

Hiphop and you just don't stop

BY GINA GRANTER

Last Friday night a fantastic hiphop lineup, featuring The Goods, Solitair, Choclair, and Kardinal Offishall took to the Marquee — and showed that rap is unabashedly alive in Canada.

The show was one of the headlining acts of the three-day Halifax On Music festival. The festival took the city by storm with tons of local and international musicians.

While locals the Goods attracted a lot of attention, more attention was given to the absence of Halifax's Stinkin' Rich. The fans I'm sure begrudged him nothing, knowing he was cutting a record with Kool Keith in Los Angeles.

The night got off to a slow start. When I heard one of the artists was out of the lineup, I worried. I

hadn't heard Stinkin' Rich before and was disappointed he wasn't there. This wasn't a good sign. Instead of Rich, a DJ from the Goods spun for a while. He was good, but the lack of volume and lyrics dragged down the atmosphere. The energy of live performance just wasn't there. To add to that, the bar wasn't too full and those who were there were awaiting the acts to come. Opening acts never get the attention they deserve and the audience response doesn't do much to help the atmosphere. So the DJ wasn't to blame for any lack of enthusiasm.

By the time the Goods came on, things had picked up a bit. All sorts of promotional stuff was going 'round, from cassette tapes to stickers. The place had filled up a little more and the Goods brought energy. After a good set they left the stage and I thought the moment we'd

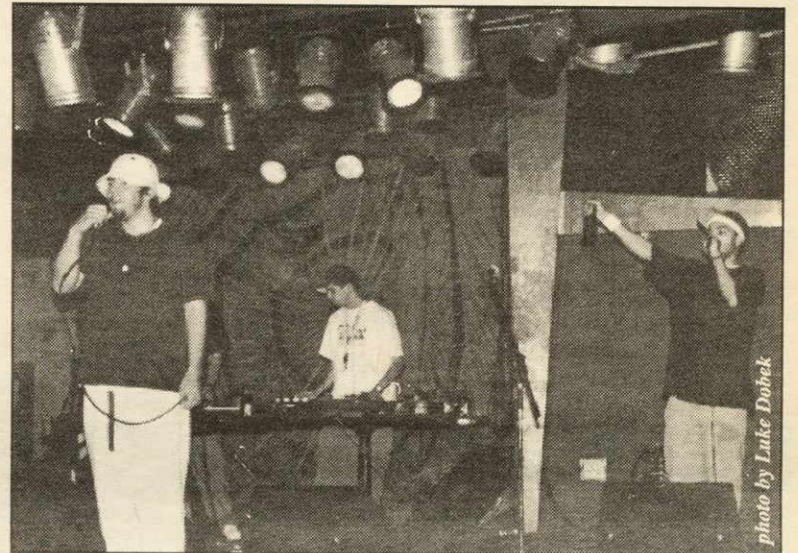
been waiting for would come.

I was wrong. After an extremely long wait — I didn't have a watch on but it must have been more than an hour — out came the three everyone had been waiting for: Kardinal, Solitair, and Choclair. Nobody seemed to expect them all at once but it was a welcome surprise.

By the time the three of them were finished their first song, any doubts I had about the evening were gone. It had all been worth it. The crowd agreed with me, flooding the dance space. Others stood or sat back and enjoyed the music. Everyone was moving in some way. The beats were great, the volume was perfect, and the three performers played the crowd. They did a long set with enough variety to keep everyone interested and they never seemed to tire.

If you've never been to a hiphop show, you've got to go. This show definitely gave me a new appreciation for this under-rated

form of music. In particular, pay attention to the artists we've got here in Canada. They've proved themselves worth hearing.



The Goods take to the mic at the Marquee

A brief history of time - Halifax On Music, "small but mighty"

BY JOHN ELMER

Rock n' roll: is there anything it can't do?

The remarkably unifying force of damn good music was on display at this weekend's Halifax On Music festival. Drawing on some of North America's hottest indie and micro-label acts, as well as a generous helping of many of the east coast's finest; HOM was, once more, a delicious success.

Spanning three intense nights of crowded venues, the festival staged the finale Sunday afternoon at the McInnes room in the SUB.

I encourage all readers to insert the index of hyper-descriptive, live rock adjectives here. I am certain most of them apply.

Conspicuous by their absence at the closing were Boston's Mary Lou Lord, who was stalled by sickness all weekend. Also, closing act Brian Jonestown Massacre was

apparently held up at the Canadian border. In accordance with their work all weekend, event organizers quickly picked up the pigskin and plugged in comparable acts.

Performing comfortably within the already carved niche of female angst acoustic rock, Toronto's Emm Gryner was flown in on only hours notice to cover Mary Lou Lord. Sonic Unyon rockers The Mooney Suzuki capped off the evening in place of the detained Brian Jonestown Massacre.

But on a weekend where entertainment was the buzzword, it was the pride of Clayton Park that took centre stage.

Always a crowd favourite, Thrush Hermit stayed the course Sunday before a crowd frontman Joel Plaskett described as "small but mighty".

With songs from their forthcoming Sonic Unyon release accounting for the lion's share of the band's hour-long set, Thrush Hermit gave the excited crowd a taste of what's to come from the rejuvenated quartet.

With high hopes of putting their major-label debut *Sweet Homewrecker* behind them, Thrush Hermit will release their second full-length album, fittingly entitled *Clayton Park*, early in the new year.

Dawning an ever-useful motorcycle helmet, bassist Ian

McGettigan, only half-jokingly, told the crowd that according to extensive marketing surveys by the band, the album is best suited for a February release date.

"It allows us to be better prepared," added Plaskett after the show. "It gives us a chance to complete the artwork, the marketing and everything that goes along with it."

Judging by the enthusiastic reaction of Sunday's crowd, *Clayton Park* will be well received.

"We are excited about this release," Plaskett stated. "We weren't happy [with *Electra*]. They were mad [*Sweet Homewrecker*]

didn't sell like they hoped; we were mad they didn't promote it like we hoped."

With their new bosses, the band likes how their future is unfolding.

"Sonic Unyon is the most able independent label. They're nice guys. From here, we're just going to keep it simple," Plaskett said.

With a fine balance of simplicity, talent and contagious energy, it would appear Thrush Hermit has inherited the torch that was so unceremoniously dropped by estranged poppers Sloan.

And for Halifax On Music, a wonderful closing to a festive weekend.



Joel Plaskett live

CALNEN PHOTOGRAPHY

Official Dalhousie Photographer for the Class of 1999



We'll be here on campus in the SUB starting Nov. 9

See our display in the SUB Sign up for on campus appointments at the info. desk in the SUB or you can book times at our studio by calling the number below.

1469 Birmingham Street, Halifax Ph. 423-8840

Thomasino's

PIZZERIA & CELLAR RISTORANTE
FINE ITALIAN GOURMET PIZZAS & SALADS

STUDENT SPECIAL

Large Pizza* \$9.99

FREE DELIVERY!



"The Pizza with Class"

Just minutes from Fenwick Towers!

"Come in and check out our dining room"

5173 South St. (corner of Hollis St.) Halifax, N.S.

* Three basic toppings, extra toppings only \$1.39 each • Student ID must be shown

425-7111