

Buzzy Linhart, Duck Soup Delight at Grendel's Lair

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IF WOODY ALLEN had a good voice, longer hair, played the guitar and vibraphone and wrote songs, he'd be Buzzy Linhart.

Buzzy opened at Grendel's Lair for a weekend engagement last night, and once again came on as a compact coil of talent, good humor and energy. Despite the sparse opening-night crowd, Linhart and his band generated enough cooking heat to get things perking.

Linhart is probably best known for his clever "The Time To Live Is Now," which contains the priceless line, "Who buy's the money when you pay the rent? Did you think that money was the President?" sung to Lennon and McCartney's "Lady Madonna" tune.

But Linhart's talent goes deeper than clever couplets and catchy, bouncy tunes.

He's a master of fast, scatting lyrics and can rock with the best of them.

Buzzy is an old favorite. The major discovery to come out of last night's opening was Duck-Soup, a local band without recording contract that sounds, at the tender age of eight months, like a full-blown professional band of stature.

It's almost axiomatic that a new band's material cannot be properly appreciated in a live setting. Continuous exposure to a group's records is usually the only way to get into its sound.

But Duck Soup cut through the fog of amplifiers and unfamiliarity at once, playing a set that showed the quintet at home with country music, free-form jazz jamming and good old rock and roll.

The group is Jim Pabarus on vocals, Jimmy Hayne on guitar, Bill Hayward on bass, Bill Koepnick on drums and Richard Grossman on keyboards.