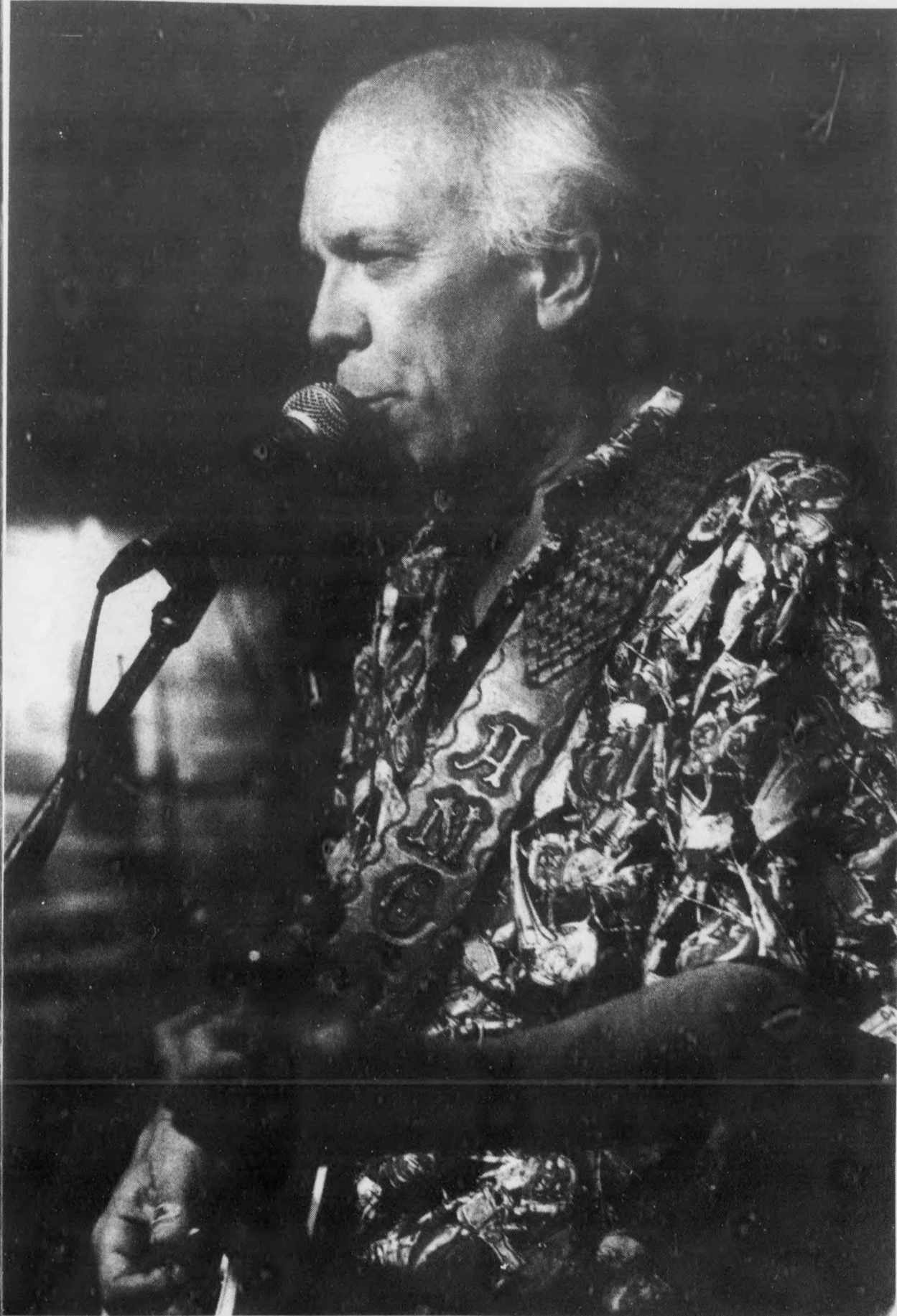


# Entertainment

## Shuffle Demons



### by Lilith Amos Garrett: Fisher King

And how do you identify a real fishing sportsman these days? Well, kids, for one thing, he has a fishing trip on the Miramichi written into his conditions of performance. While Amos Garrett didn't catch anything, the Calgary native was happy enough to get a chance to try his luck on the famous river. However, festival audience s who caught Garrett came up with a real trophy. Garrett played both at Fredericton's new Jazz club the Exchange and the Festival tent, the Blues Garden. Amos made himself at home at both of the radically different venues.

