

Valdy raises awareness

preview by Chris Helmers

There will be a benefit concert this Friday (December 1) to raise awareness of the northern Alberta pulp mills issue. Several interesting artists are featured to perform this benefit. Kathleen Yearwood is expected to start off the show with her clear and beautiful vocalizations, after which will come the eclectic sounds of Tippy Agogo. Following Tippy, speaker Lorraine Sinclair will discuss the northern Alberta pulp mills issue from the native perspective. At the top of Friday's bill will be Canada's folk singer/songwriter, Valdy.

Valdy, born Valdemar Horsdal to Danish

and one in 1973 (folk singer of the year).

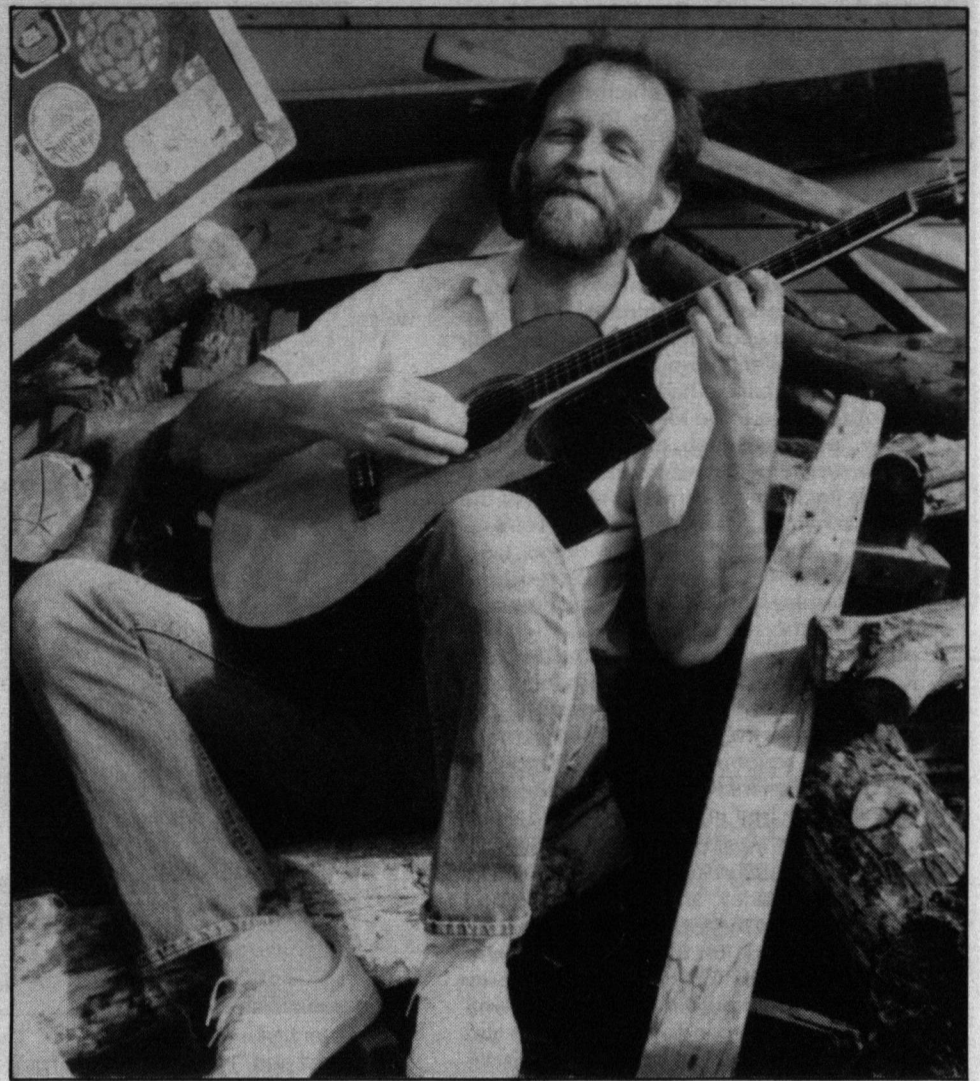
But the late 70's found Valdy disgruntled with his image and style. He had moved from Woody Island in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland to Saltspring Island off the coast from Vancouver (where he lives today). The summer of 1978 saw him in San Francisco working on a new image and a new style which he later dubbed "folk disco." In an interview with Macleans in January of 1979, he says "I listened to all my previous recordings, and let me tell you, it hurt."

