

# Thaw 80, 'Amusing inoffensive'

by Beth Henegan and  
Melanie Smith

"Spring Thaw 1980" is a show featuring satire songs and comic skits aimed mainly at contemporary Canadian issues. Six talented and enthusiastic performers obviously enjoyed entertaining an appreciative audience of approximately six hundred. Opening the show with a light-hearted flashback over the past ten years when the "Spring Thaw" performance lay dormant, the foot-tapping music and tongue-in-cheek lyrics set the tone for the evening.

The program had an upbeat tempo which was easily sustained throughout the first act and faltered only slightly during the second. Political sensitivity was a major theme of Act One. Recognizing recent changes in national political life, Election 80 provided the fodder for the opening salvos of "Spring Thaw". The growing pains experienced by Quebec's politicians in the late '70's received equally ir-

reverent treatment. Taking time to "smell the flowers", as it were, the antics of Montreal's Mayor Jean Drapeau and the 1976 Olympics were again brought to our attention. On the domestic front, the politics between the sexes were also reviewed—the successful woman needs a wife!

One of the funniest skits of the evening was directly aimed at the infamous frugality of the Canadian mentality, in conjunction with a fanatical desire to remain inoffensive in foreign affairs. Example: In a typical Canadian compromise, the government responds to American pressure to boycott the Summer Olympics by creating two Canadian Olympic teams. One team is bound for the U.S. games, the other for Moscow. The Moscow team consists of one member, conscripted by Canada Manpower. We meet him during an interview, describing his valiant attempt to participate in EVERY event scheduled in Moscow.

The scenes of the second



Rum flavoured.  
Wine dipped.

**Crack a pack of Colts  
along with the beer.**

act attempted to duplicate the energy they achieved in the first. Although the enthusiasm of the performers remained high, the material lacked the relevant wit demonstrated earlier in the performance.

The material for the evening's entertainment was created by a large team of writers, following the "Spring Thaw" tradition established in the '60's by such writers as Eric Nichol and Pierre Burton. This year Ben Wicks and Art Guthrie were among the contributors.

The music director for the show was Joe Sealy. As one entered the auditorium, it was nice once again to hear those soft piano sounds made familiar when Sealy was a well known Halifax performer. His music was bright and jaunty, in keeping with the overall tone of the performance.

"Spring Thaw 1980" provided an enjoyable evening of light entertainment. Like the Canadian character it satirizes, the show is both amusing and inoffensive.

## Happenings in Halifax

- MOVIES** . . . . . A lot of new films in town. La Cage aux Folles is filled with laughter. The Last Married Couple and American Gigolo have also arrived. Don't forget to check out the N.F.B. and the Cohn's movie IF. Plus the S.U.B. is presenting a mini festival of film classics: Midnight Cowboy, Spaghetti Western, and M\*A\*S\*H, will be shown March 18, 19 and 20 respectively.
- ART** . . . . . For art enthusiasts there is always a lot going on at the Dal Art Gallery. Next week tours will be given of "Woven Images 19 and 20 century", "Bolivian Weavings", and "Costume Design" displays.
- BOOKS** . . . . . The Gazette has been receiving catalogues of new books. If anyone is interested in reading a book while lounging around in the summer and typing up a short review please get in contact with Margaret Little. All book reviewers are allowed to keep the books.
- THEATRE** . . . . . Catch Ibsen's play **The Master Builder**, directed by Tony Randall before it leaves the Neptune Theatre. Keep on supporting Theatre 1707!

—Your entertainment staff