

But if the year meant the demise of one of the area's oldest and best-loved groups, it also brought numerous new acts to the city.

Sam Moon, who started his career in Fredericton with Matt Minglewood and the Universal Power, revamped his lineup and went on the road with a bunch of great new songs. Sam's new E.P. is just now being released, but ironically, the band temporarily broke up after its appearance in Fredericton in February. After a short period of reorganization, the band is expected to be out playing again very soon.

But the best new group to appear this year had to be O2B ("ought to be"). This group, featuring an assortment of the area's best players -- most of whom achieved some degree of fame with other groups -- played in town twice and also appeared at a pub on campus last year.

And yet two more Maritimes-based bands, the Fax and the Business, made their debut in Fredericton over the past year and gave consistently solid and entertaining performances.

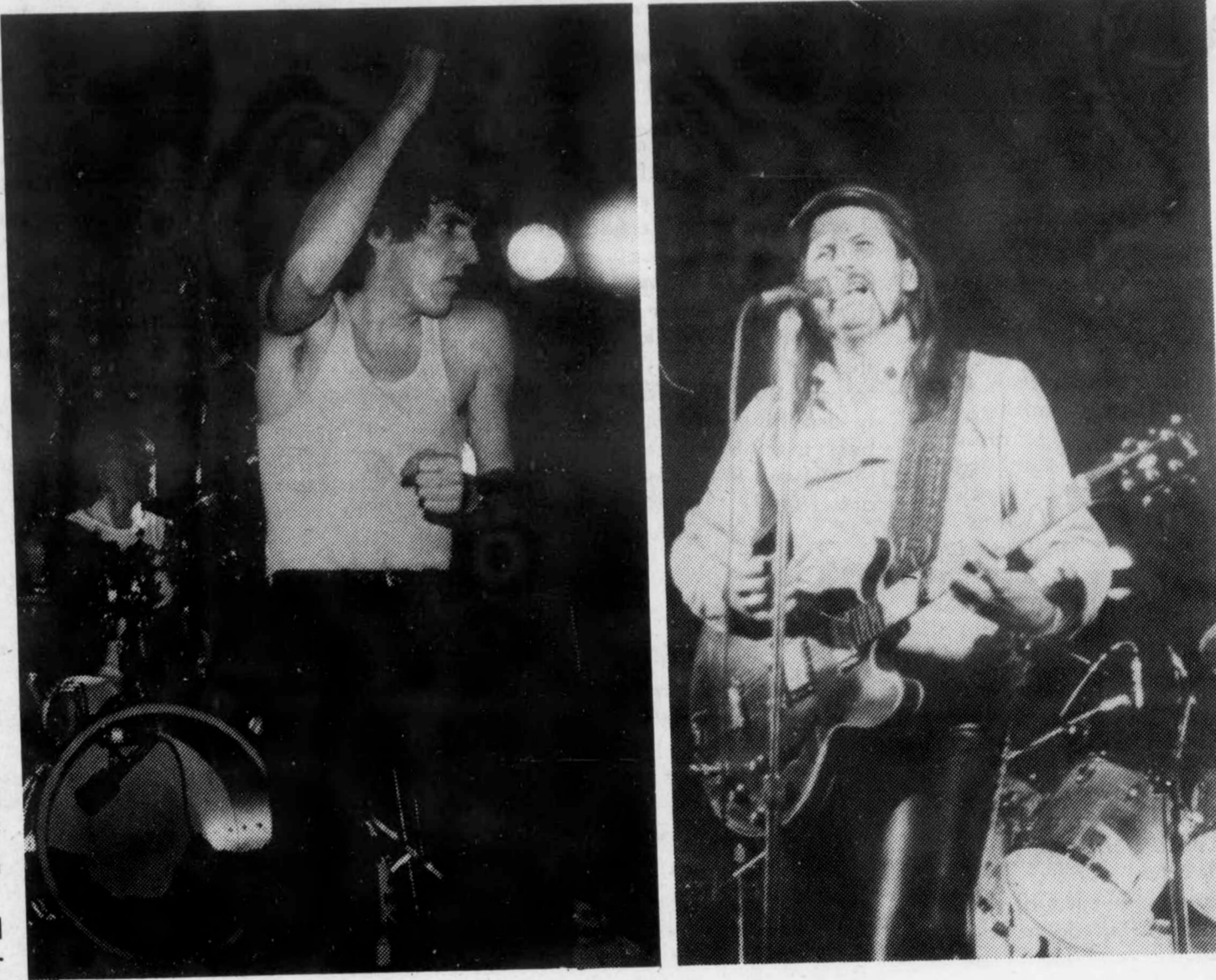
The Montreal group Quickstep, noted for their sense of humor as well as their performance, played in town at the end of September. The Billy Idol Concert at the Aitken Center in January attracted one of the biggest crowds in recent history for a rock concert at the center. And the seven-piece showband Spectacle, which appeared in town just a couple of weeks ago, put on a performance that was dazzling both visually and aurally.

Other groups playing on campus this year included Fat Shadows and Platinum Blonde. An appearance by lady mud wrestlers the Chicago Knockers was the year's only novelty act.

Brunswickan film critic William Claire kept readers up-to-date on the latest film releases through his column each week. Fans of live theatre had their appetites satisfied not only by the expected good season from Theatre New Brunswick, but also through performances by Theatre Fredericton, the Comedy Asylum, and UNB's own Workshop Productions.

And who could forget the ever-evolving Bruce Cockburn, who entertained good crowds at the Playhouse. Playhouse also hosted Les Grands Ballets Canadiens in October. Classical music fans saw the Brunswick String Quartet adapt a higher profile this year, and the UNB Film Society brought classic films from around the world to UNB audiences.

Rock and roll, classical music, theatre, films: the year was a good one for live entertainment fans of all types. I can only hope next year proves to be as good.



O2B vocalist Wayne Nicholson



Spoons vocalist/guitarist Gordon Deppe