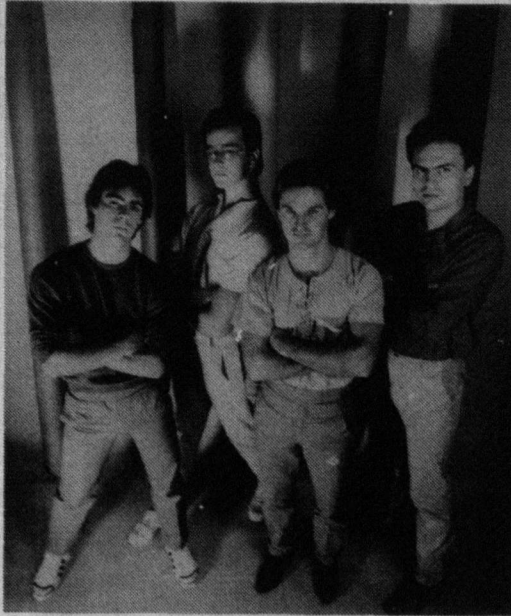


## Secret Society no longer secret



by Kirk Lawrence

*Secret Society* is destined to become a household word among people who enjoy live music.

In case you are not aware, *Secret Society* is a group of musicians who play everything from 999 to the *Rolling Stones*, to the *Dave Clark Five*. But the important thing about their music is not what they play, but the way they play it.

No matter what song they perform, it has an energy and fun loving quality that always "makes you wanna dance."

I had the pleasure of seeing them Friday night at Duggan Hall where they performed for a Forestry Cabaret. They ignited this crowd like a spark in a dry forest. Everyone had a good time.

*Secret Society* will go where no band has gone before, at least no band from Edmonton, and their original material will take them there.

Of the 45 or so songs played, roughly one quarter was original. These tunes ranged from romantic ballads, to pessimistic love songs, to songs with almost a beach boy quality. Their original material covers many styles and is wide ranging in lyrical content, and live or recorded it would never be boring, it is the product of talented song writers.

*Secret Society* is Larry Compagna, Tim Compagna, Warren Schacher, and Vlado Forgac putting together a musical movement which superceded the local underground movement spearheaded by the *Modern Minds* of a few years ago. They are a mass appeal group because they are well-rehearsed, cohesive, interesting, and very professional.

If you haven't seen this group yet, don't deprive yourself any longer.

## Ondaatje's mythology verbally brilliant

*Running in the Family*  
By Michael Ondaatje  
McClelland & Stewart, 1982

review by Charles Mandel

Michael Ondaatje in his latest book tells us of the thalagoya, a lizard common in Ceylon. Myth has it that a meal of this lizard's tongue "will result in verbal brilliance." After reading *Running in the Family*, one can only suspect Ondaatje of having dined on such a delicacy at one time.

*Running in the Family* finds Ondaatje tracing his roots back to Ceylon. Recalled through anecdote, fragments of family legend rise to the surface. Mirages of heat vapour and alcohol haze, telling their stories before being pulled back into lush jungle or dusty towns. Before you, drenched in monsoons, explosive with passions, his ancestors stand. Their lives burst with colour, that of the scenes about them and the love and the pain within.

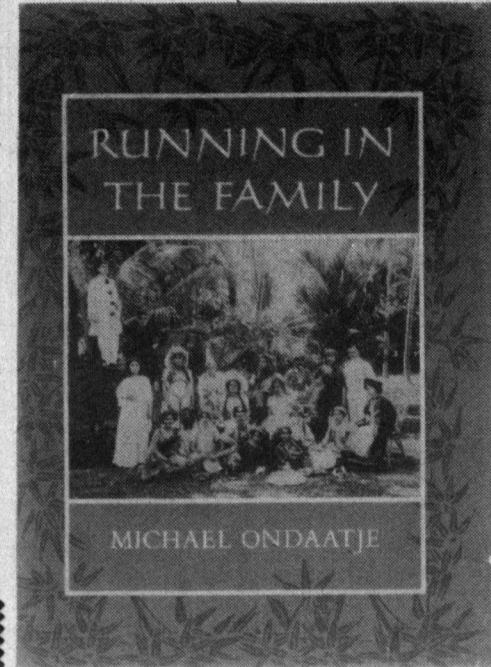
The language is that of *Coming Through Slaughter*: mythologized lives. Unlike the earlier book, his subject here is closer to home, more personal.

Ondaatje doesn't just bring us home for dinner with the family. Everything is present, all the joys and anguish. The humour and eccentricities finally stand naked, much like his father in the book, awaiting death in a railway tunnel.

So we're led to believe. For a small note at the back of the book disclaims all this. We're told the book "is not a history but a portrait or gesture." Yet what a gesture. Even fictionalized the truth all comes through for "history is always present...the burned down wall that held those charcoal drawings..."

Ondaatje is both the "foreigner (and) the prodigal who hates the foreigner." In the end he is the tourist, showing us snapshots of a time gone by. And like all tourists he relies on maps which "reveal rumours of topography...and the dark mad mind of traveller's tales..."

Though the wall of charcoal drawings have burnt down, the ghosts remain.



## Up & Coming

Sunday, December 12 at 2 pm in MacDougall United Church Patricia Armstrong will be giving a violin recital, accompanied by Sylvia Shadick on piano. They will be performing works by Vivaldi, Bach, Schubert, Faure, and Kreisler. Free admission.

## O'Toole outlandish

A Short Review

*My Favourite Year*, one of my favourite movies (well, not quite) is an entertaining vehicle for the acting talents of its star, Peter O'Toole.

The movie is a story about the early days of television, as seen through the eyes of a young writer on one of the comedy shows. The young writer's show is a slightly veiled takeoff of Sid Caesar's hugely successful show of the early 1950's, *The Show of Shows*.

The story revolves around the young writer, Benji (played by newcomer Mark Linn-Baker), who attempts to keep fading movie great Alan Swann, played by Peter O'Toole 'in shape' so he can perform on Benji's show. In shape means keeping Swann away from the booze and the ladies and showing up at rehearsal on time. Many hilarious escapades ensue as this forced-together duo tear about New York on various adventures: dinner in Brooklyn, near-riots in fashionable nightclubs and crashing social gatherings.

The movie is a good one, but is held together mostly by the performance of Peter O'Toole, an actor of great dramatic range. He is ably assisted by Baker and Joseph Bologna, the star of the TV show titled *The King Kaiser Show*. The film suffers with a few of the minor roles notably the part of the show's manager and a mafia chieftain who tries to put the squeeze on Kaiser.

Any weaknesses due to lack of cinematic flow or the weaknesses of some minor characters are made up for by the central characters. If for no other reason, see the film for O'Toole's performance; his acting talent is worth the price of admission.

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The University of Alberta  
announces the official opening  
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**Garneau Student Housing Complex**

on

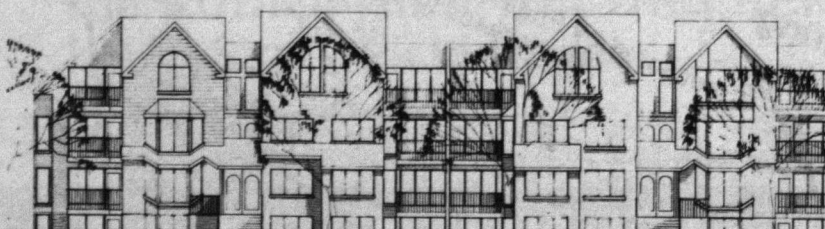
Tuesday, December 14th, 1982

You are cordially invited to an

**Open House**

between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m.

88th Avenue between 110th and 111th Streets





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