

# Power pop numbers

Concert review by Barry Lee

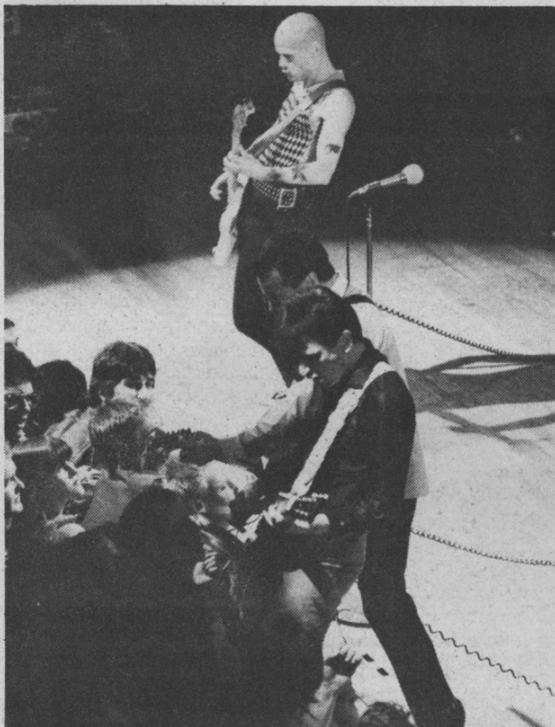
Despite a few minor incidents in the crowd, British new wave group 999 dazzled a sold-out SUB Theatre Tuesday night with their brash, high-energy power pop sound. The band was both powerful and polished, using mainly a heavy-metal sound that was once the domain of only the most Black Sabbath of groups — yet, it was done at such high speed that everything came out sounding (and looking) undeniably wired. And they stopped just long enough between songs to catch their breath.

999 started the evening with a wild bass solo by bald-headed Jon Watson that immediately put the crowd on its feet, bouncing around at the front of the stage, where he was joined by the rest of the band only when the mass of people were primed and ready for it. The feeling all night was that lead singer Nick Cash really knew how to charge up an audience. At least in combination with guitarist Guy Days on more familiar cuts such as *Hollywood*, *Inside Out*, and *Homicide*. Cash (reportedly a former art school teacher who looks like somebody's dad) could never be accused of being boring.

The most interesting part of the night was during *Boiler*, from their "Biggest Prize in Sport" album, when Cash and Days finally showed their rock roots. Their guitars combined momentarily in riffs that sounded like a 78-rpm version of what Bo Diddley might have done at one time or another. Meanwhile, Watson was busy doing half-twisters off Pablo Labritain's raised drum platform.

Cash never lost his hold on the audience, which was a complete change from opening act The Smarties, who had been substituted at the last minute for the Dickies, a California new wave band that was turned back at the US border for pending drug charges. Apparently front man P. J. Burton's past travesties with previous bands have finally caught up with him, and Tuesday evening he was forced to cut his set short and pull his band offstage while being heckled and hailed with projectiles by the crowd. Unfortunately, the other four members of the new band deserve a lot better than this, as the music, under the circumstances, was surprisingly well-performed.

Cash's parting words, "I'm gonna tell all my



999 making friends in Edmonton last night at SUB.

friends back in England to come and play Edmonton!" may have been wasted breath, even though it met with a volley of cheers. SUB management is looking at the possibility of removing the undesirable element of local "punk" audiences by banning concerts that tend to provoke some of the more tasteless aspects of their behaviour. At least if 999 does tell anyone to play Edmonton, they'll have to be sure and get a different warm-up act. The only volley they received consisted of apple cores, rotten eggs, and the odd empty Heineken bottle.

## Meltdown to occur at U of A

*Spring Thaw*, a zany song, dance and ham Canadian stage show will be warming up SUB Theatre March 26 and 27.

The show, currently on a 60-city cross-Canada tour, is "a topical review of Canadian society," according to the show's publicity director Julia Drake.

Drake says *Spring Thaw* is a "very contemporary" show which deals with the whole gamut of Canadian hang-ups from sex and dating to politics and the post-office.

And she says a special oil telethon featuring Peter Lougheed brandishing the phones on behalf of the "poor oil companies" will be put on especially for Alberta audiences.

The show promises to be fast-paced with over 38 sketches — 50 percent of them musicals.

The *Spring Thaw* troupe is composed of six notable Canadian performers; Mary Ann MacDonald, Marvin Karon, Brenda Bradley, Patrick Young, Rosemary Radcliffe and Paul Brown. It is directed by Alan Gordon.

*Spring Thaw* was an annual stage event in Canada from 1947 until 1971, and gave birth to Canadian performers such as Don Harron, David Broadfoot and Rich Little.

And though Drake admits that Canadian shows



The cast of *Spring Thaw* warming up by stripping down.

often sound boring, she says Canadians are actually very funny people and *Spring Thaw '80* has received a "very good response" thus far.

Tickets are \$6.50 at HUB and BASS outlets and \$8.00 at the door.

