

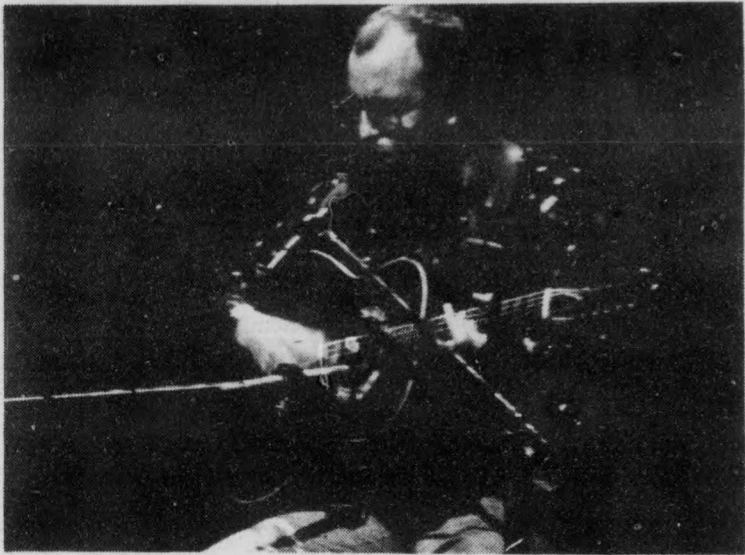
Valdy and Griffin impress audience

By ALEX VARTY

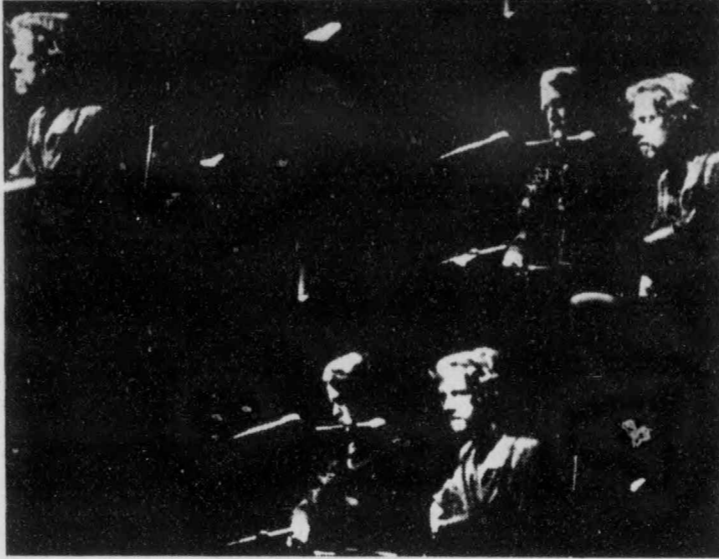
As I've intimated elsewhere in this erstwhile publication, Frederickton has seen quite a lot of live music lately. Perhaps the best of the recent concerts was Tuesday's Valdy-Peter Griffin show at the Playhouse. The performances, the sound, and the lighting were all carried off smoothly, while the crowd, for the most part, stayed quiet except when asked to participate.

Peter Griffin opened the show with some of his own tunes, a few of which have been recorded for the CBC. Compared to the normally restrained and laconic image Griffin has displayed at the Arms, Peter came across as quite a personable and talented songwriter. His previously undisclosed abilities on piano are quite considerable, although he owes a bit to Elton John stylistically, and I'd like to hear more of his keyboard-based songs. Griffin's songs on guitar were less impressive, but one song with an intricate fingerpicked accompaniment stood out as a fully matured work. Tuesday's performance contained the best music I've heard from Griffin (how subtle can you get in a tavern?). With some editing of his lyrics, and support from the CBD, Mr. Griffin could easily go on to better things. He deserves to be exposed to a major audience, and I wish him luck.

Valdy appeared for the second half of the show in his characteristic work clothes, looking relaxed and content. His friendly, open demeanor came across in his music and lyrics — he seems to be

