

# NIGHTTOWN DOES IT AGAIN!

by Dick Baldwin (WNY)

It's only 196 miles from our driveway to the popular Four Freshmen venue at **NightTown** in Cleveland Heights, Ohio - a nice summer spin knowing the prize in store across the Quaker State Line into where the Buckeyes reside. We didn't see all four weekend shows, but a pair of Sunday drills was convincing, again, that the 2005 Frosh are one of the premiere jazz acts in the country.

Ask promoter Jim Wadsworth at 12387 Cedar Road, amidst the college atmosphere in the Heights. It was typical "Wadsworth" after the last show. Sipping a sarsaparilla with the group and the last NT supper, talk revolved around the next date at the well-known jazz and cultural emporium; would it be the usual six-month interim prior to another cluster of four shows, or just a single set on a Saturday & Sunday? The Freshmen mix well into Mr. Wadsworth's jazz-plus line-up of national and international talents. It is obvious that Jim has his favorites, the FF falling into that category.

The NightTown main room is ideal for a Freshmen evening - tight to the performing area, shaking-hand distance for the front tables and cozy for those not near the VIP (reserved) section. It's just the setting for a jazz night out. Despite the quaintness of the club, the Count Basie Orchestra has played the site. Jim thinks big and proves it. Maynard Ferguson's unit is not exactly tame either in the Cleveland Club.

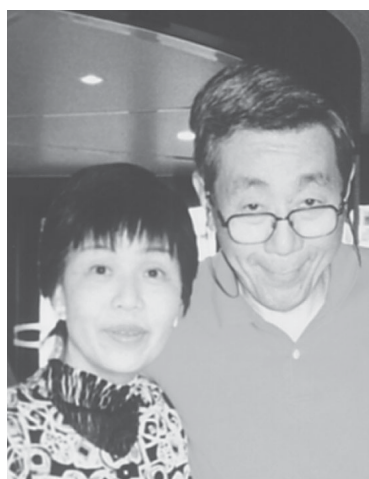
The dates August 13-14 proved less raucous than many previous sets with the Saturday crowds somewhat on the noisy side (I'm told), while the Sunday folks were very attentive and serious about the occasion. The menu at NT is normally superior and continues to be. Even Frosh spokesmen, soloist and drummer Bob Ferriera, plugged the Crab Cakes with emphasis (anything for a free meal?).

The post-game analysis doesn't take study time. The Four Freshmen are playing on land and at sea with polish and professionalism. Coach Flanigan has put together Bob-Brian-Vince & Curtis like a rich Stan Kenton sax section. This is a very big show these days and IVI will have its hands full keeping the dates in order down the road.

No. 22 SWINGS!

1. President Tom Purvis was in charge of the FFS and CDs Sunday night, while Music Mart's Bob Lininger handled Saturday. Plenty of late editions of *Fresh News* were on hand, but we need actual FFS membership applications at every stop.
2. There were 14 tunes each Sunday show. The 5 PM set highlighted standard FF stuff with Vince on whistle & scat, Curtis shaking the curtains with trumpet and then calming the late afternoon with a fine fugalhorn. The 7 PM crew heard a long run of the *In Session* CD, plus some standards and an encore.

3. "After You've Gone" seems to be the night-ending selection (both shows).
4. Bulk of the chit-chat and intros was by Bob at his drum set, which was reported to total eight drums at one time, now down to but two (Brian). Note: the broadest of Bob's cymbals are almost as big as former Kenton drummer Jerry McKenzie's surfaces -Large!
5. The "Paris Hot Talk" is on the sidewalk in front of NightTown. While the smokers puff away, the rest of us exchange music topics with the Freshmen and meet other FFS folks up close & personal, including Eichenberger relatives.
6. Again, safe to say that all of No. 22 are good practitioners of those important PR skills. Bob keeps the music playing and Brian, Vince & Curtis are good talkers. Name a subject!



Yas & Mizhiko Ichiura  
(Japan)



Mary & Jack Morrison  
Grand Rapid

## August 14 -Night Town Cleveland, Ohio

by Doris Marzlck, NE Ohio FF Rep

After a year with no Four Freshmen, August 14th finally rolled around. My friends and I made the Rt. 271 trip and we were treated to two shows. I always felt the boys couldn't get any better, but I was wrong. They just keep getting better!

The new arrangements are just super. Starting with Day In Day Out, You Stepped Out of a Dream, Young & Foolish, You've Got Me Crying Again, Angel Eyes, and on and on with all of our favorites.

Don't you just love Vince's "scats"? Bob's great solos? Curtis blowing that horn? We saw Brian in his first show in Greenville, SC. We have watched him mature and grow into the lead singer. What a talent he is, as all of them are. And a very spiffy looking bunch they are too!

I will be visiting relatives in Pennsylvania on October 28 and we will be taking in the show. They want to see this group I talk so much about. I just hope we don't have to wait another 1 1/2 years to see them locally.