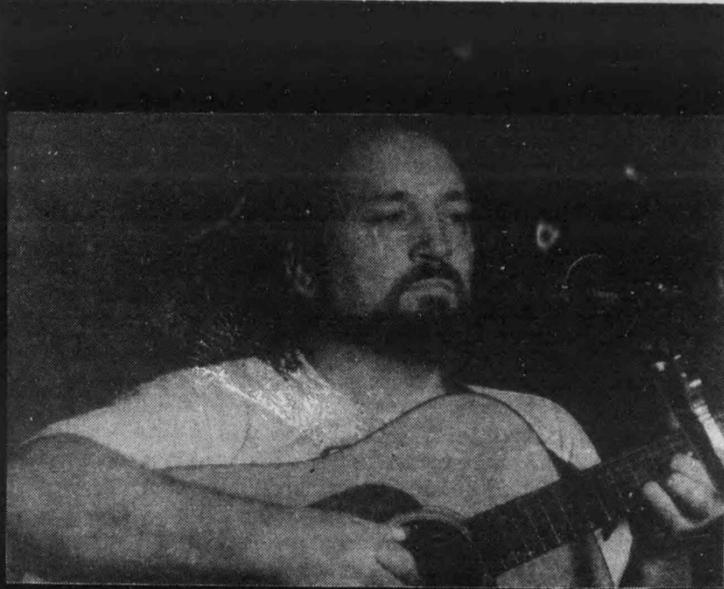


# Lou Reviews the Social Club's OPEN MIKE NIGHT

ACTUALLY, IT'S MORE OF A PHOTO ESSAY; ALSO



EVEN THOUGH I WASN'T THERE!



THE PENSIVE FRANK TAYLOR



THE TALENTED AND PERENNIAL SCOTT AND JAY



DAN O'BRIEN AND ERIC CLAPTON... WAIT! THAT'S NOT CLAPTON! WHO IS THAT?

There is a psychology project somewhere in all of this. Think about it: someone develops a weekly forum where aspiring musicians can ply their wares to an established audience. Week after week these same musicians hone their limited repertoires to the precision of a Las Vegas lounge act. Slowly they expand that same limited repertoire. Some of them evolve from stage-nervous novices into professionals at manipulating the audience they themselves have developed. In the time frame of one school term some make the Dylanesque transition from acoustic folkies to electric rockers. Eventually entire bands appear and perform material ranging from Neil Young to Nirvana. Original numbers increase. There was even a bloke with a stand-up bass in the men's room one week.

Unfortunately, at some point toward the end of last term, both the performers and the audience seemed to stabilize; that is, in any given week you could see the same people in the audience applauding the same performers playing the same songs. Fortunately, it's no longer so. So far this term there has been a wide variety of both performers and musical genres: bagpipes, blues, discordant rockers, a cappella, reggae, and a whole heap o' jangling acoustic guitars. The audiences are also becoming more diverse and supportive of alternative acts (alternative at Open Mike Night means anyone who doesn't bring their acoustic guitar and sing Neil Young, Eagles, or Grapes of Wrath songs).

Acting as hosts on alternate Monday evenings are Gavin Coughlan (of **Hype** and **Relic** fame) and the inimitable Frank Taylor (of **Strathclyde**, **Flying Scotsman**, and "if it's not Scottish it's all Crap!" fame). As a result, depending upon which night you happen to attend, the evening can be low-key and laid back or funny, loud and boisterous. Taylor's routine as host involves a large dose of comedy; he enjoys aiming witted barbs at any members of the audience who draw his attention. He also draws from a large repertoire of traditional Irish, Scottish, and Canadian music. He sings in a loud, strong voice and commands the stage. Coughlan is far more laid back. This is not a bad thing; it's just a different way of hosting. I've found as many who prefer Gavin Coughlan as host as I have those who prefer Frank Taylor.

If you haven't yet been to Open Mike Night at the College Hill social Club each and every Monday night, you should. If you like live and spontaneous music you'll enjoy yourself. If you're a performer of any sort you definitely should attend. The atmosphere is relaxed and the audience is always appreciative. Nuff said. Enjoy the pics.

Although I personally wasn't in attendance for **Yuk Yuk's** at the Social Club on Tuesday night (I arrived after the yuks), I understand there were plenty of folks in attendance. I have also been told from many reliable sources that the comedians themselves weren't amused with the crowd. Those of us who have frequented the Social Club are well aware of the finicky nature of those who patronize the bar. There often seem to be no physical signs from the crowd that some form of entertainment is happening on stage. From where I stand, it's up to the performers to grab and maintain the crowd's interest. If one can't manage that, then I'd say it's time to review one's material, no?

Anyway, the Social Club seems to be winning the race with the Student Union for our Entertainment Award. In fact, with bands like the Shuffle Demons, Bare Naked Ladies, and Long John Baldry so far, and **Wild T and the Spirit** coming next month, I'd say they're way out in front. All I want to know is this: who the hell is going to bring in **Bootsauce**!?

THE SILKEN-VOICED MICHAEL SUTHERLAND



THE LOVELY AND TALENTED BRIGITTE SULLIVAN

