



# The College Hill Folk

## Five years of folk



Stephen Peacock and Mark Lulham

Feature by: Duke Branscombe

The College Hill Folk Collective recently completed its fifth year of bringing folk entertainment to the University of New Brunswick. During this time its basic objective has been to promote local talent and folk music in general. It has produced a newsletter, imported professional groups, held jam sessions and presented open air "folk on the grass" concerts for initiation week.

For the most part, Folk Collective events take the form of coffeehouses which are held more or less on a bi-weekly basis. Memorial Hall, one of the oldest and most aesthetically attractive buildings on campus, has been the favorite spot for such gatherings. The atmosphere at the coffeehouse is appropriately Bohemian, with tiny candles dotting the darkened hall. During the intermission, cider and coffee are available along with munchies- cake, cookies and cheese.

Entertainers of all types and origins have played at these events. Of particular interest are such top Canadian bluegrass groups as White River and Ladies Choice, who entrance the audience with the highly energized music they present.

The local duo of Paul and Lutia Lauzon offer their own unique form of music with a message. Their theatre-oriented, topical approach to entertainment has always been popular at the coffeehouses.

Last season, Ken Hamm of Thunder Bay, Ontario, left the audience spellbound with his very honest and accurate interpretation of traditional blues, whether playing his antique Washburn or his steel-bodied National slide guitar. In the same blues vein, Peter Alan, a local performer of considerable reknown, continually presents superb concerts at the coffeehouses. His dazzling ragtime finger-picking masterpieces are guaranteed to leave fellow guitarists wondering if what they have heard is humanly possible.

Sandy Greenberg, one of Canada's leading female folk-singers has also appeared at Folk Collective coffeehouses. Her concerts include traditional ballads, blues, bluegrass standards and feminist songs as well as her own compositions.

The Saint John Folk Club, which includes such folkology authorities as John Murphy and Bernie Houlahan, have visited the collective on various occasions. Their repertoire leans heavily toward English and Irish ballads and sea chanties. Instrumentally, they play every thing from the dulcimer to the Jew's Harp.

The coffeehouses have provided a perfect outlet for local singer-songwriters such as Jon Soderman, Tom McAvity, Andy Bartlett and Mark Kristmanson to perform their original material. The coffeehouses have been a testing area for artists like these to evaluate their material by receiving immediate feedback from the audience.

Folk Collective Lulham, Stephen Peacock, Rick Valenta, John L... have comprised the... ment because of... willingness to fill... moment's notice.

The musical form... not always been limi... Brunswick String Qu... evening concert. Je... some breathtakingly... arrangements. Hope... expand even further... include other music... possibility of presen... jazz band, The Mar... plans for the future i... permanent room or... collaborators in the... for business meetin... space could also be... where tapes and re...

White River