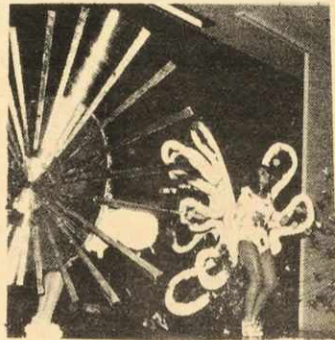


Caribbean Spectacular

by Mary Pat MacKenzie

It is very difficult to write a review on what happened in the SUB on Saturday night. Caribanza was just so good that the necessary superlatives would eventually get on one's nerves. For those who could not get tickets perhaps a short resume will suffice. For those who were fortunate enough to attend it would be highly presumptuous on my part to tell you what a good time you must have had. If you were there you know a great time was had by all!

Basically Caribanza was divided into three parts - dinner, entertainment and dancing. Time was allotted early in the evening for everyone to make it to the bar before dinner. The food was Caribbean in character and just plain good in actual consumption! Immediately after dinner the Caribbean society presented a sort of fashion show, designed to present the different facets of life in the Caribbean. I say a sort of fashion show because the costumes did not represent native dress but



nature itself. It was obvious that a tremendous amount of work and imagination went into designing costumes depicting the rising sun, the moon and stars, a butterfly and the coral of the West Indies. The time and imagination were well spent and well appreciated by the audience.

"Dynamic Pressure" from Ottawa provided the music that kept everyone dancing till the wee hours of the morning. The group played

both calypso and contemporary music with a West Indian flavor. The McInnes Room holds over 500 people and I doubt that there were any that did not dance at all. Most were ready to drop to the floor from total exhaustion before they'd quit. By popular demand the time limit on the function was extended from 1:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Even then most people were ready, willing, though barely able, to stay for at least another hour!

The atmosphere in the McInnes Room on Saturday was so different from that of any other SUB event that it's hard to describe it. It was electric, high, fun and exciting before anyone even made it to the watering hole out in the hall. It was apparent that one did not need to be a hard drinker or smoker or whatever to have a good time. As a matter of fact the drunken, stoned state often found at University social events was definitely lacking. That's not to say that it was the same as an I.O.D.E. tea party though! The age group was

varied, the people were varied, yet everyone was together having a really good time.

The Caribbean society certainly deserves a pat on the back for doing a fine job. The long hours and hard work produced an evening that few will forget and no

one will regret. I only wish that more of the social functions at Dal were as well thought out and as well produced as this one. If the Caribbean Society were to run Winter Carnival the tickets would be sold out before they're even printed!

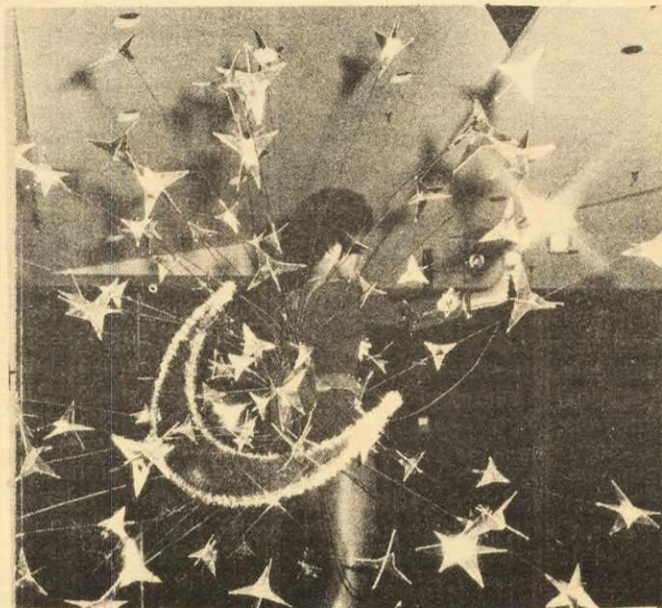


Photo by: Martin Douma

entertainment supplement

Dutchy Back at Dal

by Rick Whitby

What can you say about Dutchy Mason that hasn't been said at least twenty times before? Well, for starters you can say that he played in the McInnes Room last Friday night to a sellout crowd, and from all appearances pleased everyone. And I must admit that despite some skepticism, I found that after a few minutes of his music, that I was actually enjoying myself at a Dal-housie event.

There was some question before the dance that the Mason style of blues would be hard, if not impossible to dance to. This fear was quickly allayed, although it was the second set before anyone got up to prove it. A simple change from the "smoked-filled room blues" that one might hear him play at "SULLIVANS," his usual hang-out, to some quicker, more rhythmic tunes was evidently decided on by the band for this gig and it worked out well. The foundations of the music were maintained, but not the junkie atmosphere.

Dutchy Mason seems to be something of an enigma in Halifax. He is loved and

hated, has an intensely loyal following, of people who avoid him like the plague. No one can dispute the fact that he is very talented and no one can dispute the fact that he draws well wherever he is. This is no doubt very good for student activities, who must be glowing over the success of the dance. Incidentally, the whole night proceeded trouble-free and smoothly-to the credit of the people working there.

The only disappointing factor to me is that it takes a band such as this, which must have been seen by everyone at least once, to draw any sort of large crowd. In other words, it doesn't seem that a new band to the area no matter how talented can ever make it, much less get booked. If you were one of the few that attended GUN HILL ROAD, you know what I mean. HORSLIPS attracted a fairly large crowd on Saturday, but only after being hyped continually for two weeks.

Getting back to Dutchy Mason, if you haven't seen him yet, it is worth it to do so, even if the style of music is not your favorite. Mason himself looks like a paunchy



Joe Namath (or maybe Namath is a skinny Mason) and sounds like a somewhat bored B.B. King. His band ranges from competent (bass and harp) to exceptional (keyboards) but suffers from what might be described as a lack of maturity. I do not mean that they are childish, but that there were some

missed riffs that they are quite capable of playing but don't have the experience to know where and when to do so. They are together and there is an empathy between them but one gets the feeling that they are too together sometimes and the music sounds mechanical. This is a

problem of having a limited repertoire, where the same music is played so often that it loses much of its feeling. I think that if they did a little more exploring in their music they will find new life in themselves and more importantly, in their audiences.