

# editorial:

Wanted!  
 Winter Carnival Princesses  
 Nominate your luscious lassie  
 before January 25. Forms at  
 Dal SUB enquiry desk  
 Winter Carnival '73  
 Frosty Frolics  
 Jan. 30-Feb. 4

This advertisement was submitted by the winter carnival committee for publication in the GAZETTE. However, we reached a staff decision to refuse publication of this in ad form. Our reasons for this should be explained.

The holding of beauty contests is a sexist practice. (i.e. It exploits people on the basis of sex.) This may seem like an overworked topic. However, the fact that winter carnival queen contests are still held demonstrates that people do not yet realize how degrading such events are to women.

A beauty queen is usually chosen for the important attribute of her physical attractiveness. Some would dispute this by saying that other things are taken into consideration. The candidates must be able to make clever and cute comments on a topic and be talented in some way. It would be interesting to know if weight-lifting would be considered a suitable hobby for a

beauty queen contestant.

Beauty pageants continue in all their glory despite all the obvious sexism that surrounds such events.

To judge people on such unimportant and irrelevant standards is inexcusable. People must be free to be what they are without being made to feel inferior to others because of insignificant physical characteristics.

To deal with this problem, one must look at the socialization process which teaches a woman what she must be. She is taught that her natural drive is to be a mother and housewife. If she insists, there are certain jobs — nursing, teaching, etc. — that will keep her busy until she achieves her ultimate goal — marriage! The same process that teaches a girl to be dainty and feminine teaches a boy to be masculine — strong and brave. A profession of medicine or law or something that requires his superiority as a male awaits him. His idols are Joe Namath and Bobby Hull — real men!

The beauty contest is just one facet of this whole process. A girl is told that to be asked to participate in the local beauty contest is a great honor. If she is really fortunate (as well as having the necessary qualifications) perhaps someday she will become Miss Canada.

The blame cannot be laid entirely on any individual woman or man. However, a woman can be encouraged

to stop and think about what she is doing when she offers herself to the scrutinization of a judging committee for a beauty contest. Is this what she really wants? Does she want to be admired solely for her physical characteristics? Is this all she is worth?

Some protest was raised last year at the carnival queen ceremony at Dal. One attempt to throw a wrench into the works didn't quite make it. A group of people were to present a gift to the queen and her princesses. This was done in a very formal fashion. However, the gift would no doubt have disturbed the calm and dignity of her highness. The box contained several squealing pigs. Unfortunately the culprits were apprehended before they could make the presentation. It is interesting to note that those involved were male. Perhaps this would help allay the inevitable claims that women opposed to such events are just frustrated females and probably ugly too.

The GAZETTE strongly protests the holding of the winter carnival queen contest. We encourage you to oppose this contest in any way you can. Women can refuse to run for carnival princess, and men can refuse to participate in any event relating to the contest.

If there is sufficient protest and lack of support from the women and men on campus then this will end this absurd practice.

## The Dalhousie Gazette

### Canada's Oldest College Newspaper

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