

MEAT

Skydigging

at the Social Club

Photo by Randy Goodleaf

By Vince McMackin

The last time I checked my watch it was eleven o'clock. The club had been full for hours. Cigarette smoke and the sweet stench of spilled beer hung heavy in the air. People were clustering all around the edges of the small stage area. Most of us were drinking. All of us were waiting...

First of all, I'm not going to tell you who I thought SKYDIGGERS sounded like. I'm not even going to compare them to the touch-stones of contemporary folk-rock. I hate reading it, so I don't write it!

The singer was a riot. A friend of mine said afterwards that he was one of the most charismatic singers she'd seen in a long time. I agreed. I mean, this guy didn't wear his stage presence like a suit he can put on or take off whenever he feel like it - that was really him up there onstage. Sure, he had some well practiced jokes and chatter to fill up the space between songs, but it was his genuine laid-back, goof-ball, nerd come-of-age attitude that made him a good front man, no pretention. While the others swayed gently, he was bounding all over the place: sweating like a pig, grinning like a Chesire cat, and generally having a great time for himself. When most of your audience has been drinking for the last couple or three hours, this kind of enthusiasm can be very

contagious!

The rest of the band never really cut loose, lurking for the most park around behind the pillar, and looking very sensitive, intelligent, and bored. Maybe they figure this looks cool, maybe it attracts women, maybe they really were bored - who knows? Now if the show had been in the ballroom, and they didn't have that big pillar stuck right in front of them, it might have been a different story ... Don't get me wrong, theatrics don't impress me either, but maybe they could've used more room to express themselves, so to speak.

Their sound, I have to admit, was dead-on. From where I was standing the guitars seemed to muffle each other out occasionally, but there were no big problems. SKYDIGGERS are a solid unit, and they play with energy, honesty, and no keyboard player in the background trying to make things sound prettier than they have to be. I like that in a band.

Good music and cheap drinks are a rare combination in this town. A few of us went home broke that night but I don't think anyone went home dissatisfied. I don't think you can say you honestly like a band until you've seen them live, and believe me, SKYDIGGERS are a live band!

(And it was worth the wait!)



A real live band. The Skydiggers do their thing at the CHSC.

Cellist Returns to Fredericton

Richard Naill, for many years cellist with the Brunswick String Quartet, returns to Fredericton for a concert of string trios this Sunday, December 2, at 8:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall on the UNB campus. Joining Mr. Naill will be Resident Musician Paul Campbell, violin, and pianist Paul Stewart, a Nova Scotia native now based in England. The performance will consist of Beethoven's Trio in D major, opus 70 no. 1 (also known as the "ghost"), Ravel's phenomenal Trio for Violin, Cello and Piano, and Schubert's Trio in B flat, D

898.

After leaving Fredericton, Richard Naill was a member of the now defunct Trio Hay de Montreal. In 1988 he was winner of the prestigious Hammer Rostropovich Competition. He is now completing a Doctorate in Music in his native California, researching the psychological implication of various styles of cello playing. Mr. Naill has received a grant from the National Institute of Health to pursue this study. He is also an adjunct professor at Pepperdine University, and he continues to

play the cello and to coach.

Paul Campbell, also a former member of the Brunswick String Quartet, continues as Musician-in-Residence at UNB and has a busy career as a recitalist and chamber musician. His Wednesday Noon Recital Series brings a number of fellow musicians to the campus, and explores a wide variety of chamber music. A member of the Halifax Symphony at the age of 18, Mr. Campbell went on to become a member of the National Arts Centre Orchestra and the Carleton Quartet for three years and also played with the Atlantic Symphony before

settling in Fredericton. he has an Artist Diploma from the University of Toronto and an M.A. in Experimental Psychology from Dalhousie University.

Paul Stewart, who has appeared several times on the Wednesday Noon Recital Series, was born in Nova Scotia, graduated from McGill, and has performed as soloist with most major Canadian orchestras. He has played in many other countries, including India. Like Angela Hewitt and Paul Berkovitz he now resides in England (at Banbury), but like them he returns whenever he can to

Canada, and is frequently heard on the CBC and in recital.

This is the third concert in the UNB/STU Creative Arts Memorial Hall series. Tickets are available at the door for \$10 (adults), \$8 (seniors) and \$3 (students). A reception will be held in the lobby immediately following the performance, to which all members of the audience are cordially invited.