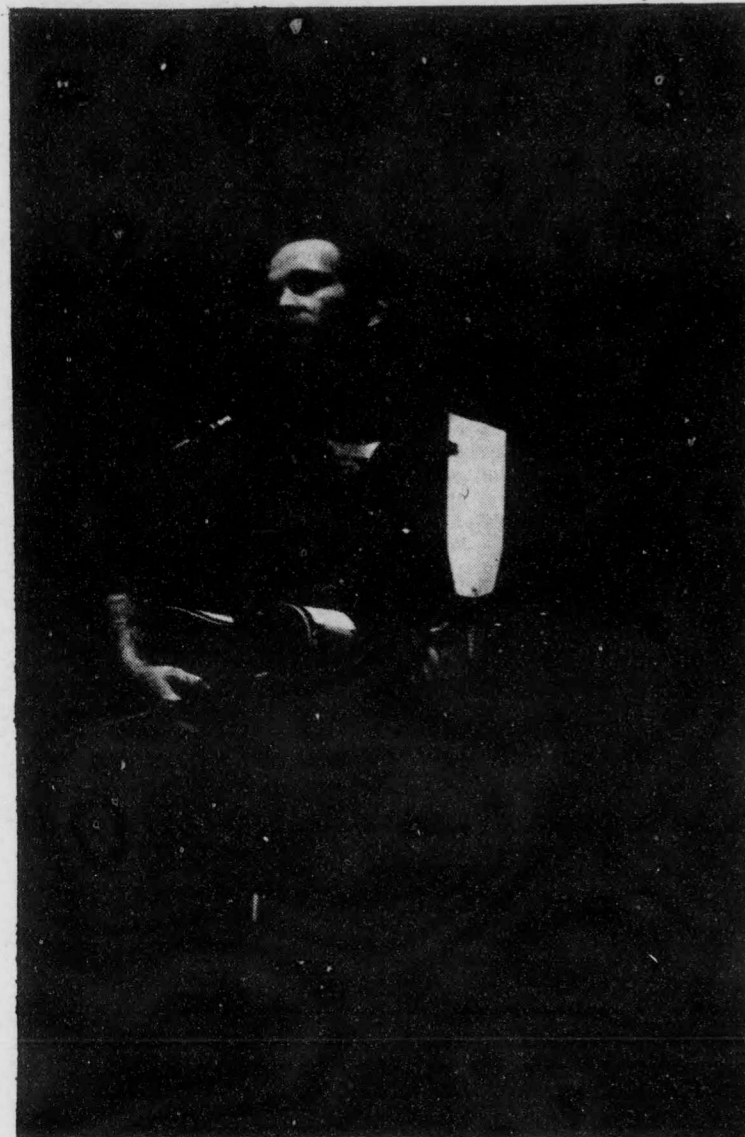


Valdy and Griffin carried their show off smoothly.



Valdy has changed somewhat since last year.

utterly honest and sincere. I was surprised by the quality of his guitar work, which had improved vastly since I last saw him, but four years and success obviously hadn't changed his attitudes towards his audiences and his life. Although Valdy is now famous, he still tells his audiences to "support any underground activities" — very refreshing in an industry dominated by socialites and elitists. Valdy's set ranged from old ragtime and blues tunes to rock and roll. He sang most of his better-known compositions, quoted John Martyn's "May You Never," and gave an enthused audience a long and inspired encore. Although some members of the audience persisted in babbling throughout the concert, both performers were well received, and it was one of those rare events, well-conceived and well-executed, which left all participants satisfied.



Brunswick String Quartet sells out in Toronto

The Brunswick String Quartet sold out Toronto's St. Lawrence Centre Nov. 28.

During their Ontario tour, UNB's resident musicians also performed at McMaster University in Hamilton, the University of Guelph and at Oshawa. On Dec. 1 they recorded for CBC Toronto in the Eaton Auditorium.

Reviewing the St. Lawrence concert, John Kragland of the Globe and Mail praised the "expressive warmth" and "technical precision" of the quartet, and Ronald Hambleton of the Toronto Star said they "could scarcely have been surpassed."

The Brunswick String Quartet's next Fredericton concert is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 7, in the Playhouse.



Finally the snow!!!

"Earthquake" has good vibes

By LYNETTE WILSON

So long, California, so long. Bound and determined to fall into the sea is Hollywood. So long, it's been nice and all but, so long.

Earthquake from Universal Pictures, is a great movie depicting the destruction of Hollywood and surrounding territory. Superb job of table top photography, shaking and quaking and falling down.

The fears and anticipations caused by the California tremors are vividly expressed in this movie. Can you imagine what would happen if your town started dropping around you? Earthquake gives a good idea of what could happen, and what may yet occur.

Charlton Heston is the star of Earthquake. Lover, hero, husband all wrapped up in one. Genevieve Bujold plays the part of Heston's lover running around searching for him and her small son who likes to fly off bridges on his bike. Ava Gardner appears occasionally as Heston's possessive, jealous wife. Lorne Greene gets tied into the script as father to Ava and boss to Heston. (He never meets Genevieve, so there was no connection made between those two characters.) As boss to Heston, Green pampers his daughter by giving him raises, promotions, whatever necessary to keep away from other women. A human conflict is established to continue to the end of the film.

Richard Roundtree creates laughter by being an ambitious 'Evel Kneivel' fan trying to imitate his hero as a motorbike gladiator. You should have seen him wind up for a run through the hoop! He didn't get hurt, but boy was it

funny, splat! There is humour to be found with the cameo appearances of Walter Matthau also. Pie-eyed he keeps the bar up, then later holding a bottle entertains underground.

Not to dispute the fact that Charlton Heston is the star of Earthquake but I saw George Kennedy far more often. I didn't close my eyes either cause there were no 'gross-out' scenes at all.

Back to Kennedy, a cop who was on the day of the original quake suspended. Still in uniform he is in the same bar as Matthau when the shaking starts. Following one of the major quakes, Kennedy is swept into rescue operations along with Heston and Roundtree.

The whole movie could have been made by cutting pieces out of 'Towering Inferno' & 'Tidal Wave'. The basic scenes of collapse and destruction are all the same. The cast of characters makes the movie different though. As with 'Towering Inferno' there was a great list of stars, though none really had the top role.

Earthquake is an interesting movie, styled quite similar to the

rest of the shockers going around now. The one thing added (besides the impressive cast list) is the sensurround. It wasn't anything fantastic, for sure. Loud maybe. Yes, loud. Rattles your teeth and

gives you a reason for a headache. I didn't get a headache, there was no emphasis on gories, there were scatterings of human conflict throughout the movie and there was a timely plot. When else would a film about an earthquake stir up the populace of the States than now when it is most feared.

I enjoyed Earthquake, not as much, say, 'Other Side of The Mountain' or 'Jaws' but it was decent viewing.