

Carnival

Eclectic musical extravaganza

by Eric Simpson

The staid, squat SUB was aroused from an extended three month slumber last weekend as the caretakers' strike ended and the Dalhousie community celebrated Winter Carnival. For 13 long weeks the majority of hard-core fun seekers, accustomed to scheduling their weekly activities around the upcoming weekend debaucheries, had to wander far afield to satiate their frenetic fantasies. However Friday night marked the end of the drought and droves of dedicated hedonists headed for the familiar confines of the SUB.

As a result of a notorious attempt to duplicate tickets to the event, security at the door was tightened and many people were turned away. The hundreds that managed to

gain admittance were confronted with the enjoyable task of choosing from three main attractions. Boogie was the main stay.

In between visits to bar services the patrons were able to indulge in mainline disco provided by Canada's Juno award nominee Charity Brown, basic blues as delivered by the Dutchy Mason Blues Band, and Matt Minglewood's raunchy rock-blues of the Cape Breton variety.

Differing tastes dictated the degree of response to any one group, but all three bands performed their own brand of music with style. Charity Brown, a future queen of Canadian pop music, exhibited a powerful voice and tremendous energy. Dressed in tight-fitting black pants and blouse amidst a shimmering

disco decor, Charity a bounced and boogied to the crowd's delight. There was glitter galore in the lead guitarist's outfit but that didn't prevent him from playing extremely well—The added attraction of being a well-paid professional band is the opportunity to hire good musicians.

Besides the standard repertoire of disco hits Charity sang a variety of ballads and new material that demonstrated her ability to transcend easily digestible commercial music. The main detraction was the cramped quarters—performers who depend on showmanship and action should not be confined to a sub-basement cafeteria. As a result Charity was unable to unleash her full potential and the performance suffered. But where else are you going

to put her—in the third floor washrooms?

Meanwhile in the normally relaxing Green Room the true blues lovers lounged on the carpets with their beers in hand and listened to the intense sounds of Nova Scotia's premier blues singer—Dutchy Mason. Truly great in stature, Dutchy's voice and size command attention. He doesn't depend on delicate musicianship to convey the message in his music, rather he grabs for the guts. There is nothing diluted in his blues or his manner—only pure and direct confrontation. Dutchy's performance on guitar is as tight as his stage presence. Wade Brown on lead guitar and the rest of the group provided the talent necessary to bring the sound together.

The reputation that Dutchy has built up is deservedly centered around his musical ability (he can play every in-

strument in the group) but his charisma doesn't hurt. If you like the blues and you aren't retiring, then Dutchy will satisfy every time.

Upstairs in the MacInnes Room the sound was a overwhelming. Matt Minglewood has a big band and lots of amplification. Not to mention appeal. Matt has been around a long time but he has finally succeeded in relating directly to the people with his music. It is because his music contains lyrics that express the Maritime fact that people react as they do. And that reaction includes leaping, screaming, dancing and full tilt boogie. He plays straight out heavy rock—blues and the people love it.

Three bands for \$4—not many people would claim that they didn't get their money's worth at the SUB BASH on Friday night.



Dal Photo / Morris

Dutchy Mason belts out the blues at sub carnival bash

Band banned

WINNIPEG (CUP)—The controversial punk rock band "Battered Wives" won't be playing at the University of Manitoba.

The student union executive of the U of M has decided to ban the band from playing at any of its functions because they feel its name "trivializes the real trauma of beaten women and reflects society's blase acceptance of violence against women".

A national women's group, Women Against Violence Against Women, has been protesting the band's name and publicity for several months, saying it exploits the plight of

battered women. In October, the National Union of Students urged its members not to book any band that glorified the physical or sexual abuse of women.

Although not specifically mentioned, Battered Wives was the object of the NUS motion.

However, musical tastes also had some influence of the U of M decision.

Programming director Ken MacDonald said, "They (the band) stink", while president Steve Ashton (a punk rock enthusiast) termed them a "bunch of old musical farts who don't understand music".

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