

cross currents

by greg knight

The Carnival Spirit originated in early Europe, when people began to feel that the spring fasting period ought to be preceded by three days devoted to **feasting, pleasure and passion.**

It is said that for three days, Carnival participants delivered themselves up to voluntary madness, enhanced sexes, gave themselves up to Bacchus and Venus and considered all pleasures allowable.

Some say the Carnival Spirit was sustained throughout the ages because of the effect that this delightful madness had upon the masses. Others say it became popular because of its basic vitality, color, and change of pace.

As the Carnival Spirit 'poured' down through the ages or the gullet (whichever you prefer) amusing themes were chosen for each local Carnival. Since laughs were the order of the day, the manners of common life were caricatured and public figures were satirized.

Other activities soon became associated with the Carnival. It is said that after sunset everyone carried a lighted candle and each 'partier' attempted to extinguish as many candles as he could, while doing his best to keep his own burning. Along with this people in disguise 'staggered' from house to house to "make sport" with their friends and acquaintances.

From Europe, the Carnival Spirit (some people would call it the Gulf Stream) flowed across the Atlantic to New Orleans. Street pageants became the vogue and floats became mechanized. Beautiful Carnival Queens exquisitely gowned sat demurely upon Coca Cola trucks. From here the Carnival Spirit soon spread to the Universities which are (among other things) the control centres of the partying spirit.

It is said that the modern carnival is celebrated with its greatest show and spirit at UNB. Here the Carnival Spirit tempered by time became more refined than it was in early Europe, (some people would dispute this). At UNB as in early Europe, a great variety of events and activities ensure a fun-filled Carnival for all.

A BAS LE SEPARATISME

Quand ça ce termine par un "Vive la Laurentie!", "Vive l'indépendance du Québec!", "A bas la Confédération!" ou quelque chose du genre, on sait d'où ça sort. Ce qu'ils peuvent être énervants ces séparatistes. Oui! vous me tapez sur les nerfs.

L'an dernier, les journaux parlaient de refrancisation; la radio et la T.V. s'en mêlaient; dans les magasins, sur la rue, partout on entendait parler de refrancisation. L'idée était lancée. C'était la débâcle. Puis on en a entendu de moins en moins parler. Tout ce qui pourrait ce dire avait été dit. Les plus embêtés étaient revenus sur terre. Le calme succédait à l'orage et on en avait essuyé tout un.

Cependant, les énergies déployées ne l'avaient pas été en vain, du moins pas toutes. On s'est aperçu qu'il restait non seulement des marques ou des traces, mais que ça mijotait encore dans la marmite. Il fallait conserver le peu qui restait. On avait demandé quelque chose et il fallait l'obtenir non pas avec des menaces mais avec finesse, tact et diplomatie. Les canadiens-français voulaient la reconnaiss-

sance de leurs droits. Nous voulons et nous voulons encore d'ailleurs être traités avec égalité. Pour tout dire en peu de mots, les industries et les gouvernements principalement doivent s'apercevoir que nous existons réellement, nous canadiens-français. De grandes améliorations ont été apportées; d'autres viendront plus tard de sorte que ceux qui ont lancé l'idée de refranciser le Québec et le reste du Canada, ceux qui assureront notre survie si nous ne pouvons y parvenir nous-mêmes, ceux-là n'auront pas perdu leur temps.

Cette année nous arrivons cette bande de fanatiques aux cris de "Vive l'indépendance!", "Vive, le R. I. N.!" et tout le tralala. C'est le comble. Ça vient je ne sais au juste de quel foyer; ça vient d'un peu partout on dirait et de plusieurs endroits à la fois. Une campagne en faveur de la refrancisation s'imposait mais pas de Québec indépendant. C'est bien beau la sauvegarde de ci et de ça mais le Québec ne se séparera pas. On en veut à la constitution parce qu'elle semble favoriser les anglais; on ne tolère pas l'ingérence du gouvernement central en matière d'éducation. Les séparatistes devraient savoir, les plus vieux au moins, que l'ère de la massue est révolue.

Il ne faudrait pas voir dans la récente inauguration de la "Mai-

le

son du Québec" à Paris un signe de désaccord entre Québec et Ottawa. Nous devons augmenter les échanges de toutes sortes et surtout, écouter nos produits. M. Lesage a trouvé une porte de sortie sans recourir au fédéral et il faut l'en féliciter. Ce geste sans précédent posé par notre premier ministre ne montre pas une scission entre les deux gouvernements mais notre capacité de nous débrouiller tout seul, nous de Québec, et de faire ce que bon nous semble avec nos ressources.

