

# Burnt Poems



By June LeBlanc

Last Sunday a cloud hung over Molly's coffee shop on Queen Street, not of smoke but sadness. This was the last reading at this particular spot. Molly's is due to close at the end of the month. Some happiness was in the air at the possibility of a relocation but for now the future is foggy. Even with the readings continuing at the Owl's Nest also on Queen there was a silence as the last reader rose from the chair.

Back in October Matt Stranach and a few friends started having open poetry readings. These readings gave a chance for these poets to be found.

They picked Molly's Coffee Shop because it seemed to have the right atmosphere. So one Sunday a month since then, you can find people gathered around a single candle lit chair listening to poets as they read the work which they have comprised. The readers are from all walks of life brought together by one thing, their imagination.

Matt Stranach mentioned that he had an idea of creating a book kicking around in his head. Once he met up with Joe Blades they joined and out came *Burnt Poems Served Hot*, published by the BS Poetry Society. The writers are mostly younger people either studying or just living in Fredericton and have never before been published. This book caught a lot of people by surprise, it is proof of all the hidden local talent

that Fredericton might not have realized it had so close at hand. These readings—and the book—gave these poets a chance to be found, you could even say exposed, that otherwise might not have happened. It also may have started these people off to a career that might have only been a dream.

The extreme variety in the poems from serious expressions of emotions to ones that spark laughter there is something in this book for everyone. When I asked one of the editors, Matt Stranach, what kind of comments he was receiving about the book he stated "once people have a chance to look at the book they come up to me and always have an interest in one certain poet." The poems are definitely full of great meaning not only to the writer but

it really hits the reader. A lot of older people might have reservations when reading the book, but as they flip through the pages they realize that the younger generation is not that bad after all. What they are is full of concern about how the world of today is functioning. If you have a chance I really encourage you to pick up a copy of this piece of local literature; it will definitely keep your attention from cover to cover. It can be found at such places as Purple Haze and Westminster Bookstore.

The editors are hoping to make more volumes and continue to expose these young writers to the public. The readings will now, as I stated earlier, be held at the Owl's Nest which is also situated on Queen keeping with the down-

town atmosphere. With the nice weather coming the readings will also be boosted up to two a month. If you are an aspiring poet the floor is open to everyone and newcomers are encouraged to share their talents with other writers and interested listeners. It's a very relaxed atmosphere and everyone is there for the same reason, to enjoy poetry and maybe a couple of cups of coffee. I encourage anyone who is an aspiring poet or just interested in poetry to come. You will get to see the poets which have been published. You will also see other poets and maybe it will create an inspiration for yourself and next time you will be the one in the chair pouring out your thoughts and expressions to anxious listeners. Readings start at one o'clock official Molly's time...

(At Molly's Cafe)

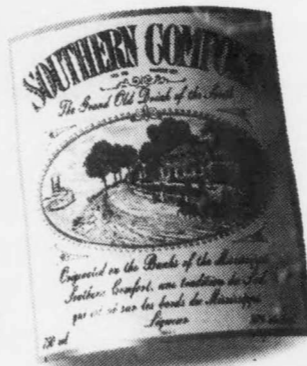
# Served Hot

## Final Exam Do's & Don'ts

1. Do not walk in with a chicken.
2. ... or any other farm animal.
3. Do not plead Turret's Syndrome.
4. Do not ask your prof for last rites.
5. Do bring a pen.
6. Do come clothed.
7. Do remain clothed.
8. Do not laugh hysterically.
9. ...if you do, then throw in a swear word and plead Turret's.
10. What the hell, bring a chicken.



The cuffs are frayed and the blue has faded and when it's not on your back it's on the back of a chair. But when you're heading out for the evening it's the one you always put on. You know it. It's the most comfortable shirt you own.



Go in' South Tonight?