-OS, who was one of



IRS at the Firestarter show at the Barn.

the headlines, or Checkmate, who was listed on the posters. Also Kardinal and the Raskalz did not perform together, despite the fact that he is on two of their albums. However, in the end, all performers did what they came to do and entertained the large Island crowd.

-Marc MACDONALD

Album: *The First Conspiracy*
Artist: The (International) Noise Conspiracy
Label: G7 Welcoming Committee

Yeah, I know this album isn't exactly brand-spanking new (what with TINC just having released their third full-length), but I've only recently come to appreciate these kids, so you will just have to deal with my tardiness. The (International) Noise Conspiracy play rock. Straight up. Or ... let's say anarcho-situationist garage rock, how 'bout that? It's a pretty spare sound, with guitar, bass, drums, vocals and keyboards just doin' what they do, without any fancy production, and I fall for it hard. Despite their musical

similarity to 60s-era Brit rock, their punk rock roots are betrayed by their overtly political lyrics and vocalist Denis Lyxzen's occasional lapses into screaming. I remember seeing an interview with them once where they were talking about trying to "make Marxism sexy again." Hideously pretentious? Hell yes. Totally irresistible? No question.

(www.digitalfarmers.com/tinc)

-Jonah CAMPBELL

Album: *Factory Seconds*
Artist: Various
Label: Peanuts and Corn

Break Bread, one of the most original hip hop crews in Canada, have put together a collection of unreleased material and alternative versions of previously released songs. The two things that hold this crew together are the tight beats and skilful production of label leader mcenroe, and the shared revolutionary ideals of its members. Artists like Pip Skid, John Smith, mcenroe, and Gruf the Druid use hip hop to raise issues like the environment, corpo-

rate culture, sexism, and white appropriation of black culture.

A few guests lend their voices to this compilation like Josh Martinez's collaboration with mcenroe on "Energy Crisis." Halifax's premiere hip hop producer Gordski provides some beats for Pip Skid's tribute to *Save the Last Dance*. As an added bonus, there is also a version of Pip Skid's video for "Hypochondriac" for hip hop fans with a computer. Scoop this disc to get a sample of what Break Bread has to offer, and don't be surprised if you find yourself tracking down the rest of their CDs after hearing it.

-Stephan MACLEOD

Zine: *Where's a Cookie?*

Author: Missy

This is a zine about a cartoon rabbit looking for a cookie. I could give away the ending and tell you that the rabbit does eventually find a cookie (multiple cookies, actually), and it would be no less worth your time to read this zine. Suitable for all ages. (Missy, 24 Longvue Cir. Ambridge, PA, 15003)

-Jonah CAMPBELL

Soundtrack: *Bones*
Artist: Various
Label: Priority/Doggystyle

Snoop Dogg, in addition to having his name on the cover and starring in the movie, is all over the soundtrack or "houndtrack" to *Bones*. *Bones* is a movie about Jimmy Bones who is, as one learns from the song lyrics and a creative spoken-word intro, a player and a vampire. Musically, the album is much like a Snoop Dogg album, including crew appearances by Kurupt, the Eastsidaz, Nate Dogg, Kokane and his usual beat makers who keep the production original. Lyrically, the rhymes mix gangsta rap with some story elements from the