

The Grapes of Wrath

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The band is currently doing this Eastern tour to add to the money needed to venture to Europe this Sunday. Tom Hooper (vocals and bass) said, "We haven't done a tour including New Brunswick since the tour on our second album, Treehouse, in '87".

On the diversity of their latest album, *Now and Again*, Tom said "I feel that this record is the most experimental of all... We don't choose a path with our writing we just write what sounds good and what sounds best, in what order, we choose for a record".

"I definitely think we've improved as a band since the beginning and there is still room for improvement."

Grapes Thrill a Whole Bunch (concert review)

The Grapes of Wrath played to a nearly sell-out house at the Ballroom on Wednesday night, and did not disappoint the gathered crowd. Those in attendance were obviously there to see the Grapes, as crowds of that size do not gather at the Social Club on Wednesday nights; the fans in the audience sang along unprompted to all of the Grapes' better-known songs.

The show began poorly: the opening duo, Barry Mitchell and Rick Waters allowed technical problems to completely spoil their program. Professional performers should know never to stop a song uncompleted except for a tragedy on stage (such as a drummer exploding, although that never stopped *Spinal Tap*). The hum in the speakers which plagued the opening of their set was hardly a reason to stop playing in the middle of a song, although this was the case on a number of occasions. The singing on the part of both performers (a guitar player and a bass player) was uneven and strained, and often off-key. The bass playing was also uneven, sour notes being heard on a

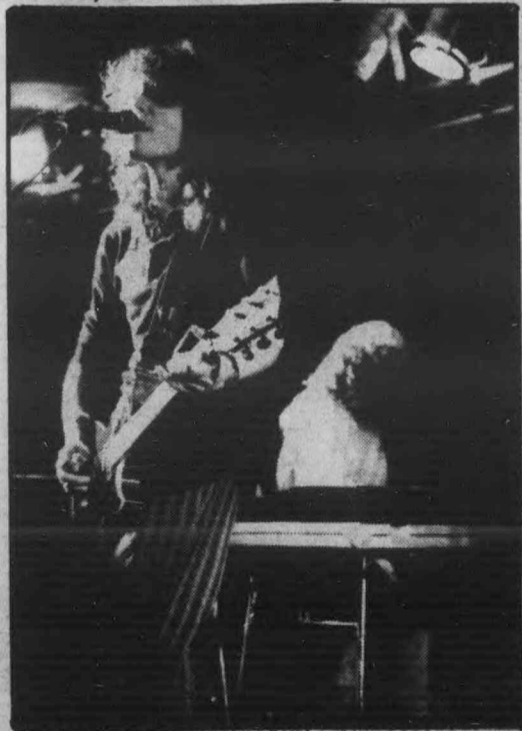


Neil Young, and John Lennon, among others. Many of these covers could have used some work; the harmonica playing on the Dylan music was atrocious, and the pace on many of the songs could have been picked up.

The Grapes are a lively band on stage, certainly much more lively than another band that graces UNB stages on occasion, namely 54-40. They are all solid musicians and their sets were flawless. The singing was always on and their own music ranks among the best being written in Canada. The Grapes, however, are not a band with strong writing skills that cannot thrill an audience in performance: the combination of strong material and showmanship made for one of the concert highlights of UNB's entertainment calendar.

The Grapes came back for two encores before finally calling it a night just before 1:30 a.m..

The Grapes of Wrath concert was undoubtedly one of the most successful Campus Entertainment events on campus this year.



number of occasions. The audience, however, was admirably restrained and patient; a smattering of applause followed each piece. The duo performed cover versions of music by the Beatles, Bob Dylan, Neil Young, and John Lennon, among others. Many of these covers could have used some work; the harmonica playing on the Dylan music was atrocious, and the pace on many of the songs could have been picked up.

The Grapes took the stage at 11:30 p.m. and immediately captivated the audience with their easy banter and quirky humour on stage. They launched into an hour set of their best known music. Songs like "O Lucky Man" and "Peace of Mind" drew unprompted audience participation, which seemed to please the Grapes. Apart from their own material the Grapes performed music such as Neil Young's "Heart of Gold" and the Band's "The Weight", as well as covers of music by Paul McCartney and the Wings and Creedence Clearwater Revival.

"Our punk band the Kill Pigs was really the first group that Chris, Kevin and I belonged to but we broke up and Chris and I went on to the Gentlemen of Horror and we played the Hardcore '83 in Victoria which is a big hardcore event and we recorded a small 7 song EP in '81... were trying to find the money so we can get a couple thousand copies made"

