

Talent, awareness marks jazz com



By Scott Starnes
Of The Print

This year's jazz improvisation combo at the College possesses enormous talent in terms of coordinated improvisation and ability to play as a musical unit, said Harry Gillgam, part-time music instructor and the group's coordinator.

The group consists of Ken Luker, guitarist; Brian Brickley, drums; Tom Klobas, bass; Paul Mazzio, trumpet; Scott Olson, trombone and Jim Miller, bass trumpet.

"I might back the group with keyboards on future occasions, but we are not certain if or when I will play," Gillgam added.

"Our philosophy is to hear each instrument individually while simultaneously hearing the combined instruments as a unit, but not to go so far as to impair the structure of the song," Luker said. "This 'awareness' means total rhythmic and melodic unity within the group which our combo strives for," Luker said.

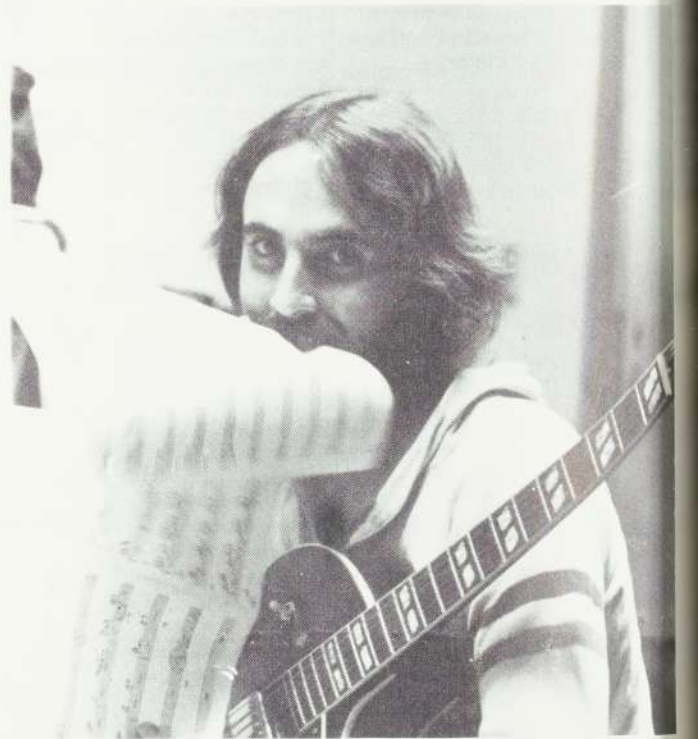
"I enjoy playing with the group, but our improvisation classtime must be extended in

some way so that each musician has adequate time for personal improvisation," Olson said.

"Harry does a fantastic job of making the most of his limited time with the combo," Olson added.

Presently, the group is playing several Latin pieces, said Luker. This music gives each member of the group an opportunity to play a solo within each song, Luker said.

Gillgam expressed satisfaction with the group's performance so far, and called the combo a very talented combination of musicians.



Photos by John Schrader

The Jazz Improvisation class (top) rehearses during one of their many practices for upcoming concerts and performances. Scott Olson (left) toots away at a solo during his jazz improvisation class, which is instructed by Harry Gilgam. Ken Luker (above) chows down on his sheet music, to enrich his musical abilities.