## Singing surgeon coming to SUB

On Sunday, March 23, actor/singer Edward Evanko will bring his marvelous tenor talents to Edmonton for an evening of contemporary and folk music.

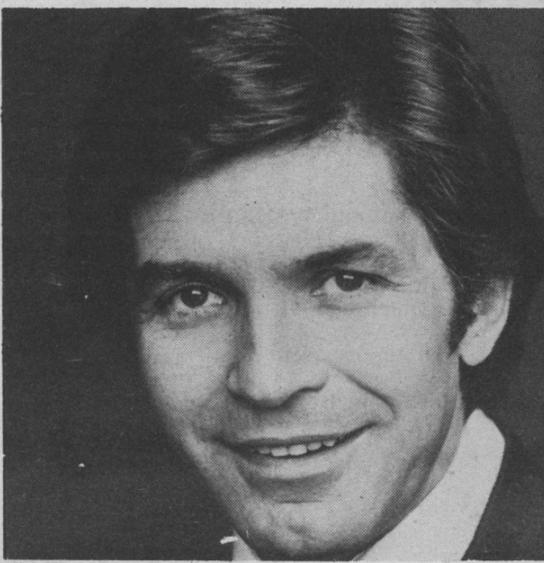
Although familiar to many Canadians, his career has blossomed deservedly to encompass opera, stage and television all over North America and the British Isles in both singing and non-singing roles.

Evanko has had a continuing role on the ABC soap opera *Ryan's Hope* as a singing surgeon, has hosted his own variety programme, *The Ed Evanko Show*, and been co-host of a talk-show, *By Invitation* with Mary Norvell. Most recently, he was the featured soloist on the CBC Anniversary Special commemorating twenty-five years of television.

The concert will include selections from his most recent album *I Dedicate This Song to You* (on the Destiny Production label) as well as traditional English and Scottish folk ballads and selections from the 1977 Stratford Festival production of *As You Like It*.

The concert is at 8:00 p.m. in the Students' Union Building on the University of Alberta campus.

Tickets are \$7.50 and available at the door.



A scene from *The Murder of Auguste Dupin* now showing at Corbett Hall.

## Thursday Thursday

### CINEMA

#### SUB Theatre

Mar. 25, 7 and 9:30 p.m., Joseph Heller's *Catch 22*, directed by Mike Nichols and starring Richard Benjamin, Jon Voight, Alan Arkin, Orson Welles and Art Garfunkle.

#### Edmonton Public Library

Mar. 25, 8 p.m., *Einer Von Uns Beiden/It's Either You or Me* (1974), with Elke Sommer. The fourth in a series of free German films at the library. Ziegenhals, a social drop-out student who is also very ambitious and intent on joining the establishment, blackmails Kolczyk, a university professor, whose career is built on plagiarism. German with English sub-titles.

Mar. 22 and 23, 2 p.m., *Fantastic Animation Festival*, another free film at the library. This is a collection of American, Canadian and English cartoons which include the 1941 *Superman vs. the Mechanical Monsters*, the NFB's *Cat's Cradle* and *Bambi Meets Godzilla*.

#### Provincial Museum Theatre

The National Film Board is inviting the public to see four of its films nominated for the 1980 Academy Awards as well as other films.

Mar. 26, 8 p.m., *Sand Castle* (1978), *I'll Find a Way* (1978), *Special Delivery* (1979). The academy award nominated films are *Nails* (short documentary), *Every Child/Chaque Enfant* (animation), and *Bravery in the Field* (live action, short subject).

Mar. 27 and 28, 8 p.m., *Going the Distance*, the official film of the 1978 Edmonton Commonwealth Games, nominated for a feature length documentary award.

### THEATER

#### Corbett Hall

Until April 13, evening performances at 8 p.m. Northern Light Theatre presents Ben Tarver's *The Murder of Auguste Dupin*, in co-operation with the University of Alberta Department of Drama: a slender haunted youth; a French coquette; a six-foot tall butler; all are under suspicion as Edgar Allan Poe's Gallic detective tracks his own assassin through an elegant theatrical house. Tickets available at HUB and the Northern Light Theatre Box Office.

### MUSIC

#### Convocation Hall

Mar. 23, 8 p.m., the St. Cecilia Orchestra conducted by Claude Kenneson.

Mar. 24, 8 p.m., Ernest Dalwood conducts the Concert Band.

Mar. 25, 8 p.m., the University Stage Band under the direction of Fordyce Pier. All the above concerts are free.

Mar. 20, 5 p.m., Margaret Stellick, saxophone. Non-compulsory Student Recital.

#### Dinwoodie

Mar. 21, 8 p.m. Vancouver's most popular dance band, Doug and the Slugs, for your jiving pleasure. Tickets are \$6.30 at HUB.

#### Jubilee Auditorium

Mar. 20, 22, 24, and 26, 8 p.m. The Edmonton Opera Association presents *The Most Happy Fella*, a Broadway musical starring Louis Quilico. Tickets are available at Mike's, HUB Box Office, West Den and the Opera Office.