

**DO YOU
WANNA
DANCE?**



**You don't have to be
Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual...**

BUT IT HELPS!

Progressive House

Music Till 3 am

1537 Barrington St.

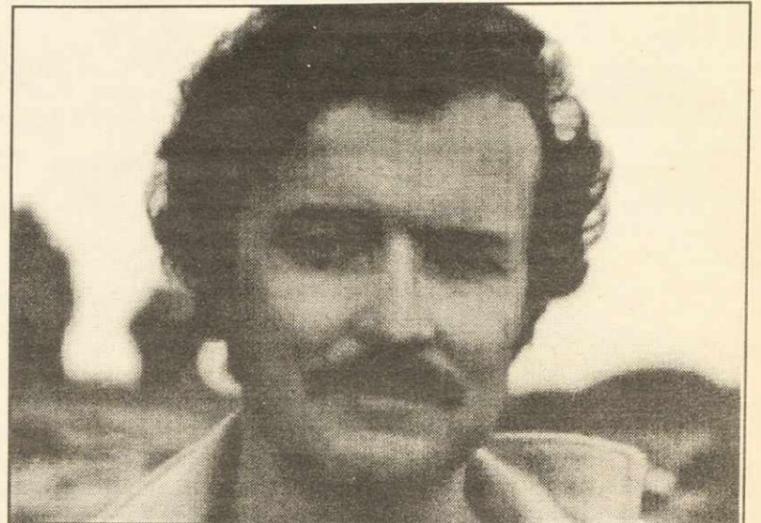
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This one's from the hip

by Geoff Ineson

Brian Bartlett could be described as a writer so gifted that his audience require no further proof of his talents. At least many of his advocates would certainly like it that way. Four years have past since Bartlett released his first full length volume, *Planet Harbor*, and as an "Amphora of Wine" from "230 B.C." his work in *Underwater Carpentry* (Goose Lane Editions \$12.95) has matured gracefully, "sweet like nitrogen narcosis". It's a four part work concerned with family, travel, characters, introspection, kissing and muffins. Overall it makes for a patchy read but is continuously enjoyable and meditative.

In the liveliest poems we meet characters from the streets. A 'today' kind of vision in which the poet story-tells through the eyes of his "sister the Mission worker". "At nightfall a cough loud as a gunshot/ jars the shoulders of a homeless boy/ roosting on a curb's lip. Downing/ chocolate milk with six straws/ he pats his own knee — left, right,/ left. Hunger is a faithful dog." This is Halifax, and we're on Barrington St.; this is Toronto on Young St.; this is New York and we've just walked past a "Sniffers Anonymous" meeting letting out. All the characters; Lanky Jim, Sherri, Den, Esther, Bill are all explored earnestly and presented not as merely the wins of the present day, but as people with concerns and anxieties. This social dimension is poetically inventive and uneasily insightful.



A professor's salary and a traveling poetic eye go well together. Bartlett's mobility reads like Auden, in a way, but Auden was much younger and wrote often in political metaphors, so forget that comparison. Part three of the book is the long poem which the book itself is named after. The poem *Underwater Carpentry* blends narrative voices as it seeks an identity under an external harangue of rhetoric, like a TV set of a housemate with no regard for tolerable volume. Boldly bombastic: "LEGALIZE FREEDOM/ TRIGGER HAPPY GOLDFISH/ PUKE UP 60'S". Style conscious and explorative the writer has entered the postmodern. This particular prose poem won the 1991 Malahat Review Long Poem Contest.

"By a lake near Jasper a dozen

scuba divers/ circulated among dripping wooden chairs/ set up in the sand./ "Underwater carpentry"/ a bystander explained — each spring/ they take mallets and pegs into the lake/ to see who can build the best chair." When reading the travel poems, one gets the sense that Bartlett is a well travelled, middle-aged, white, male with a state-of-the-art prose camera. His images are finely crafted wooden chairs which are built on metaphoric dives: descending and intensely romantic thus.

The writing is terse with a large amount of untrodden white space. Primarily, Bartlett is an imagist and far from musical inclinations. However, Bartlett is skilful with meditative and serene images and it complements his prosaic accents.

DSJ POLLING STATIONS

	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Student Union Bldg	9:00-9:00	9:00-9:00	9:00-6:00
Fenwick Towers	11:00-6:00	11:00-6:00	11:00-6:00
Sherriff Hall	11-2 4-6:30	11-2 4-6:30	11-2 4-6:00
Howe Hall	11-2 4-6:30	11-2 4-6:30	11-2 4-6:00
Killam Library	11-5 6-9:00	11-5 6-9:00	11-5 6-6:00
Life Sciences Bldg	10:00-6:00	10:00-6:00	10:00-6:00
Arts & Admin	10:00-6:00	10:00-6:00	10:00-6:00
Weldon Lw	10:30-4:00	10:30-4:00	10:30-4:00
Tupper Bldg	9-1:00 4-6:00	9-1:00 4-6:00	9-1:00 4-6:00
Dalplex	10:00-7:00	~~~~~	10:00-6:00
SBA	10:00-5:00	~~~~~	10:00-5:00
Social Work	~~~~~	Noon-8:00	~~~~~
Dentistry	Noon-5:00	Noon-5:00	Noon-5:00
Forrest	Noon-5:00	1:30-4:00	9:00-2:00
Burbridge	~~~~~	Noon-5:00	2:30-7:30
Dunn	11:00-5:00	~~~~~	11:00-5:00

NOTE FEBRUARY 15, 16, 17