

SWITZER, Robert John

SWITZER, Robert John - Taz Records owner and colourful personality on the Maritime music scene, passed away Friday, April 1, 2005. Age 58, he was the eldest son of Jean (Egan) Switzer, Florida, and the late Jack Switzer. Bob's passion for music began in the mid 50's during the advent of rock and roll, but he was an aficionado of all music. Bob's encyclopedic knowledge served as a starting point for many young collectors, fans and musicians. During his high school years in Dartmouth and time at Dalhousie University, he was rarely seen without a load of books in one hand and a box of records in the other. Bob recently reminisced with a friend about those times and recalled selling records in the Dal cafeteria when his overhead was a cup of coffee. The proceeds from his efforts fueled the growth of his own legendary collection. Following graduation, Bob passed on a career as a history teacher to deal in music full time. In the 1970's, he worked as a buyer for chainstores Sam the Record Man and Kelly's. Bob opened Taz Records in 1983, and found the perfect venue to share his love of music. Rarely short of comment and opinions, Bob dispensed his own brand of wisdom over the counter or from the sidewalk in front of the store. In life, Bob was a real collector's item - one of a kind. Bob is survived by his sisters, Jackie (Edward) Hatch, Eastern Passage, and Paula (George) Bellefontaine, Lawrencetown; brothers, Gordon (Ruth) and Paul (Sue) Switzer, Dartmouth, and John (Bev) Switzer, Elmsdale; his "better half", Mary Hill, and stepsons, Aran and Keary Hill. There will be a memorial gathering on April 17, at 3 p.m. at "The Church", corner of North Street and Fuller Terrace for family and friends.
