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Winter Carnival Promotes Friendly Competition

Congratulations . . .

The Winter Carnival is over. That it was a successful event goes without question. There is little to do now but sit back, relax, and possibly look forward to what next year's carnival can bring. The Carnival Committee can do this but we, who enjoyed what they worked so hard to produce, must extend our thanks and congratulations to them before we may do so.

The Carnival started, as most everything, as an idea. It was a good idea, so it was felt, but no one could be found to put it to work. As an idea it wallowed in the mud of procrastination and would have been lost forever but for the decision of the SRC to investigate its real possibilities. The result was the formation of a committee of non-SRC members and the presentation of a positive report within one week of their appointment. This was November 23rd. The committees had been formed and the necessary financial support was supplied by the SRC and the University. The Carnival Co-chairmen, Bill Ray and Bob Ross, had little over two months to formulate and execute their plans.

We have witnessed the results of their, and their committee's, two months labour. We all owe them a debt and they are to be congratulated for their fine work. There are bigger, and, we are sure, better carnivals but few have had the same reception in their first year. Those who complain of its quality are lost in the background of its success.

The Carnival is conclusive proof of two things. A Winter Carnival is here to stay and has the potentialities of growing into one of the finest in the country. We are sure it will. The response of the students, the University, the citizens and merchants of Fredericton, and the other universities of the Maritimes has been overwhelming. The ball has been set rolling and its inertia will carry it into the years ahead. The Carnival's future is assured as long as we don't ignore it and allow it to die of administrative starvation.

It has also proved, once and for all, that the myth of "student apathy" is just a myth. Many of the Carnival workers were students who had little to do with campus extra-curricular life before the Carnival came along. The "Little Joes", or ordinary students, participated as no one dared dream they would. If there is something for them to get interested in, and someone will give them the chance, they will come through.

Words are lost in time, other things are not. We urge the SRC to show, in a tangible way, the gratitude of the student body to those responsible for the Carnival. We also point out that no Non-Athletic Award points have been allocated to the Winter Carnival and suggest that in the future the position of Carnival Chairman be made a permanent one, with an honorarium.

Congratulations Carnival Committee; you can be rightly proud of your achievement.

Democracy: Fact, Fiction . . .

An acquaintance of mine remarked recently that he was convinced most students have no more than a passing interest in student government. He reflected sadly on this as if it were already indisputable, and added, "It would seem to hold in it very little hope or promise for the future of our country."

I determined to find out what was the cause of this gloomy forecast and inquired of my friend if he was not confusing participation in small government societies with an interest in the effective instruments of state, matured by age and the wisdom of generations. To further my argument, I reminded him of the many qualified men holding positions of trust in Canada.

"True", he replied, "but consider the difference in the education of these men, with that of the student today. Years ago, student government meant something. It was a new concept of higher education, that seemed to insure valuable experience in responsible government."

In some manner that is not altogether clear, this idea was lost and what it revealed was shabby by comparison. At most, it is a body concerned only with the allotment of funds. Unless a student is in danger of losing all or part of some financial remuneration due him, he would no more think of attending SRC meetings, than would he permit himself to be sent on vacation to Devil's Island.

We are becoming complacent in our democratic heaven. The tendency now is to regard free government as eternally solid in character, free entirely from any Achilles heel. This may be true and we all like to believe it, with passionate declamations against all other forms of government.

Democratic bodies, whether student, provincial or federal are implicit in our constitution, and for many people, freedom represents little more. Democracy is becoming a drug. The mere mention of the word, coupled with the reminder that we live in a country fortunate enough to be called one, reacts on people like opium. It lulls them into a sense of security; security that has become the by-word of our generation.

Unless we make a conscious effort to understand the meaning of democracy; unless we insure that there will be qualified men to work for it in the future; unless we take a keen interest in our government in order to understand the machinery of state; and finally, unless we comprehend what is meant by freedom of speech, religion, press and thought — we will lose it; and one never so misses something, than when it has gone." — J. B. T.

The College Editor's Plight

The Truth of the Matter

This story may well have the distinction of being the most reprinted feature article ever to appear in a Canadian university newspaper. It was first printed by the Queen's Journal in 1949 and subsequently reprinted by it in 1955. It has since appeared sporadically in a large number of campus publications.

