

# 31.8-year-old Click

By MARCY BOYCE  
Battalion Reporter

He could be a typical bus driver, only driving his route only occasionally asking, "May I see your pass, please?" But Jonathan Summ, or Shannon East or Click, who's signed his name twice, is not a typical driver. Entertainer might be a better title.

For a flat tire and 16 credit hours, he sold what product Ted Mack sold on the "Ted Mack Amateur Hour," he sounds more like a disc jockey than a bus driver. On another day, between harmonica medleys and song lyrics, he might offer three copies of K-Mart underwear to a passenger who is able to tell him a story while playing at Grins.

Click, who has driven the shuttle for Transportation Enterprises for 16 hours a week for three months, said he refuses to just sit there and vegetate like everyone else, but he is determined to make an impression out of it.

People think it's easy to get on a bus and bullshit, but it isn't," he said. "I have to feel it out. And I may get 35 am pits, but if I get one or two people who shine, it makes it all worthwhile."

Although Click went to school in College Station from ages 13 to 17, the road which brought him to his present job as a bus driver took him around the world before he returned home.

He was born in Ireland 31.8 years ago and named Jonathan Summ. His family came to College Station when he was 13 because his father was doing research in biochemistry. After graduating from high school, he went to the University of Texas for one semester. He then changed his name to Shannon because he said he thought his given name was "facially indescriptible."

Click said he thinks it is important to be self-sufficient. "This is a society of pushers — the middle man — people saying, 'Here, take this and sell it,'" Click said. And believing his life should reflect this desire to be self-sufficient, he said, he makes his own clothes, sandals and even some horse nail jewelry.

For example, he said, back pockets on pants are useless and cumbersome, so the pants he makes only have a small pocket for a comb and separate pouches around the waist.

He also made the denim bag he is seldom seen without. It is made from five pairs of jeans and reinforced with a U.S. Mint Denver money bag strong enough to support the dog, small piano and midget which he says it contains.

Since he returned to College Station in 1973, Click said sewing, making jewelry, playing music and a

to regurgitate it for a box full of dollars. What about intellectual awareness?

"One of the few things I felt turned on by was traveling," he said. "Traveling is a real education because it makes me realize what's happening with people."

Therefore, starting in 1966, for a year and a half, Click went to London, where his mother lived. Then in 1968, with \$120 in his pocket, Click said, he left to travel throughout Europe and the Middle East.

Hitchhiking across the country, Click said he was often hungry, but he received an occasional good meal along the way in various youth hostels — "fourth class traveler's hotels popular in Europe" — Click said. "As long as you are homo sapiens and not diseased you can use them."

His travels eventually brought him to Israel, where he worked on a commune with 350 people picking citrus fruits for nine and a half weeks.

Click said he plays the banjo, guitar and harmonica. While he was in Israel, he met a blind history graduate from New Jersey who also played the banjo.

Together they went to Tel Aviv, where, he said, they played bluegrass music every day on the sidewalk of a main shopping center.

"That was when I still had my Ivy League look, you know, hair cuts every three weeks," said Click, who now wears a headband around his long blond curls.

Because they had to compete with the buses passing by, Click said they kept their songs down to "foot-stomping, hollering tunes." He said they earned \$15-20 per day and built up quite a reputation which eventually earned them a spot on a local radio station.

After four months on the street corner, Click said, they both moved on. Click earned a scholarship to a Jerusalem university, where he studied English literature and history for four and a half years.

"I never really went to school with the idea of making money," he said. "If I wanted to do that, I could sell insurance or be a prostitute."

"I don't get into big money because I don't want to center my life on it," he said. In fact, he says, he only needs enough to eat and sleep on, and to buy toothpaste and contraceptives.

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depicting a completely different mood from the Click who prefers to go by Click de Heels, he said, "This place is a city dump. I really don't know why I'm here. Sometimes I feel like I'm wasting my life here."

Plans for the future? "I've learned not to expect too much of them because I don't know how to plan for the things that I think are important, such as real friends."

daily workout take up most of his free time. "I spend a lot of time alone," he said, even though he lives in a house on Fidelity Street with "two organisms."

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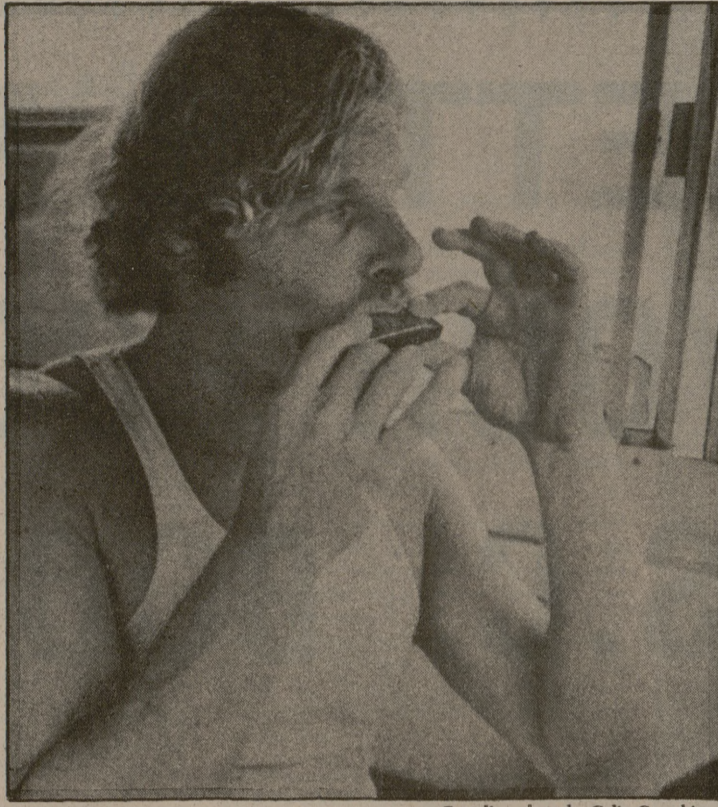
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Battalion photo by Colin Crombie

Atypical bus driver Click East plays his harmonica in between driving his route and quizzing his passengers. East, who has had a variety of names (Jonathon Summ, Shannon East, and now, Click), says he is 31.8 years old. He's been known to pick citrus fruits as well as the guitar and the banjo.

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# No-shows cost jazzfest money

United Press International  
NEW ORLEANS — Organizers of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival have said they lost \$75,000 on the three-week production because of poor attendance.

But festival director Anna Zimmerman said profits from last year's show would pay for the losses.

"But we're unhappy that we won't

be able to give out any grants this year to deserving community organizations," Zimmerman said.

About 150,000 persons attended the festival, which ended last Sunday. That is half the number that was expected. The best day was Sunday when 45,000 people jammed the infield of the fair grounds race track.

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