

EDITORIALS

CARNIVALS AND ELECTIONS

The winter carnival this year was a big success. Much of the credit must go to Paul Connolly and his industrious committee, who for many months worked hard in organizing the four-day social bonanza. It is difficult to compare one winter carnival with another. But the \$1500 profit of this year's effort, along with favourable comments from many students, would indicate that the carnival committee this year has every reason to be proud of its work.

Unfortunately, in recent years, the success of a carnival has been equated with the administrative abilities of the man spearheading the project. It would be ridiculous for us to suggest that a winter carnival could be successful without an efficient organizer at its head. Indeed, much of the credit should go to the gentleman who has taken upon himself the responsibility of engineering the entire operation. But, at the same time, winter carnivals are generally a success. Four days off from classes, with nothing to do but "eat drink and be merry," can't be anything else. In addition, winter carnivals are the work of many people not just of one man.

It has become almost a tradition at St. Dunstan's for the winter carnival chairman to contest the presidency of the Students' Union.

Since the election immediately follows the carnival, the chairman has a distinct advantage over his rival or rivals, who may be equally or better qualified, but whose contributions to the students at one time or another in an administrative capacity may not be as fresh in the minds of the electorate.

The situation is worsened if the carnival chairman wishes to exploit his advantages with "I-did-it-alone" election campaign. We feel that such an individual has the right to use the contributions which he has made to a successful carnival as proof to the electorate that he is qualified for the office he is seeking. But, at the same time, ignoring the many contributions made by others should not be the price for exploiting his advantage.

THE NEW EXECUTIVE

We congratulate the new executive on its election to office and wish it every success in administering the affairs of the Students' Union in the months ahead. Unfortunately, however, despite recent amendments to the Union constitution which make eligible for office an increased number of students, three of the four members of the new executive were unopposed in Wednesday's election.

We are confident that Mr. Greene, Mr. Donahoe, and Miss MacInnis, newly acclaimed vice-president, treasurer, and secretary respectively, will fulfill their responsibilities capably. Nevertheless, something is seriously wrong when so few students are interested enough in their Students' Union to offer their services towards its operation.

At most Canadian universities, student leaders enjoy the prestige and respect which they rightfully deserve. At St. Dunstan's, the President of the Students' Union often commands less respect from the students and faculty than a benchwarmer on the varsity hockey team. This discrepancy is as much the fault of the faculty as it is of the students, and reflects badly on the academic atmosphere of our university.

The higher positions in the Union are becoming more demanding with the increased enrolment at St. Dunstan's. The nominal salary which is to be paid for the first time to members of the executive next year should encourage more students to offer themselves as candidates in future elections. But only a change in attitude will enhance the prestige of these positions in the eyes of the students and faculty.

IT'S A BLOODY SHAME

Monday, March 13, is an important date at St. Dunstan's this year. On that day, SDU students will be competing with other Maritime university students in an intercollegiate blood donor competition.

The local branch of the Canadian Red Cross has been sponsoring blood donor clinics at the University for many years. Unfortunately, unlike most Canadian universities, particularly in the Maritimes, St. Dunstan's has responded poorly to pleas for blood donations. Last fall, for example, out of a student population of more than 700 less than 260 students bothered to attend the clinic. Though the winners in the inter-class competition, fewer than 62% of the Juniors gave blood. Only 50% of the Senior Class and less than 33% of the Sophomores attended the clinic. Out of a class of 285, 70 Freshmen (25%) could generate enough energy and altruism to support the Red Cross in its campaign for blood contributions.

Canada leads the world in its blood donor service. Only one other country, Holland, has anything which approaches the comprehensive service which is provided by the Canadian Red Cross. No other country offers free blood to all of its citizens. Despite this commendable record, blood is always in short supply. It cannot be stockpiled and must be provided in great quantities by such clinics as the one to be held at St. Dunstan's March 13.

The blood donor clinic will be conducted in the Alumni Gymnasium from 9:30 to 12:00 a.m. and 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. Other universities in the Maritimes will be working hard to capture the Eastern and Chartered Trust Company of Moncton trophy to be donated to the winning university in the competition. Let's be one of them.



