

subway returns

Through heavy rains a crowd of over 400 people made their way to a hall in Trinity United Church for the reopening of one of Charlottetown's first coffee houses "Subway".

Subway originated the first year of its being at Confederation Center then transferred to Kirk of St. James. After a year at the Kirk, it ceased to be for a year.

After a year it has taken wing again under a new committee headed by a member of the original Subway, Dan Lavigne. It has taken wing as one can see of crowds of 400 are indicative of this. In Charlottetown they are. Inside there was a lot of tension as some things were looked after.

After a few tables were removed to make room for some of the people who lined the walls and blocked the stairways, the curtains were opened and the stage gave birth to a slender young girl who was to be M.C.

The girl, a little nervous, made it through her welcoming remarks and introduced Patch.

Patch is a young group of musicians from P.E.I. who made a very good first showing in Charlottetown after a relatively short time together. All of the musicians in the group are strong with an exceptionally strong sax player who surprised me most for a person of his years. You will be hearing more of this group in the near future. After Patch, the young lady doing the honors came back a little less shaken and announced the second slice of the show in the form of Bonnie LeClair, a little girl with one hell of a big voice. Bonnie, a girl with a really bright future, came on and did five of her own numbers.

Bonnie sang her way through her numbers, accompanying herself beautifully, and set the pace for the rest of the first half of the show.

Bonnie was followed by Tom Sea another performer no stranger to the crowds here after having done a stint with Storm and after that performing by himself at the Kirk when it was the base for the Coffee House.

Tom came on, made a few comments in that soft drawl of his and did one of the finest acoustic sets I've heard in a long time here, or anywhere else. Tom did a few of his own numbers which he documented with some of the finest, meaty, tasty licks I ever heard. One of the biggest treats of the evening for me was beautiful bottleneck job of "Crossroads" which had me wondering why some turkeys in the business who couldn't pick for shit nor sing their way up the street are making money. Tom was followed by another ex-member of Storm Lucian LeRoux. Lucian, another fine performer took the stage and after an

introduction to his first number came on with a really beautiful job of an old Beatle number "Blackbird". Blackbird was followed by a couple of his originals, the most pleasing to me being a song called "David Take Your Woman to the Country." Lucky is also a fine guitarist in his own right, playing no second to anybody. Lucky (a name given to Lucian by his friends years ago) has a soft voice which can do some really nice things when he gets into it. Lucky often reminds me of a cross between Bert Jansch and Paul Simon.

Lucky ended the first half of the show and everybody got a chance to have a look around. I saw a lot of people here I hadn't seen for a long long time. The races weren't all young either. A few people over 18 made the grade such as our former mayor Mrs. Corrigan who has often gone to places where young people go that most people would sooner avoid because of "that weird loud music and those flashing lights..". If only a few more of those people with so-called power took interest in young people in a form other than critical analysis there would be a lot less tension. So much for my social commentary. The second half of the show began by a short set by Patch and then the act which had brought a lot of familiar faces out of seclusion.

Storm. Storm took the stage and a good feeling ran through me to see them together after a year and a half. Storm had been a lot of things to a lot of people and brothers to everybody. I had been looking forward to this reunion for a long time and by the look of some of the faces in the crowd, so had a lot of others. Storm began with a number that has always been a favorite of mine since the first time George Antoniak, their guitarist, had played it for me, "Love's Children." George Antoniak, Pat Riley and Maurice Nadeau swept the hall with tight good-feeling music. They cut then into an arrangement of "Born on the Bayou" that was so gutsy that if C.C.R. ever heard it they should fall off the stage and turn into a pile of shit. Storm put out one of the tightest pieces of work I have ever

seen any three piece group put out in ages. To look at them and then look at a group like Edward Bear, a three piece group that have actually had the audacity to charge money for a performance makes me wonder if the people who run the business are not tone deaf. After Born on the Bayou, Storm cut into Little Wing by Hendrix and did it up very tastefully. From the quite almost sensitive treatment of Little Wing the group cut into Cold Sweat. The epitome of funk. Maurice, Pat, and George worked tighter on this number than on any other number. This is where I think they're at really as a group and I say it's too bad they aren't together full-time to give music the shot it sorely needs as far as this area of the country is concerned. Cold Sweat was followed in turn by a real R & B number in the shape of "Get Out of My Life Woman". The end of the show was brought with the number which was always their closing number. "In The Presence of the Lord." At the end I hoped that this would not be the end of the finest bunch of musicians to strike up in the last couple of years. Subway ended its first night here with the promise of a lot of good things to come. If you're sitting back on your ass on Sunday evening because there's no place to go and you don't want to go to the movies, go to the Subway on Richmond Street.

Doug Gallant

