

Valdy, Teenage Head appear

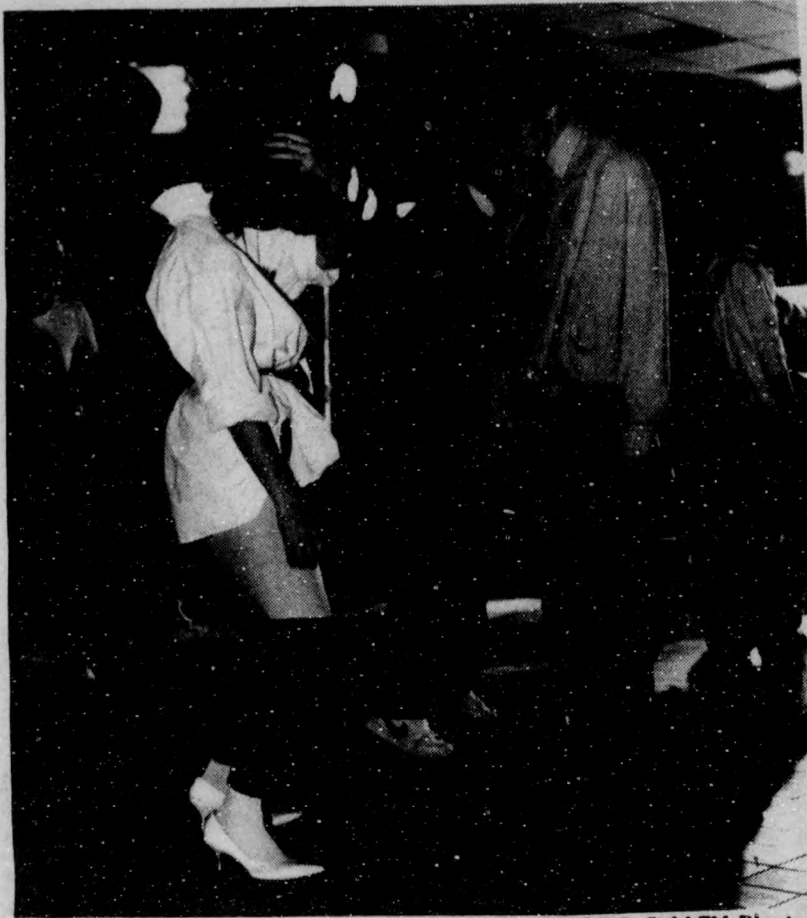
BY JOEY KILFOIL
Brunswickan Staff

To talk to Valdemar Horsdal, more commonly known as Valdy, is to talk to a man who is happy with his life as well as his business. Indeed, for this 36-year-old Vancouver resident, his life and his business may be seen as one and the same.

Although perhaps eternally blessed/doomed with the label of folksinger, Valdy's music is far more than that. While Saturday's performance at the SUB explosion may have perpetrated the folk image--Valdy performed with just his

own acoustic guitar as accompaniment for his second set, while electric guitarist Norman MacPherson added tasteful fills and solos to his first and third sets--his last album, *1001*, could best be described as a medium-rock album.

The album *1001* represented Valdy's first collaboration with Bob Ruzica, a dentist from Canada's west coast who either wrote or co-wrote the bulk of material on the record. The album features superb musicianship and excellent production by saxophonist Claire Lawrence, a multi-talented reed-man/bassist/keyboardist who



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has played with Valdy for many years. But the real strength of this record, that quality which makes it not just a good Canadian album but one of the best recorded works in recent pop history, is the songs. *Easy Money*, the first release, was a Ruzica/Valdy composition, while the second release, *Leaving Ain't the Only Way to Go*, was the first song the duo ever wrote together. Incidentally, this song is the first U.S. release off the album and Valdy hopes it will be the



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one to break him "down south." Although he has four gold records in Canada, he has yet to sell more than about 15,000 in the States.

Valdy's most readily-identifying factor has always been his warm, distinctively clear, and downright pleasant-to-listen-to voice. However, few realize that he is also an accomplished musician. The man who once played *balailaika* in a group plays not only acoustic and (gasp!) electric guitar, but bass and piano as well. Although he considers himself a vocalist first--"I'm happiest when I'm singing"--he says simply of his instrumental prowess, "Whatever I have hanging around my neck I like to play well."

Valdy was born and raised in Ottawa and, as liner notes on

his *Country Man* album indicate, began singing and playing professionally when he was 17. Back home he plays dances with a rock and roll band known as Valdy and the Local Boys. An upcoming live album, a portion of which he said will probably be taped at the Playhouse here in Fredericton, will show the many aspects of his live performances: solo, duo, trio, and full band.

Valdy's next project is a children's album, which will hopefully be released in January. Another studio album, which will include some more songs co-written with Ruzica, will be released in the spring and the live album will be forthcoming sometime after that.