Imelda Murnaghan, last year's Miss Winter Carnival, is pictured above (left) officiating at the coronation of Miss Carnival '67, Mary MacInnis. Miss MacInnis is pictured (right) commencing the coronation waltz. Her escort is Junior arts student Ken Morrison.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU

Dear Sir,

I would like to take advantage of your newspaper to thank those who supported me in Wednesday's presidential election, especially those who worked so hard on my behalf during the campaign.

I would also like to congratulate the members of the new executive and would like particularly to congratulate my own opponent, Mr. Connolly, for a hard fought campaign.

—Philip MacDougall

A BABE IN ARMS

Dear Sir,

One would think that a column in a school newspaper should not be one where some asinine "thing" is able to cry to the entire student body because, while he was at fault, he felt his persecution complex had to be publicized. I am referring, of course, to the letter in your second last edition which unjustly accused the Student Discipline Committee of being unfair, undemocratic, or whatever terminology our "mal-treated" friend wishes to call it.

Somebody is accused; evidence is proven; and the "mis-carriage of nature" is convicted and sentenced. Very mildly, I might add. The Committee set up by the Dean of men, I believe, is a step in the right direction. It is a blessing for our students, because, instead of being judged by the faculty, an individual is given a break; the students decide his fate, and are much more understanding.

A prefect does his job. Are we to condemn this man for this? Our "babe in arms" would have us believe so. On the contrary, sir, we should be grateful to this man for doing his job, for he is only acting for our better interests. The committee, also, should be commended for doing its job -- and doing it very well, I might add.

Undemocratic? No! Very democratic. Maybe the next time our friend will take his case to the Supreme Court. I would suggest that he would receive a heavier sentence if he did.

I hope that in the future issues of your paper, Mr. Editor, you and your staff will not allow trash, which I think the letter on the Student Discipline Committee was, to be printed again. I suggest, moreover, that the author of the letter cry to Dear Murphy or else begin his own "Persecuted Students" column.

Thanking you for your time and the use of your newspaper space.

—Jim Lahiff

THE VERGEN RAPED

Dear Sir,

In a previous issue of The College Times, Mr. David Raynor, a member of the Times staff, indulged in a certain amount of editorializing on The Vergen, SDU's new literary magazine.

It is quite obvious to all who have read this perceptive review that Mr. Raynor, by accumulation, rejection, and synthesis of an unfortunately small collection of styles and themes, has developed his own very definite theory of creative writing. In the process, however, he has fallen into one very egregious error: that of assuming that the Raynor Theory is the only theory.

Because of the apparently narrow literary experience which such a biased viewpoint bears witness to, one would be hard put to forgive Mr. Raynor were he to take the unwarranted liberty of even a mere criticism of poetic technique. But by criticizing the artists' choice of themes, the Times reviewer has attempted to proscribe an entire art form to a non-existent thirst for a demonic poetry.

A poem, as a work of art is the verbal representation of the poet's response to a particular aspect of reality. When publishing an anthology, the contributing artists do not immediately gather in the editor's office to determine what shall be the central theme of the collection. Each work is supposed to represent its author's personal view of reality. Even less should one expect to find a central theme in every work by any one writer -- a consistent view on reality, perhaps (or,

over a long period, a logically evolving one), but that is all.

In other words, this "personalism" of which Mr. Raynor was so critical is part and parcel of the very nature of poetry. And if a person has thought enough about reality to actually have a viewpoint on it, he is guilty not of "pseudo-intellectualism," as the Times critic contends, but of true intellectualism. Here is a man who has at least some concept of the nature and order of that which is.

As for Mr. Raynor's undue concern over the purely mechanical aspect of poetry, suffice it to say that such pedantic nit-picking as regards technical precision saw its last practical use in the days of Dryden and Pope. The emphasis today is not on form, but on content. If a poet's concern is with communication, then, by all means, consideration for the poor reader is most certainly in order. But if he is concerned solely with expression, let him interpret it who can. It is the reader's job to interpret the poet, not the poet's job to conform his style to the abilities (or, for that matter, the proclivities) of the reader.

Perhaps this writer may be accused of having himself formulated a very definite theory of writing, but not so: this theory is neither definite nor his. It is the theory of the literary epoch in which we live, and under it can be subsumed every system that was ever devised, for in it there is only one constant: literary freedom -- that freedom which Mr. Raynor denies and which is yet so much of the essence of poetry.

--Steve Langevin

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