The resultant expression of these changes, *Hot Rocks*, he called his "dance album" and, of the anti-nuclear themed title track, Valdy said in the same Macleans interview "It's awareness raising music. It concerns the world, not the lover or the homeowner or the fella looking for a job. It goes beyond saving whales and it's saying more than 'be careful.' It's asking 'what's happening?'" As can be imagined, his new image and style lost him some of his folk fans... but it did reach out to new folk-rock fans.

Valdy toured with this rock emphasis for about a year, then dropped the drum kit and went back to an acoustic/electric guitar blend with bass and sax. This was to be the basis of the Valdy sound through 1987 during which time *Notes From Places* (1985) was produced. *Notes From Places* contained no 'social-issue' material but was entirely a personal album and, when I mentioned this to Valdy, he agreed saying "Oh ya—lotsa love, lotsa dance."

After his guitar player went back to school in 1987, Valdy put out three solo singles: "Roll Man Roll" for the Rick Hansen *Man in Motion* campaign, "Living Next To A Candy Store" an anti-free trade song and "All Throughout The Year" part of a compilation album, *Christmas On the Coast*, produced last year.

Valdy's current focus reflects the raised level of awareness we are experiencing concerning our need to make changes in how we are treating our home (Alberta, Canada, the world). "Environmental issues are at the forefront," he says. He is working



Valdy looks laid back here, but expect him to put on a lively show at SUB theatre this Friday (Dec. 1).

"Environmental issues are at the forefront."

parents in 1946 Ottawa, has been a fairly prolific Canadian songwriter, musician and tour-ist since the early 70's. Well, it would be unfair to say that he has been at it since the early 70's because, like everyone else, Valdy was not an overnight success. He played for several years as a guitar player in rock and country bands before he found that particular folk sound that brought him his initial success with the LP *Country Man* and the hit single "Rock and Roll Song" in 1972.

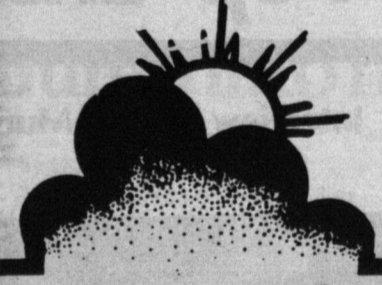
Yes, the early 70's were busy and successful for Valdy. Along with his 6 albums, numerous top ten singles and fan-filled tours came two Junos, one in 1972 (outstanding performance)

on a new album, *Stay For The Fire*, which deals directly with environmental issues and he says that we should expect it out some time this winter hopefully on the Stony Plain label. The album will be primarily a "pop country folk blend," he says, "[and] a few tunes just with acoustic guitar 'cause that's how I play on stage." *Stay For The Fire*, like *Notes From Places* will be composed of work penned by other artists as well as Valdy's: "in the end, it comes down to the songs that

make the best record".

At Friday's gig, Valdy promises "to play what people want to hear, what they know me by, and [to] slip in some new stuff as well." So look forward to not only an awareness-raising experience, but also an entertaining time.

P.S. I hear that CBC radio will be broadcasting an interview with Valdy some time between 4:30 and 4:45 Friday afternoon.



ROOM 250 S.U.B.
492-4266

Student Help

**ARE THINGS GETTING YOU DOWN?
DO YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO?**

Since 1969 Student Help has been a volunteer organization offering a quiet place for:

- PEER COUNSELLING
- CRISIS INTERVENTION
- INFORMATION and REFERRALS
- TUTORS and TYPISTS


Please phone or drop in.
Confidentiality Respected.

STUDY SKILLS SEMINAR
January 16th & 17th 6:30-9:00
\$20.00 Register at SU Help

WE CARE!

A U. OF A. SERVICE SPONSORED BY THE STUDENTS' UNION

Blurbs



RECYCLE!

Poets wanted: \$11,000 up for grabs

The American Poetry Association are holding a contest, with a Grand Prize of \$1,000, a first prize of \$500, and more goodies worth \$11,000 in total. Send no more than 6 of your finest work, each no more than 20 lines, to: American Poetry Association, Dept. CT-90, 250-A Potrero St., P.O. Box 1803, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. Deadline is Dec. 31. Put your name and address on each poem, and you could be famous.

Live Performance from Alberta Conservatory College of Music

On Friday, December 1, at 8 pm in McDougall United Church, the Conservatory is sponsoring a Composers' Choice Concert the first in a series of five. On the program are chamber works by Copland, Mahler, Ibert, and Peter Schickele (a/k/a PDQ Bach). Tickets are available at the door.

More Alternative Fun at the Sunset Club

On December 1, local power pop outfit The Nowhere Blossoms play the Sunset Club at the Ambassador Motor Inn. Show up and dance yourself legless to a very hot act. Opening up for them is local rap phenom A-Okay, who should be fun if he shows up.