

## September Child Compete with the Olympics



P. DuChemin (Photo)

by Mark Savoie  
Social Club Correspondent

Last Thursday evening a good but not great crowd showed up at the Social Club to watch September Child's third appearance in Fredericton. The other two stops were at The Loading Dock and The Attic, and were not well received, so the band was hoping that a campus gig would be more positive. For

the most part the reception was good, but it must be noted that a certain portion of those in attendance gave much more attention to the Olympics on the various TVs than they did to the stage.

Part of the reason for this is that the band didn't have a single song within their first set that reached out and grabbed the listener by the throat and forced them to pay attention. Even their commercial release — "Sun Fall Hour" — didn't make anyone stand back and take notice. This may have been caused by the fact lead singer Brother Chris blew his voice out partying in Ottawa the night before the band went on tour. As a result, the vocals were weak throughout the night. Ari the Drummer commented after the show, "We knew it would be bad, but we had no idea it would be this bad."

The weak vocals hampered solid musical performances by the rest of the band. Bass Man Dave pounded out a very strong bass all night long that was the highlight of the show, and Ari the Drummer complemented this with consistent play on the skins. Circle Re-

searcher Rory joined in with a reasonably tight effort on lead guitar. However, Circle Researcher Rory's main job on the evening was seemingly to take his long hair and baby face out into the crowd after the show and sell the band's CD/cassette to as many girls as possible.

Unfortunately, the song of the night is not on their self-titled debut album. This song was named simply "6" and was the only song of the night that was distinctive enough to make me exclaim to the photographer that here at last was a truly good tune. Hopefully, their next CD will contain this track.

The second set was disrupted by Brother Chris's constant hawking of the band's CD. I realise that this is how these guys are earning a living, but hawking the damn thing between sets or after the show, not repeatedly between songs. Brother Chris also spent just a bit too much time posing for my taste. This was particularly true during the second set, when his voice really started to give out.

All in all it wasn't a bad show; well worth the token three dollar cover charge for non-members. Should Alastair's nightmare come true and they return several hundred times, I'll be willing to see the show again.

## Barbaloots: Silly name, Rockin' Band

by K.B.

Barbaloots - hmmm, remind you of Dr. Seuss? No - me neither, but I won't soon forget this four piece band from Quebec City who derive their name from Dr. Seuss' Barbaloots - fuzzy little bears that hop through the woods (so I'm told). Les Barbaloots as I know them, however, are four talented musicians who combine their varied musical prowess into a very unique sound. These guys are GOOD!

Imagine walking in to the Attic down on King St., never having been there before. Imagine finding the place empty when you expected to be met there by at least the one person who convinced you that you should go to this concert. Imagine just being ready to walk out when finally somebody you recognize walks through the door. O.K., so I'm glad I stayed. I wasn't quite sure what to expect when four rather nondescript looking individuals walked in and prepared to do their thing for the now slightly expanded audience. Boy, were we in for a treat.

John Powers, Andy Stewart, Bernard Lemay, and Philip Burkinshaw are all accomplished musicians. John

takes care of the lead vocals and continuously juggles instruments such as guitar, mandolin, and harmonica. Aside from his classical training, John also adds a central American influence to the musical style of the group (he probably picked this up while travelling in Guatemala). Andy is the band's rhythm expert and man! what a percussionist! The guy doesn't even break into a sweat but the hand is definitely quicker than the eye with this one. The sounds that come out when he plays are down right amazing. His talents provide the band with its high energy, fast pace, variety and abrupt tempo changes. Bernard adeptly provides his audience with the skilled sounds of a lead guitar. Not only do you get your regular electric background sound, but his fingers dance on the strings during solos for a clean style which shows the talent of someone who would feel just as at home with an acoustic instrument. Last but not least, on bass, we have self-taught talent brought to us by Philip (what else can I say about bass?...badumbum).

"What does this band actually sound like?" you ask. The group draws on its multitude of musical influences

(folk, rock, blues, jazz, bluegrass, ska, polka, reggae, funk, psychedelic, african and latin - to name a few), to create lively original compositions which become intimate as well as energetic. The lyrics deal positively with a wide variety of themes, ranging from personal exploration to global awareness. And most of it's original too! They did do a few cover tunes, though, two of which I recognized and a couple from bands I'd never heard of. You really have to listen to them live to appreciate their originality, even when dealing with cover tunes.

The best part about this show was that you could tell that these people were having fun. They enjoy what they do. Although the crowd was not really a crowd, those who attended all stayed until the end and everyone present seemed to be enjoying themselves as much as the band members. This group is likely to hit town again before too long, sooo...I'll forgive you this time for not coming out (since it was short notice and only one night - a Thursday at that) but don't miss these guys the next time they come around. Oh Yeah...and Kwiturbelyakin!

## Mardi Gras at the Market

(Press Release)

It is time for a mid-winter Mardi Gras... it's all over in New Orleans, and now it's moving North. The Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival will be hosting a spectacular night of fun and entertainment on Saturday, February 26 at the Boyce Farmer's Market. In the spirit of the famous Louisiana fair, we're turning the Market into a giant Mardi Gras that is sure to rekindle festive spirits with its great line-up of spicy entertainment. "We thought this would be a wonderful opportunity to recapture some of the spirit of the Festival in these cold winter months," says 1994 Chairperson Brent Staeben.

The event will feature a performance by the rocking cajun blues sounds of Joe Murphy and the Waterstreet Blues Band. Joe, who recently released his second CD with Pinetop Perkins, has been a headliner at the Festival since its beginning, and has recently been nominated for an East Coast Music Award. Fredericton's popular Downtown Blues Band will kick off the event. Doors open at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$10, and advance tickets buyers will receive a free Festival CD, on which both Joe Murphy and the Downtown Blues Band are featured.

Patrons will be free to dance the night away, enjoy refreshments, savour the best cajun food in town and embark on a true New Orleans adventure as they circulate through the charity casino while buskers, magicians entertain in both sections of the Market. As a last year's

Bourbon Street at the Boyce, there will be a charity casino run by the Nashwaaksis Kinsmen. At the end of the night, players will bid on a number of terrific prizes with their winnings at the auction.

"We think this will be a unique event. We've brought in a great band from Halifax in Joe Murphy and we're surrounding him with the most fun that Fredericton has to offer" says Staeben.

To help create the atmosphere of a New Orleans Mardi Gras, the

Festival has enlisted the help of Lynn Gallagher, a craftsperson and teacher at the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design. The setting will include a New Orleans streetcar, flags, paintings and props galore.

This benefit is the beginning of the Festival's fundraising efforts which will continue un-

til September. "As we're currently carrying a deficit" explains the Chairperson, "this benefit is a perfect opportunity for the community to provide us with some much-needed support. This will also help us to keep the momentum going during a long winter of planning for next September."

Patrons are also encouraged to bring along extra pennies in support of the Festival's "Thanks a Million" campaign, which aims to collect one million pennies before September 18, the close of the 1994 Festival.

For more information, call the Festival Hotline at 454-BLUES (2583).



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