

Murphy strums at Zoo

Guitarist reminisces about Blues Brothers' days

By Tish Mockler
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Matt "Guitar" Murphy is probably most widely recognized for his appearance in "The Blues Brothers" movie and for the two Blues Brothers albums. But his guitar playing has led him down all sorts of avenues that promise to take some twists and turns.

While Murphy has performed with a number of musicians such as James Cotton, Chuck Berry, Memphis Slim and Muddy Waters, he says he likes to basically stick with one band.

"I tend to think of forming a group and trying to get a certain sound," Murphy said.

When asked to describe what this sound is, Murphy said classifying music is not important to him.

"I can't understand why people tend to try to separate and try to go in so many different ways because the music we're doing is not that far from any of the other

stuff. All we do is try to have at least some kind of arrangement," Murphy said. "We play a little rock, a little jazz, a little blues, but it's basically the same to me."

Murphy has been with his current band for approximately four years. David Cox is the lead singer; Mitch Fortier, saxophone; Bob Laramie, bass; Sholton Laster, organ; Floyd Murphy Jr., bass, guitar and drums.

Laster has played in the band for six years, Cox for four years and Murphy Jr. and Fortier recently joined.

Murphy worked with the Blues Brothers from 1978-1980. During this time, they made their first album, *Briefcase of Blues*, which immediately sold 3 million copies. They made "The Blues Brothers" movie and then recorded *The Best of the Blues Brothers*.

"It was really a fun time," Murphy said. "It was also one of my greatest experiences as a guitar player as far as the type of musicians in the band.

"We are gonna do another movie. (Dan) Aykroyd wrote almost all the movie. He was writing another script when John (Belushi) passed away. We are definitely gonna do another one. I'm sure I'll be in it again."

"I like music more than I would doing movies. I would like to do a movie or something that has music, like a musical."

Wednesday night at the Zoo bar, Murphy's band played a number of songs from the Blues Brothers with some modifications of the words which were interesting to note. For example, the line in the song, "I Don't Know," which originally went, "Now what did I say to piss you off this time, baby?" was changed to, "Now what can I do to make you mad this time?"

This is an incredibly enjoyable mixture of sound and is easy to dance to. The lead singer has an engaging style about him that has a humorous edge. The rest of the band is also a treat to watch.

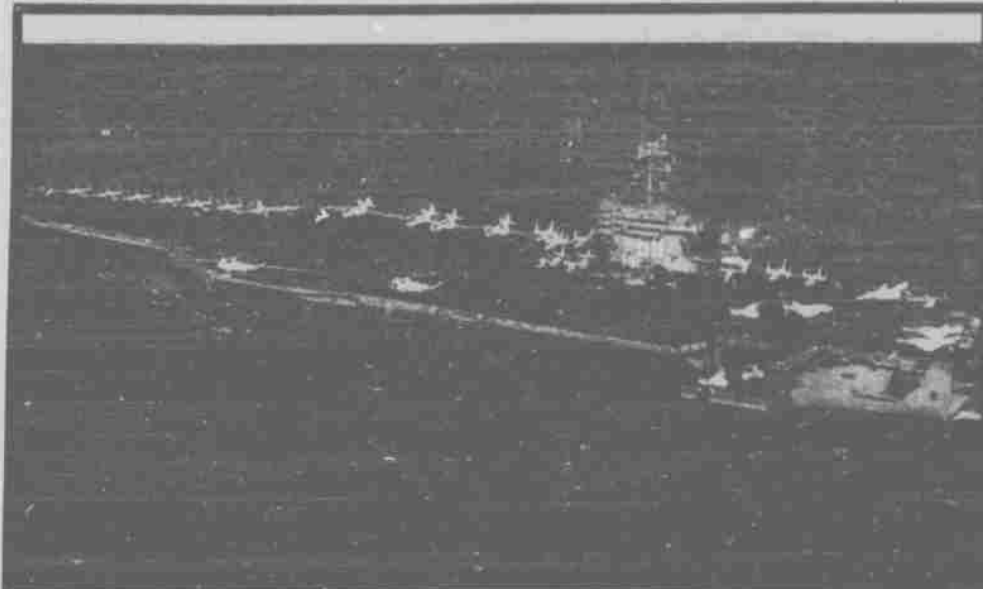
"The first time (at the Zoo bar) I really enjoyed myself. I'm looking forward to really enjoying myself this time also. You meet people and they remember you, you chat...I think it's a real nice bar," Murphy said.

Murphy's run at the Zoo continues tonight and Saturday. Cover charge is \$3.



Photo Courtesy of Concerted Efforts

Matt "Guitar" Murphy



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