Je ne suis pas entièrement contre l'indépendance mais je suis contre l'indépendance maintenant. Dans quinze ou vingt ans peut-être mais sûrement pas avant. Pendant ce temps, nous devrons nous éduquer "économiquement". Ce qu'il nous faut aujourd'hui n'est pas un système basé sur un patriote à outrance mais un système qui nous fera comprendre, par ses agissements, que nous pouvons reprendre "graduellement" ce qui est à nous. D'autres ont réussi là où il y avait place pour nous. Pourquoi n'ose-t-on pas? Si le Québec offre si peu de garanties aux placements de capitaux, qu'est-ce alors qui attire tant d'étrangers?

On m'en voudra d'attacher tant d'importance à la "piastre" mais il nous en faut pour nous

PURELY WHIMSICAL

with Wayne Anderson

In the public interest I would like to speak to a troublesome minority group on campus, the few students who are non-conformists, those unhealthy threats to society who make independent decisions and act on them with utter disregard for the thoughts of others, those incorrigibles who, through some fault of their own, were not properly molded by our public school system and our university. You people are creating a great deal of trouble in our otherwise peaceful society.

Consider first those people who work so hard to fashion you for the world — the professors. What would happen if we were all to express different views on an exam? One student would say, "Wordsworth delineates the impassioned aspects of life with a lucidity and sensitiveness which surpass even the work of Shakespeare and Kerouac"; another would comment, "Wordsworth wrote a lot of drivel"; while a third might simply comment, "Wordsworth is a fink". If an English professor were confronted with 200 such conflicting points of view, he'd step outside in his shirtsleeves (Canadian form of suicide). How much better it is when we all express the same, accepted opinion.

A few checks and x's and papers could be marked in no time. Add up the checks and there's your standing. Non-conformists are making this difficult.

What about your friends? They are shocked and hurt when you refuse to admit that you are a miserable, sinful, helpless, hopeless being who exists merely by the inexhaustible grace of God. You know you are. Where do you get the foolish audacity to question such an obvious truth?

There is altogether too much individualism. Employers and professors who write letters of reference can tell you this. It adds unnecessarily to the work of psychologists, police, judges, and many others. How can the army sergeant develop an effective technique for breaking in new recruits if some of the novices foolishly proclaim the ideas that war is madness and the army is obsolete? How can law courts standardize penalties for completely different personalities?

Think of the mental energy that could be saved if we could peg people immediately as being one type or another without having to probe for details of character. Think of the work it would save the social scientists. In this light, scientists should be scientists, and not try to be artists. You, non-conformist engineer, are only wasting your valuable energy when you read a novel or study a play. Why broaden your mind? A broad mind likes to speak out, and it can only get you in trouble.

Let's get down to sex. If you care to get down that far. As Canadian writers of the previous century knew, there are only two kinds of women and men — the innocent, ascetic virgin, pure as the driven snow, and the despicable, disgusting, dissipated debaucher. Speaking of sex, only people at university should discuss it openly; others should only tell jokes about it. Children should be taught to revere the stork as they do Santa Claus and God. Anyone who speaks favorably of free sexual relations should immediately be dismissed from his position. Deep in your hearts you non-conformists know that free sex is wicked, just as wicked as birth control. This, of course, is accepted on faith. Faith should be the guiding principle of your lives. You should believe what you are told and not question it. Questions can only lead to non-conformity, which in turn tends to upset an otherwise smoothly running society.

Philosophers, whose job it is to ask questions, should find new positions in the clergy. Everyone would be happy. We would have no worries, no problems. No one would need to bother summoning up the courage to face life independently; this is where God comes in. When you get worried about death, all you have to do is remember that there is a god up there, man's own image, who is watching over you, waiting to take you to a much nicer place the minute you die. So who needs to face fear or problems? Whatever we miss in this life will be amply made up for in the one to come.

Why do more than is expected of us? All that is necessary in this life is to get by, and the easier the road the better. Let's all conform and make it as easy as possible.

relever et elles doivent venir de l'île n'appartiendra aux Québécois que lorsque ceux-ci investiront chez eux au lieu d'entasser ça sous le matelas, le premier pas sera fait.

Je me trouve bien dans cette province et j'y demeurerai tant qu'elle fera partie du Canada. Je ne vois pas dans le système actuel un modèle de perfection; certaines anomalies devront être corrigées et il sera impossible de plaire à tous. Dans vingt ans ce sera la même chanson. Personnellement, j'ai beaucoup plus confiance à un gouvernement sous sa forme actuelle qu'à quelques beaux parleurs qui, brandissant leur credo ("Pourquoi je suis séparatiste") d'une main, nous promettent une libération prochaine dans l'avènement d'un pays du Québec où il fera bon se la couler douce.

De grâce messieurs, dégrossissez-vous et revenez en ce bas monde.

Guy Talbot,
Campus Estrien.

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