

Mourn: Fans Recall Musician's Personality And Kindness

From ~~Thu~~ **THU DEC 21 2000**

Mitchell said there was more to understanding Rob Buck than listening to his music.

"I'd been to his house and just had a lot of fun," Mitchell said. "He was more than a musi-

cian. He was an interesting personality to be around. Rob was somewhat shy in his own personal life but then he could get up on stage and do that."

Vicky Boughton was the head of the Jamestown Community College radio station in the mid-1980s when the Maniacs band were still working to get its first major record deal. The band played many concerts at the college.

Mrs. Boughton got to know Buck while living with former Maniacs' lead singer Natalie Merchant in her mother's duplex.

Ms. Merchant was dating Buck during the band's early years and Mrs. Boughton said she spent quite a bit of time

around them.

"I just feel awful about it because he was a great guy and a really talented musician," Mrs. Boughton said.

"Rob was a dynamic guitarist with a great deal of talent. He was way too young. I'm glad he didn't have to suffer any further. I pray he's in a better place. I pray he's in heaven and still playing guitar."

Late Tuesday night, messages began appearing on the band's Web site.

Martin Augustyniak, father of Maniacs' drummer Jerome Augustyniak, posted a message expressing his condolences to Buck's family.

"On behalf of the Augustyniak family I would like to express

our condolences to Rob's family. I grew up watching him play. He was a great talent and a wonderful person."

"On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame and my band, Leeron Zydeco and the Hot Tamales, we are sorry to hear of the passing of Rob," Gus Russo wrote.

"It is moments like these that make one pause and reflect on one's life in art. And surely, let us take a precious moment this

upcoming Holyday (sic) and reflect on Rob Buck and his artistry."

Local music fan Brandi Smouse said Buck's death "is a tragic loss. Rob was a great musician and a great guy."