So you want to be an editor . . . and every editor . . . so you had ideas before you came to college of being a foreign correspondent . . . so you practise on The Journal and get to be an editor . . . every Wednesday and Sunday it's press night . . . every Thursday and Monday there's the printers . . . and on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday you relax . . . yea? . . . you don't . . . you worry . . . about what you're going to use on the other days . . . and about the copy somebody threw out . . . and those that think the editorials are bright and to the point . . . and those that think they stink . . . and of course the people that don't like The Journal . . . everybody can do a better job than you . . . but they don't . . . they just complain . . . complain . . . complain . . . that's all you hear down here . . . crabbings and griping . . . about the communists . . . or McCarthy . . . or the good coach . . . or the lousy coach . . . or the women at Queen's . . . or the professors . . . or the courses . . . or humans in general . . . and you get the worries of the atomic bomb . . . and the UNDT . . . and the COTC . . . and NFCUS . . . and the CUP . . . JUS . . . SCM . . . for or against . . . building up or tearing down . . . nobody ever just satisfied . . . nobody happy . . . or you learn a lot about journalism . . . that unless you tell somebody their story is better than Hemingway . . . or Huxley . . . they won't write again . . . if the stuff is off-color and unprintable then we are prudish with bourgeois tastes . . . if we do print it . . . we're obscene and blasphemous . . . that people only consider their own desires . . . no one else's . . . that last year's paper is always better . . . that every other college's paper is always better . . . and every editor swears his paper will be better . . . but it isn't . . . because people are just the same . . . they never change . . . the clubs are always sure that the other clubs are getting more coverage . . . that this political party is getting more emphasis . . . that there isn't enough poetry on the feature page . . . that engineers are ignored . . . that medsmen are forgotten . . . that artists are slandered . . . and the letters come in . . . but at twelve midnight you don't worry about those things . . . you forget about training in journalism . . . all you think about is getting words counted . . . and stories measured . . . and pages made up . . . and heads . . . and by-lines . . . and how you are going to put everything in that you promised . . . because if you don't somebody is sure to holler . . . or how you are going to fill two more columns . . . and you think back to the first few weeks of school . . . and of all the budding writers and reporters and make-up artists that flooded the office so that you didn't have work for them all . . . and you wonder where they all disappeared to . . . and you think that maybe you weren't nice enough to them and killed genius . . . or at least dampened enthusiasm . . . so you talk to them and beg and plead . . . but . . . suddenly they remember that they have essays . . . or tests . . . or exams . . . and then it dawns on you that you are here to get a degree too . . . and you have work to do . . . but there isn't a paid permanent editor for The Journal, so you stay . . . and every Sunday . . . and every Wednesday . . . and every Monday . . . and every Thursday . . . and the rest of the week you keep on worrying . . .

Letters to the Editor

The Editor,
The Brunswickan.
Dear Sir:

There seems to be a good deal of talk on the campus these days concerning the relative merits, or should we say, demerits, of Co-eds. Those who make such snide remarks as, "Co-eds are snobbish, conceited, unladylike, etc.," are usually basing their remarks on hearsay, not experience!

Unless an engineer or forester happens to become interested in a Co-ed, he will surely pass through college, knowing nothing whatever about them, since engineering or forestry are generally considered masculine careers.

It has been said that as a whole, Co-eds are badly-dressed and not at all pretty. As far as clothes are concerned, the majority of male students will concede that it is difficult to pay one's expenses and still look like a model from Sak's, Fifth Avenue. As for beauty, it's only skin deep, after all!

There may be a few exceptions, but I think that the Co-eds on this campus are neither snobbish nor conceited. They are shy. Many of you may think this amazing, but most girls find it terribly hard to walk up to a group consisting entirely of males, and carry on a witty conversation.

It's a well-known fact that this campus would have more spirit and be more fun if there were a much larger percentage of females. This may come in the future, but in the meantime, why not cultivate what's on your doorstep? Make an effort to know your co-eds, and men and girls alike will find their college career more enjoyable.

—(An Interested Student)

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