

Entertainment

Eric's Trip



Chris Thompson of Eric's Trip at the Market Friday night. (Photo & Story by Claire MacPherson)

Well here it is, another attempt to review Eric's Trip at the Market on Friday night. My computer is conspiring against me, and doing its best to keep me from finishing this review by trying to obliterate it. So should something happen in this review that you do not like, the computer did it and that is all I have to say in self defence. Now if you weren't at the Market on Friday, and it was obvious a lot of you were missing, where were you? It was Friday night. You have no excuse. That is your loss. You

missed out on seeing what a diverse collection of talent New Brunswick has. Those of you who did show, thank you for supporting CHSR in this year's Fund Drive. Although the East Coast Music Award winners attracted only an average sized crowd, the crowd was a far cry from 'average'. They ranged from hard core punk, to run of the mill rugby with an age group ranging somewhere from 11 to 30+.

Starting the night was Alderknot, a local band. I have been told that this

was their first gig, so some allowances should be made. They started off great, but once all the music began to sound the same, things really began to stagnate. Merle put in a great show as drummer. Of his two partners, all I can say is that they ranked up there with eating a plain raw potato. There was definite substance to the performance, but it was very bland. On the flip side was Liquid Light 28, also locals. Described by the band's trumpeter (quite a good one I might add) Matthew Robinson, they are

"Fugazi attempting to play with some 1970's jazz-fusion band, with Sonic Youth in the background cheering us on." Actually, in a nutshell, that comment says it all. From their attire (dresses, jeans, fish-net stockings, tie-dyed long johns and silver skirts) to their music, they are different. For such a young band, all of whom except Matthew are in high school, they have come a long way from their first gig, and its strobe light disaster. Changing their lineup might have something to do with it. Starting off with a brassy 'Sex' they progressed through to a strong finish with 'You're the Junkie', and managed to get the mosh pit off to a good start. There should be plenty of opportunities to see them again, and if you're into the jazz-fusion thing, GO.

Finally came Eric's Trip, who hail from Moncton. Now although I know little about this band, I have heard varying views and was pleasantly surprised with what I saw/heard. Although they did not seem to be overly impressed with the Fredericton-style punk welcome, chock full of insults and expletives, they played well, and eventually gave in to the numerous requests for 'Blinded'. The general feeling I felt from the people I talked to, was that this performance seemed to be less bass oriented and more together than the last time they were here, and that this was a good thing. If the moshers are any indication, the music was good, the moshing was hard, and that was all that mattered. Their stage presence has a downplayed air and along with their set up of only a few naked bulbs as lighting, they were a welcome change

from the bands I've seen lately. Julie Doiron (actually I believe her last name is now changed, but have not actually been able to find anyone who can tell me to what, and I foolishly neglected to ask when speaking with her later), besides being a really nice person, is great. I find it rather incredible that such a soft spoken person can be so good on stage as well as bass, she does vocals, and with Rick White (guitar, vocals.. and drum) they really pull together for a great sound. Though I didn't hear much of their old Sonic Youth influenced playing, I heard some songs off their latest CD titled *Forever Again*, and now, I'm going to have to break down and go music shopping... in other words I liked what I was hearing. To finish off the night, Chris Thompson (guitar), and Rick decided on a little impromptu playing. After testing the effects of a drum on the strings of a guitar, Rick on drums, and Chris fooled around for a minute or so before closing up shop. Later in talking with Julie, the 49% buy-out of Sub Pop (the Seattle based label who has released their last two CD's) by Warner was mentioned. She said that it really shouldn't affect the band due to their own label and all. We then discussed her new baby, who is great, congratulations. Out of curiosity, has anyone heard that a beer every once in a while is good for breast milk? All in all, the bands pulled off a great night.

Thanks to CHSR and all the organizations of the evening. Thanks to everyone who helped me out in particular. And thanks also to my computer which seems to have finally decided to function to the best of its abilities. And please support CHSR in their Fund Drive this week.



The 48th Annual Red 'N' Black Revue

by Chad Ball

February 16-18...the 48th Annual red and Black Revue...the good, the bad...and the engineers. Yes folks, this year's offering of student talent offered everything from "alternative" rock, to a selection from a Broadway musical, to the return of the Jugband! Although the evening did have its share of problems and difficulties, it was obvious that UNB has some talented students in its midst.

