

# Poetry

The following poems won honorable mention in the first annual Gazette Poetry Contest.

## China Doll

too fast  
too short a time  
I love you not yet  
feel you in my sleep  
strange china doll  
I feel you in my sleep  
you rest  
too short a time  
I stir  
too fast  
and I love you not  
yet more gently trace  
graceful curves you lend  
to the rough stare  
of an infant moon

C.J. Edwards

## Suspects

outside  
on the sidewalks of Spring Garden Road  
policed by a winter wind  
the people shuffle  
convicts  
to and fro

in the yellow warmth of the coffee shop  
we huddle with our teacups  
you and I

across the shiny tabletop  
our hands lie still  
centimeters apart

an itchy distance

how brief the time since we have lain  
together in our brotherly bed

the ghosts of kisses cling  
like petals to my lips

have I the courage to cross  
this minefield of saucers and teaspoons?

the cashier has us under observation  
the busboy is collecting evidence  
we will be condemned by a tribunal of waitresses

we have seen our love on trial  
in restaurants  
in drugstores  
on buses heavy with their freight of drudgery  
the billboards argue for the prosecution

in every corner of this city  
there are men who would embrace  
who learn instead to bind the longings of the flesh  
in chains of caution

but your fingers call to mine  
like the warm name of this winter street  
they lure us into crime.

Robin Metcalfe

# Contest

## Rootlove

In the kitchen of dead moons  
we fed on roots

Fierce shadows press the sun down  
this is a new dark  
crooked new bones in the eye of my dream

We approach our energies  
insisting on the wounds my death  
I slip back into my womb  
feathered now without love

No god whitens my bed  
I visit my broken gardens  
deafened by the voice of my lungs  
and the clean wind  
smoke of old fires  
unacknowledged dark preoccupations

I take the roots from the fire  
I can invent love  
with this witchcraft I have no craft for  
our eyes open like cats

I am a small part of your laughter  
and the blood on your hands

Deirdre D. Dwyer

## Protests mount over plan to demolish last waterfront arch

by Pam Berman

The Waterfront Development Corporation (WDC) plans to demolish the Plant Wharf Arch situated on Water Street in order to widen this street. It was also claimed that the WDC wants to develop a farmer's market and a large sea wall boardwalk.

Dubbed the "Irving Arch" because it is situated on Irving Oil property, the building and the land surrounding it was expropriated by the WDC. The Irving Arch is the last of approximately seven arches along the waterfront that permitted Water Street traffic access to the wharves along the harbour.

Some twenty groups including Heritage Trust and the Landmarks Commission tried to get the building put on the heritage resource list so that it could be preserved and restored rather than torn down.

The arch did not get put on the list, however, even though it had the required forty-five points needed according to the evaluation system established for heritage resources in the Halifax City Municipal Plan.

Mayor Edmund Morris said the arch was left off the list because through a long process of council proceed-

ings it was decided that the arch was not a heritage resource.

"This was not an oversight, it isn't on the list because council didn't decide to put it on", Morris said, "and since the WDC owns it and it is not on the heritage resource list they could legally walk in today and get a demolition permit and we could do nothing about it."

The WDC wants to widen Lower Water Street from 24 feet to 30 feet and extend the sidewalks on both sides in order to allow better access for commercial traffic.

Since it is impossible to go northbound through Hollis or Granville Streets, Water or Barrington Streets are the only possible traffic routes for the container pier trucks. Volvo, for example, has to send containers of cars to the north end through this route.

There is a conflict, however, since the Waterfront is a designated heritage area for pedestrian and local traffic only. Commercial trucks running through the area could cause problems.

City Alderman Brenda Shannon objects to the widening of the street and the use of the area as a commercial trucking route. She sees the



Dave Grandy

**This view won't be around much longer. There are plans to smash this fine old arch.**

plan as a contradiction to a council policy that stated the street should remain the same width. She also felt that the commercial traffic would cut across the whole waterfront project and create conflict between pedestrians and the trucks.

Mayor Morris said that there was a complicated traffic problem downtown. He said though it would be difficult to have trucks passing through a

heritage area, the only other option would be to have all the traffic on Barrington Street.

Allan Ruffman, a member of the Urban Committee, said he wants the bed road to remain the same width and not be moved towards the harbour. Ruffman said the street cannot be widened fully because of two buildings they plan to keep, the Robertson Hardware building and the Sperry building located further down the

street. He cannot see, therefore, why the street should be widened just where the arch is situated.

Council will be deciding on the Water Street widening issue on Thursday night this week. At press time there was a meeting between representatives of the WDC and the Landmarks Commission to discuss possible alternatives to the demolishing of the 'Irving Arch'.