

MAKING A DIFFERENCE | Buzzy Martin

Spreading the word of music

Sebastopol man always helps out

By GEORGE LAUER
Staff Writer

SEBASTOPOL — His real name is Danny Van Portfleet, but don't bother remembering it. The fuzzy-faced kid growing up awkward in the Midwest is so far gone, the name might as well no longer exist either.

"He's been out of the picture so long now, I don't think anybody remembers him. There's nothing but Buzzy left now, but he's staying young."

Buzzy Martin, 45 going on 17, was a teen-age guitar player in Michigan when he adopted his new name (a combination of a friend's nickname and a particu-

larly good brand of acoustic guitar.)

It was a stage name at first, only used when his band was playing. But young Danny came to realize he felt more comfortable in the world as Buzzy and the name stuck. So did the music.

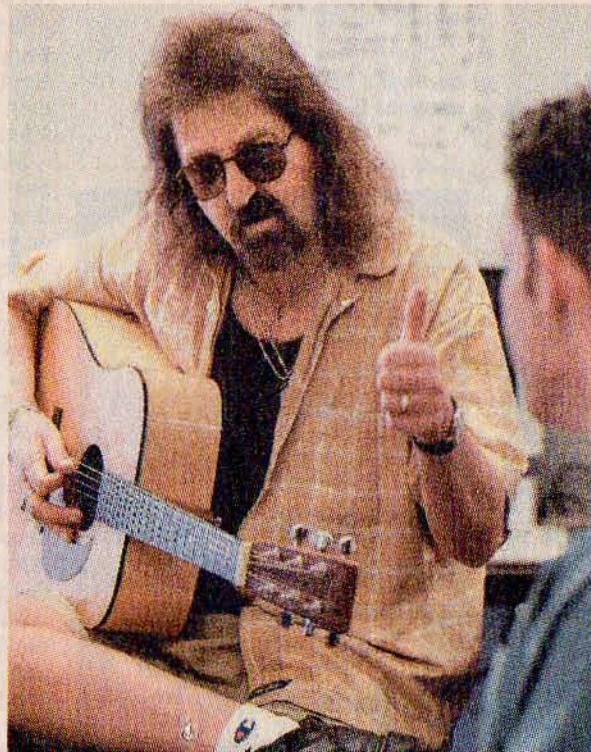
On the list of activities that describe him, Buzzy Martin would probably put musician first, followed by teacher, fund-raiser, family man. But above all else, Buzzy Martin is a social advocate, a do-gooder who uses music as a tool.

"I realized a while ago that I wasn't ever going to make it to mega-star status and I'm never going to have a million bucks to be a philanthropist with, but that

- **Who:** Buzzy Martin (formerly known as Danny Van Portfleet)
- **Age:** 45
- **Occupation:** Musician, social advocate
- **Mark of distinction:** Advocate for kids and musicians

QUOTABLE:

"Music definitely does change things. All you have to do is see what happens to those guys in San Quentin when they get a few licks under their belt and get into it. It can transform people."



Buzzy Martin gives a little personal instruction to Brandon Laws, 15, at Laguna High School in Sebastopol. Martin has turned his talent for guitar into a desire to help anyone in need.

JEFF KAN LEE/
PRESS DEMOCRAT

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