

A funny thing happened to me on the way to the office the other day. I stumbled across yet another sampling of the wealth of talent that lays in wait, here in the capitol city.

As a relative newcomer to Fredericton I have been repeatedly dazzled by the depth of Fredericton's artistic community, but I wasn't prepared for the extent to which I would enjoy UNB's own Ujamaa.

I caught Ujamaa (oneness) at "Trina's" as part of the Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival last Saturday night. The band was HOT! The music they played was rooted in what one would call a traditional Reggae sound in the same spirit as such old greats as Burning Spear, or Peter Tosh. Lead singer Kwame Dawes showed himself to be a strong vocal talent with a good mix in his repertoire of songs. The band behind him was solid, played well, but looked cramped and uncomfortable, and definitely didn't bring the same enthusiasm to the show as did Mr. Dawes.

I should mention at this point that Trina's is probably not the best venue for this band to be showcased; it is a

large band, and space was a scarce commodity, that and a few problems with the sound, made the show a little less.

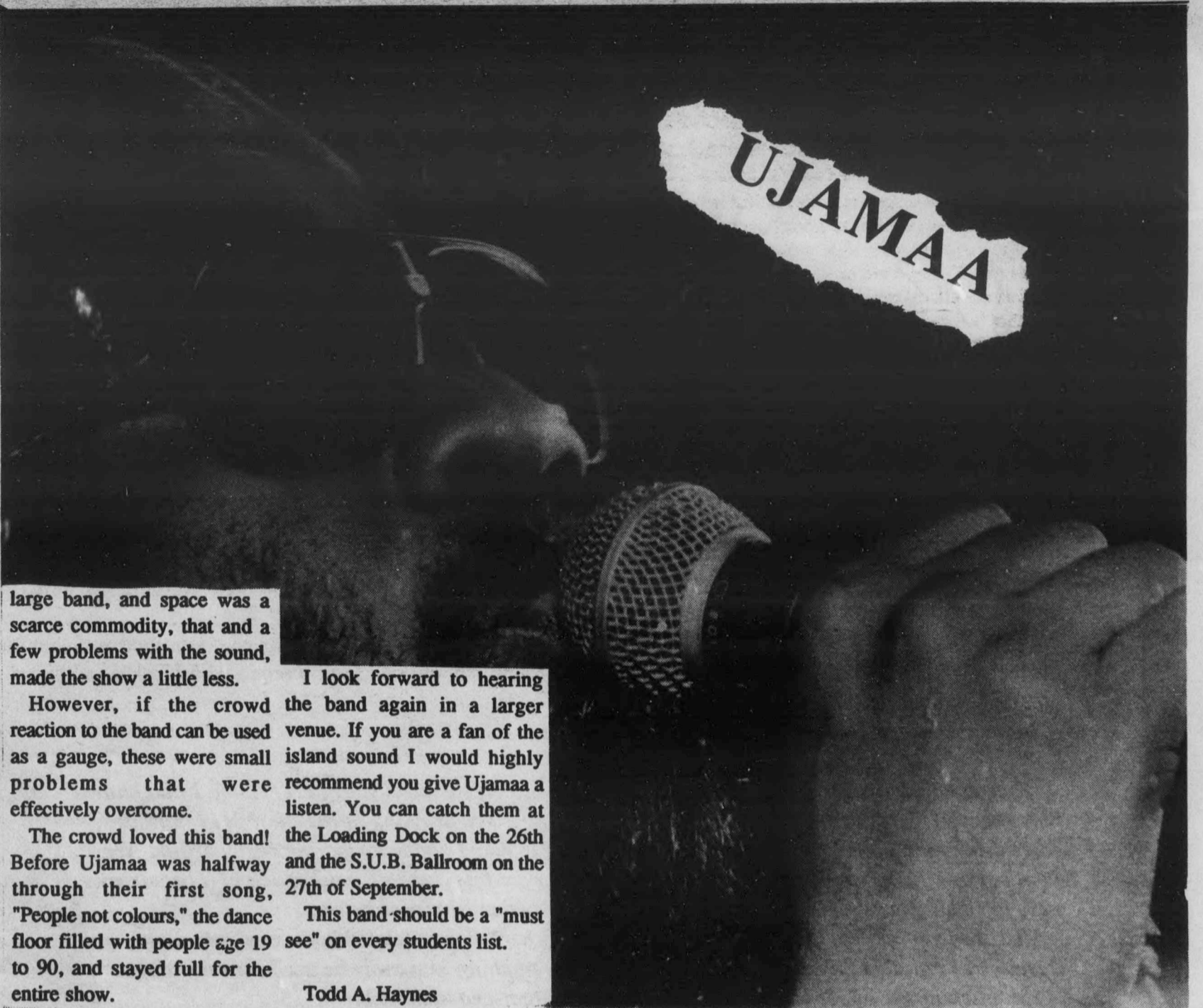
However, if the crowd reaction to the band can be used as a gauge, these were small problems that were effectively overcome.

The crowd loved this band! Before Ujamaa was halfway through their first song, "People not colours," the dance floor filled with people age 19 to 90, and stayed full for the entire show.

I look forward to hearing the band again in a larger venue. If you are a fan of the island sound I would highly recommend you give Ujamaa a listen. You can catch them at the Loading Dock on the 26th and the S.U.B. Ballroom on the 27th of September.

This band should be a "must see" on every student's list.

Todd A. Haynes



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