

Entertainment

Hill Street Blues Band at the Social Club

I stood anxiously in line ready to whip out my newly laminated complimentary Social Club Membership (given to me as a privilege for ascending to the position of Distractions Editor). The room above me emitted the typical energy of a Thursday night, filled with the likes of those with no classes on Friday or others with no intention to go to class on Friday. Familiar faces wove up the stairwell and from the heights above (louder than the drone of talking and laughter) echoed the rhythmic sound of Hill Street Blues.

It hit me though that I was not here for mere leisure. I had a purpose, a mission. Sure, it may not be that important to the more experienced, veteran staff member of the Brunswickan, but I was here to review my very first band.

Wow? Who cares? That might be the response of the sarcastic type. But reviewing a band can be a big deal when one doesn't even know how to go about it. "It made me laugh, it made me cry" should be left for sappy movies along with Siskel and Ebert's thumb rating. "It was inspirational" is flowery and poetic and is better left for my Distractions section. "It sucked" or "It rocked" is too vague and blatant. Besides, my vocabulary far exceeds these two primitive utterances.

However, despite one's various experiences in life, reviewing a band for the general public takes musical insight, knowledge, and perception—a most unique experience. I mean, I'm well aware of what I like and don't like, but portraying this to others in the proper musical terminology is what I was lacking.

Amidst conversation with a few of my friends, I spotted "Mr. Entertainment"

himself, Alastair, taking pictures. Approaching him, I explained my concerns that I had no idea about what I was doing. He, camera in hand assured me that most critics don't either and said to sit back, enjoy the tunes, and worry about it later...

Well, later has come and in retrospect I have to say I really enjoyed the band. That's a start I suppose.

Loud as most bands in the social club are, I found the sound relaxing and upbeat. Blues has a way of either turning people off or pumping them up. However, Hill Street Blues proved to be a real crowd pleaser. Each song, although Bluesey was made unique and I didn't find myself thinking anything to be repetitious in sets.

As well, the crowd was found clapping hands and dancing about. I suppose one could say that the sound of HS Blues while not the most "original" I've ever heard kept life, vitality, and energy in the room.

The band, who played at the Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival has definitely created a niche for themselves on campus. "How's great music for an attention grabber". If you took the time to look

around (most people didn't), you would have found the crowd with not only their ears but their eyes riveted on this band.

With the Blues having its roots amongst the poor & Zydeco coming from Louisiana Acadians (Cajuns), it seems to fit very well here in New Brunswick. If it's popularity gains here (and it is gaining), this band's popularity is destined to gain as well.

As far as the instruments themselves are concerned, the guitar, bass, harmonica, drums, and acordion lead to an innovative sound in comparison to the run of the mill Social Club get up. The guitar and harmonica traded off for the "lead" in superb fashion which prevented the listener from getting bored from one dominant tone.

By Jeff Czapor

