

# John Lee- step-child of the blues

Dalhousie Cultural Activities and Dalhousie Student Union will present JOHN LEE HOOKER in concert on November 21, 1975 at 8:30 p.m. in the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. Tickets may be purchased at the Rebecca Cohn Box Office.

John Lee's father died when he was a little child and he was raised by his mother and stepfather. His stepfather was a blues guitarist himself of some repute and reknown in that part of the country. It was from him that John Lee first learned to play guitar.

No personal history is necessary to determine the general atmosphere of John Lee's childhood. Music was an integral part of the work and recreation of the rural, Black Delta sharecropper. The men in the fields sang as they toiled and the women accompanied their domestic duties with gospel and blues. Spare time was devoted to musical "store poarchin" as much as anything else and if the people weren't actually performing their music themselves for their own entertainment, they were listening, by John Lee's time, to phonograph recordings.

By the time he was thirteen, John Lee's serious intentions to be a musician were well-charted. He practiced unceasingly and was soon playing for country suppers and fish-fries. After spending some unsuccessful years in Memphis, Hooker moved to Detroit in 1948. Detroit has a large tradition of piano players and few guitarists so John Lee was welcomed and encouraged by his new friends. Local clubs



John Lee Hooker will appear in concert at the Rebecca Cohn on November 21.

began to feature him at after hours sessions and then to give him work on a regular basis. He began to record with local record labels and was rewarded with speedy recognition when his single "Boogie Chillun" became a national hit.

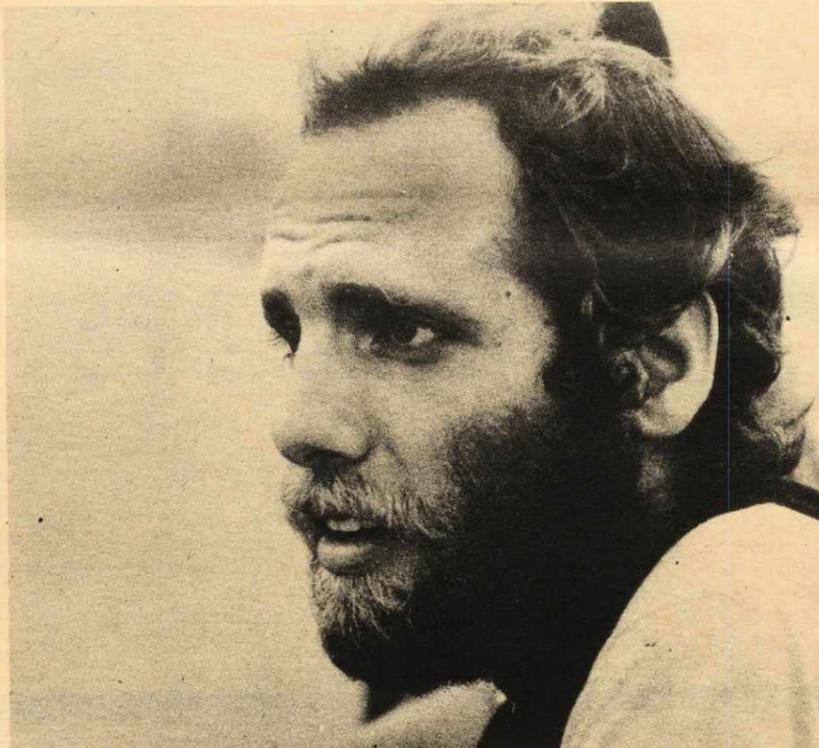
"Boogie Chillun" increased John

Lee's popularity, as would be expected, and he soon found that larger crowds dictated that he play electric guitar. John Lee's preference in an audience, however, is for one that doesn't really need an amplified sound. One that listens and wants to know what he has to say in words and music.

\* The opening act for the John Lee Hooker concert at the Rebecca Cohn on November 21 will be Michael Polacco, a young guitarist whose star is definitely on the rise.

Michael's career began in New York where with no formal training he mastered a five finger picking style so strong and rich he often sounds like several guitars being played simultaneously. He has developed a dynamic style which few can match today.

Soon after becoming established as a performer at New York's famed "Village Gate", Polacco met Richie Havens and a close and powerful relationship began. Havens pulled Michael off the club circuit and onto his U.S. Concert Tour. Things were happening, reviews were impressive, and Michael was recognized as a major new talent. Since then, he has shared the bill with such acts as Shawn Phillips, Dory Previn, Seals and Crofts, Odetta, Brewer and Shipley, David Bromberg, John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters, Johnny Hammond, Jim Croce, Dave Van Ronk, J. Geils Band, Ace Trucking Company, Leon Russell and many more.



Michael Polacco will open the John Lee Hooker Concert at the Cohn.

**A  
S  
T  
R  
O  
F  
F,  
S**

**LARGE, JUICY,  
SANDWICHES.**

**AVAILABLE  
DAILY**

**GRAWOOD  
LOUNGE**

**DELICIOUS!**

**Santho  
Record Man**

**CANADA'S  
LARGEST and  
BEST KNOWN  
RECORD STORE  
(LOWER MALL)  
BAYER'S ROAD  
SHOPPING CENTRE  
HOURS  
MON, TUES, SAT.  
9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
WED, THURS, FRI.  
9 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**GAY  
FRIENDSHIP  
CLUB  
ARE YOU  
GAY?  
WHY DELAY?  
WRITE IN  
COMPLETE  
CONFIDENCE  
TO  
BOX 8666  
ARMDALE  
B3L4K5**

**ISRAEL SENDS YOU HER BEST  
THE ISRAELI CHASSIDIC FESTIVAL  
ISRAEL'S MOST BELOVED ENTERTAINERS  
TUESDAY NOV.25 8:30 p.m.  
QUEEN ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS \$3.00 ADULTS \$5.00  
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT MUSIC STORES  
THROUGHOUT HALIFAX  
and MEMBERS HILLEL-A.U.J.S.**