The M.C.'s for the evening

were Janet Morrison and Jeff Melanson. Whether it was the fact that opening night jitters were over with, or that opening night drew a bad review and they felt they had nothing to lose, the pair looked relaxed and ready to poke fun at themselves, each other, the audience and various faculty members. They did, however, run into their awkward moments of audience silence, although they tried their hardest, some jokes did flop. For the most part, Melanson's quick one-liners (usually directed at the front row) kept things going, and they

turned out to be more entertaining than some of the corny schlock that comes out from a lot of the M.C.'s at this type of event.

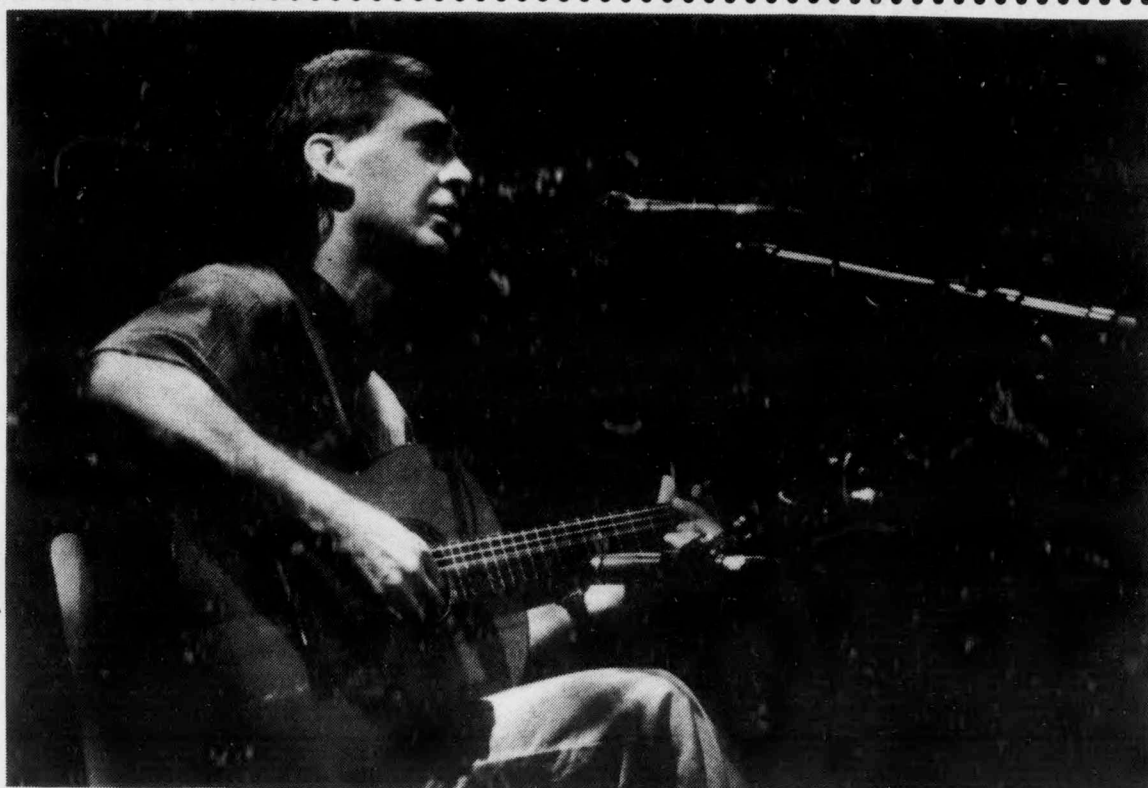
Then came the performers. There were comics, musicians and dancers...boy were there ever a lot of dancers! The first group, The Production Number, were obviously very talented, and tried to set an upbeat mood for the following performers. Even though they were entertaining, they lacked the energy needed to get the crowd excited. Following this group,

was a guitar performance by biology student, Andy Didyk. Performing two of his own creations, "*Child of the Sea*" and "*I Still Want Her*", Andy truly displayed his songwriting ability. The only problem in this case, is that his songs, as beautiful as they were, were slightly on the depressing side, and probably should have waited until later in the program. I will be looking forward to hearing more from Andy Didyk in the future.

After Andy's performance, Exultation, a dance/gymnastics team

came on. Their routine consisted mainly of dancing, with their strong point being their gymnastic ability (I especially liked those little no-hands backflips). The UNB Skit Crew (a.k.a. Brent Lockhart and Tony LePage) were next to hit the Playhouse stage. This comedy team was, without a doubt, the highlight of the evening. From the moment they started their melodramatic introduction, to the moment they left the stage, Brent and Tony were brilliant!

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Musician Andy Didyk performs at the Red & Black. (Photo by Bones)