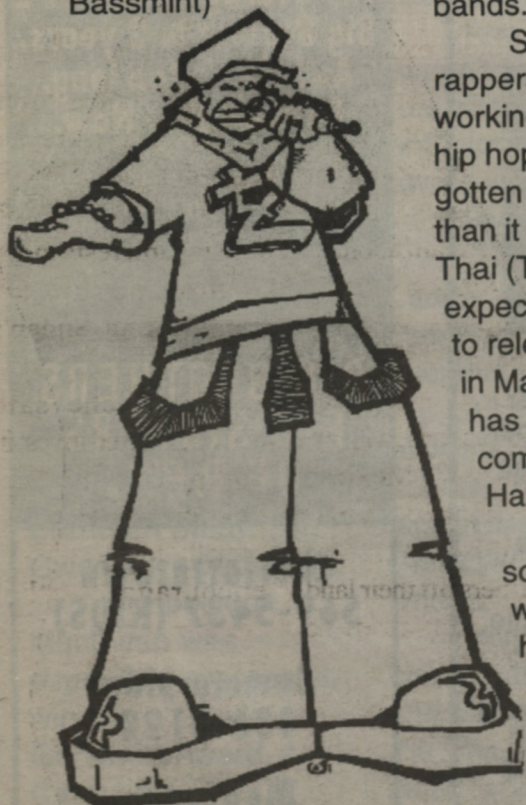


# Charlottetown Tribe Quests for an Island Hip Hop Scene

By Stephan MacLeod  
STAFF WRITER

The lack of variety in Charlottetown's music scene has alienated people who crave breakbeats and rhymes. But, a group of Island hip hop artists is trying to change that by putting on a show April 1st with just two turntables and a microphone. The Busted Mic Connection (BMC), The Dicemob, and Tech Thai (formerly of Bassmint)



have gotten together to expose people to PEI's hip hop community and show off their talents.

They are proud to point out that this will be the first all hip hop show in Charlottetown, but they are also frustrated with the lack of support for any rap scene in the area. Jarren Richards (BMC's producer) explained the reason for putting on the show, "There's never been a good place for BMC to play. They could play punk shows, but then you got to compete with the punk rock bands."

Since the Island rappers began working together, the hip hop scene has gotten more organized than it used to be. Tech Thai (Tyler Gallant) expects to release an album in May. And BMC has some shows coming up in Halifax.

They made some connections with Halifax's hip hop community and were able to book the Weather Modification Crew for the

upcoming show at the Barn. Tech Thai thinks that the

Halifax rappers will challenge BMC to some freestyle battles. In hip hop MC's compete to see who has the most talent. Freestyling involves rhyme improvisations, usually making fun of other MC's. BMC is not afraid to accept the challenge. They have the experience of rapping and battling people at parties. Eric Broadbent pointed out that, "Anyone who has the balls to battle usually sucks, they end up just saying 'Fuck Fuck Fuck.'"

Broadbent thinks the best MC's are the ones with the most originality. "Rap music is all about who brings the newest and most creative shit to the table." Tech Thai has similar views on hip hop, "Other rap bands are like teachers, and you're the student and you got to listen to all the raps and hear all the styles. You got to step above the rest of the students and come out totally original and come ahead of the teacher."

Charlottetown's hip hop community


has the opportunity to grow if more shows are put on. Hopefully artists like Tech Thai and the Dicemob will influence younger hip hop artists to step up to the mic and contribute something original to the Island's music scene.

If you're interested in DJ's, freestyling, battles, and drink specials, be sure to check out the Barn on April 1st. Advance tickets are available at the Barn.

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