



Photo courtesy of Grafton Street

The cast, who are also the restaurant staff of the Grafton Street Theatre, take an outing to HMS Sackville for their production of HMCS Feast Ashore.

# Feast on Theatre

by Michelle Tibeau

Imagine being able to drop in on the past, not just to watch, but to participate. Perhaps going to a club, here in Halifax, during the war for some entertainment.

The "Corvette Club" is open for business this season during the production of H.M.C.S. Feast Ashore at the Grafton Street Dinner Theatre. You can enjoy a night of good food and great entertainment, and you can even join in the fun.

The shows start at 7:30pm and end around 10:30pm (but you never know). You are greeted at the door by the owner of the Club, seated and waited on by the actors. They serve drink and meals, and when the show is over they clean up the dishes. The entertainment begins with song and dance, but mixed in are conflicts between the characters which are resolved by the end of the meal. The only comparison that can be made is to a musical movie in which the cast interacts with the audience.

In the end you come out prepared to face food rationing, help the Red Cross and go home to face another day of the war, knowing there is a place to go for excitement.

This form of theatre originated in P.E.I. with the Governor's Feasts and has spread all over Canada in some form or other. Feasts are the new rage; here in Halifax alone there are a couple, and the tourists as well as Haligonians seem to thrive off them.

Because there is so much audience input the scripted part of the show is only one hour long. The other two-thirds of the work is improvisation. This may sound like fun, which it is, but it is also hard work, especially since roles and the show's length sometimes change.

The whole environment created during the evening is so alive and exciting that it makes you want to go read up on the war and go back and join in more of the action. Not a bad idea, since the show is never quite the same twice!

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## Students Publish

by Shelly Galliah

*Proem Canada*, a biannual magazine of poetry and short fiction, is premiering its first issue in February, 1989.

The magazine will provide national exposure to promising authors between the ages of 16 to 26. Aiming to elucidate the diversity of Canadian expression, it will also feature native and ethnic writing.

Out of a small literary publication at Trent University which focussed only on the talents of that community, *Proem* was born. Its co-founder, Chris Magwood, realized the necessity in expanding the university maga-

zine to a national periodical. What emerged was *Proem Canada*, a forum for young talent where gifted literary proteges may perfect their skills.

Notwithstanding the satisfaction of having a work published, the young writer may be motivated by financial rewards. A fifty dollar honorarium is presented to each selected author. Those interested should include with their typed double-spaced manuscript, a brief biography and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The deadline for the first issue is December 31, 1988. Submissions should be mailed to *Proem Canada*, P.O. box 416, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 6Z3.



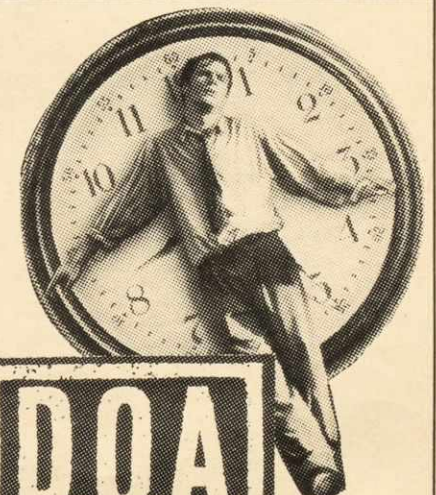
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