

Buddy and the Boys Interview

continued from page 16

lives only looking for a community to finally settle down in. Maritimers find that they have that from birth, they are already at the end of the rainbow. They are already where they want to be without going anywhere else to find out.

Dalhousie Gazette: So what are people thinking these days? You say that, maybe consciously or not, there is an attempt to buy out the people of the Maritimes. Do you think people are starting to realize it, how do you gauge the feelings of the people you are in contact with?

MacDonald: I think they are very, very aware. I know in Cape Breton there has been a lot of attempts through the College of Cape Breton to raise the consciousness of the people. I know when I was going to school we were learning American history through American text books but now in Cape Breton they are starting to teach the history of Cape Breton and the Maritimes. So we are history, and that is instilling a lot of pride in people who thought that the only way to be a success was to go away, and come back with a pocket full of money. Finally people are starting to look inside and say you can definitely be a success in your own home land and that's one reason why a lot of the musicians—the Matt Minglewood Band, the Sam Moon Band or our band—are able to scratch out a living, by talking about just that.

Dalhousie Gazette: When you say the "Hangin' Around" is a challenge to the masses of young unemployed people in Cape Breton, what is it you are challenging them to do?

MacDonald: Well, I think they could at least get angry. But it is hard to

get angry when the central government is doing such a good job of keeping this area and other areas very complacent. And I always say that the revolution will be impossible in this country cause people seem to be doing pretty well, even when they are not working.

Dalhousie Gazette: What is happening with **Buddy and the Boys** these days? There seem to be some personnel changes and some changes in your music.

MacDonald: We used to play in this band more on a part time basis and work on our own things the rest of the time, but to do this thing full time, which is now what we are trying to do, we have to be as organized as we can be, because we all need as much time as possible to write new material and rehearse the material. This all takes a lot of organization. We don't want our music to just go and beat people over the head saying, "this is screwed up, and this is screwed up and gee whiz, things sure are a bummer." We don't perform in that way. We perform in a humorous and high energy way, but at the same time we are talking about issues that are affecting people's lives every day.

We are a young band too, we are only about nine months old as a band, and we have to be looking for new material and new places to play. We have been really well accepted in the Maritimes, and for our own interest we'd like to see if we can play for fresh audiences and be accepted. We were invited up to Ottawa a while back to play and that was a very gratifying experience. That gave us the impetus to travel to other parts of the country to see more people and play our music for them.

In the future we are still going to be talking about how things are and how we see things, the things that affect us in our lives every day. Many people are unhappy and we want to find out about why they are unhappy and write about that, and of course lots of people are happy too and we want to write about that. We are just trying to understand what is going on, and we find that writing helps us to understand.

Dal Gazette: What kinds of problems are you facing in the music industry, getting radio airplay, and so on?

MacDonald: There are lots of problems. Air play is definitely a hassle. Many of the AM stations are controlled by the CHUM (Toronto) network and they decide what is going to be played on the radio down here. And it's rare if you can get on their play list. And that is definitely a hassle. We could move to Toronto, or New York or Los Angeles and hustle our butts down there and try to get a recording contract and join that huge industry. But we choose to live in the community that we come from. We'd all have to have a pretty good reason for leaving here.

CBC has been good to us, we've been getting air time with them and through that we've had requests for our album all over the country. So we think that our material, and Minglewood's and Sam Moon's material, has merit and at some point an enterprising business person is going to see the potential and make a lot of money.

Dalhousie Gazette: Who do you think your audiences are?

MacDonald: Well, we try to keep our musical styles open, so we don't try to get ourselves into one form of delivery, at the same time we try to keep our audiences open. We've

played for everybody, we've played to people in their early teenage years right through to—with the Rise and Follies and Crossing the Causeway—we've played to people 70 and 80 years old. So we try to keep ourselves open, cause people are people and we wouldn't like to narrow it down to be like a lot of Rock and Roll bands that direct their attention to the 19-25 year olds. That's a very narrow kind of approach which we don't follow cause we like to keep it more open.

Dalhousie Gazette: What plans do you have for any tours or another album?

MacDonald: We have plans for both, but I can't really get too specific about them right now. We will definitely be recording more material, and there is no question that we will be touring to other parts of the country. We have made decisions on both of those.

We know we are going to have to leave here to go on tours. Right now we tend to be home two weeks out of every month and in the future we might have to be away for a month or so at a time. But we will always know that we'll be heading home.

Dalhousie Gazette: Why did **Buddy and the Boys** agree to do the Oxfam benefit?

MacDonald: There are a lot of people, and the Oxfam people especially, who are out there giving their time to rectify the bad situations that do exist and we sort of see that we are all working together for the betterment of things. The Oxfam people are folk who are trying pretty hard to make things better for everyone, so we are only too happy to lend our energies to help them out.

Dalhousie Gazette: Is there anything else you'd like to say?

MacDonald: Just one thing—DISCO SUCKS.

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