On Friday night, Garrett played at the intimate 60 seat Exchange. The venue is elegant, but almost too self-consciously stylish. There are fresh cut flowers, real plants and you can't smell cigarette smoke unless you're sitting on top of a n ashtray (lovely potpourri...), but the Trivial Pursuit cards on the table should be superfluous if they manage to keep bringing in quality live entertainment. My only negative observation about the club is that if so much time and money and good taste was invested in this operation, they should have made it larger.

While The Exchange gig was a fantastic performance, it was completely overshadowed by the next nights performance at the Blues Garden. The show was remarkable, not only for the quality of the performance, but for the interaction between musician and crowd. Garrett and his fellow prairie-folk completely absorbed the 500-odd member crowd and the applause between tunes was longer than many encore calls. The band was a tight and harmonious unit, which included a drummer lured away from k.d. lang's former band, The Reclines. Also notable was a keyboardist who capably assumed vocalist duties, leaving Garrett free to immerse himself in intricate guitar solos.

Garrett's choice of music consisted of a range of material, including festival standards like Robert Johnson's "Walking Blues," along with showcasing lesser known gems in his all-Louisiana set. You know, I figure he'd still be playing if he'd caught his salmon...maybe he'll come back to these parts one of these days and try again.

by Mark Savoie

The Shuffle Demons kicked off the Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival with a frenetically energetic performance at our own SUB cafeteria last Wednesday. Their enthusiasm for their music was contagious, keeping the crowd involved in

**"It's really scary, man. I don't know who to vote for."**

their performance right from their walk through the crowd to start the show until they finished their encore. Even still, it took the well known "Spadina Bus" near the end of their set to get much of the crowd

When informed of the educated/uneducated comment Shuffle Demons' double bassist, Mike Milligan, did not disagree. He also did not think it was important, since a good time was being had by all. "That's what music's for, anyway," he said. "It matters more to me that they're having a good time. As long as they're listening."

Saxophonist and front man Richard Underhill also did not have a problem with the crowd. "It was fine. We



The Demons serve up some Funkin Pumpkin for the harvest.

off of their seats and shuffling on the floor.

The reaction of the crowd was disappointing to one self-described Third Year Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival Junkie. His comment to me was "Educated band. Undereducated crowd." He shortly thereafter left in disgust. His reaction, however, was possibly influenced by his reception at the door when he was trying to get in. When he and his date arrived at 10:15 (missing the Hill Brothers as the opening act) they were told by the two CPs there that he couldn't get in. This despite the fact that the show was far from sold out. The ticket takers/sellers had vacated the door and were inside shuffling with the band. Fortunately, the situation was somewhat salvaged when the ticket takers/sellers were eventually located.

managed to get the people moving. A larger venue [as compared to their show at the Social Club last November] can be difficult", he added, "but when there's a good turnout like this it can be a lot of fun."

This was the Shuffle Demons' first trip to the H, J&B Festival. Underhill commented that, "It's [the festival] really great. They hired a lot of Canadian jazz people. It's also nice that people support it. It's the kind of music that needs support. That's probably why there are so many festivals."

When asked if the Shuffle Demons have any political stance for the upcoming federal election, á la U2 or Midnight Oil, Underhill uttered a sentiment which could be echoed by every Canadian. "It's really scary, man. I don't know who to vote for."