

Seek An End To Carnival Beauty Contests

A minority of women at UNB are concerned that the tradition of selecting campus queens has become valueless, such that its perpetuation is degrading to women's image.

Across Canadian and American university campuses, organizations such as Women's Liberation have protested that the selection of queens for faculties and special events, such as Carnival, are nothing more than beauty contests. They argue that this tradition of emphasizing women's beauty which is artificially cultivated and exploited by big business degrades the women's image by negating other attributes of the female's creation.

Eight royal representatives are chosen at UNB annually — a greater number than any other Maritime university. This campus' small branch of Women's Liberation recognizes that much fun and spirit is generated by the selection of campus queens. But they

question whether there is value in perpetuating something which is primarily a beauty and popularity contest.

The student has only to examine the processes by which the candidates were chosen to see why these are labelled beauty contests.

In most faculty weeks the candidates were selected from the female population by faculty representatives with whom they were unacquainted — appearance was initially important. During the secondary stage candidates should have been given a fair opportunity to reveal qualities such as personality, poise and intelligence. But some of the faculties techniques used for viewing the individual's character were not only unfair but embarrassing.

In Business Week, according to the present Business Queen, the only 'test' was the delivery of a prepared talk before an audience. Candidates were insulted by the nomination of

a pig which drew a large proportion of the students votes.

Other faculties, Forestry, Phys. Ed., Law and Science provided more reasonable approaches to viewing the character of the queen candidates. Interpersonal contact in informal situations

was stressed and in some cases the judges were unknown to the girls. Winter Carnival this year has improved the technique of judging the queens by holding 'meet the queen's night' in the mens residences and by a campus wide vote.

But the queens running for

Carnival are still subjected to farcical situations where they are constantly on display and used as crowd attractors.

UNB's Women's Liberation wants to see an end to this tradition, and think that students should re-evaluate the purpose and functions of the campus queen contests.

Women's Liberation Questions Queens

1. Sandra Brock Bus. Ad. Queen:

Question: Why do you think there should be queens of faculties?

Answer: "It is a good tradition. But perhaps women shouldn't be put on pedestals."

Question: What were the Criteria the judges used in your selection?

Answer: "You really don't know how they judge. We have to participate. It is sort of rotten in the business faculty, they saw us once and then decided to choose us. The speeches we delivered were judged on the basis of poise and some intelligence."

Question: Do you feel this tradition is degrading to the image of women?

Answer: "Not at all. It doesn't really bring the image up or down — it is just there. The running of the pig was really embarrassing."

Question: Do you see any similarity between a cattle show where the emphasis is on display and the selection of campus queens?

Answer: "Yes... in a way. But the way the selection for Carnival Queen is being done this year is an improvement."

Question: Would you object to the running of males for kings?

Answer: "No, but it is sort of degrading to the masculine image."

2. Dolly Silk Phys. Ed. Queen:

Question: Why do you think there should be queens of faculties?

Answer: "Its traditional. I am really proud to represent my faculty. The value lies in boosting the name of the faculty. No matter what the girl is like, the guys will stick by their faculty."

Question: What were the Criteria the judges used in your selection?

Answer: "There were questions on the humorous side and the serious side. We prepared a talk on whether the Phys. Ed. faculty was a professional or fun course."

Question: Do you feel this tradition is degrading to the

image of women?

Answer: "No, in some cases it can be. But I felt sort of stupid walking out on the ice at the hockey game last week."

Question: Do you see the similarity between a cattle show where the emphasis is on display and the selection of campus queens?

Answer: "Only in a very limited way."

Question: Would you object to the running of males for kings?

Answer: "No, but there's no appeal to it."

3. Anne Decarie Forestry Queen:

Question: Why do you think there should be queens of faculties?

Answer: "For Forestry, we added a lot of spirit to the faculty. For Carnival, it is not really competitive... we are promoting a good kind of Carnival spirit."

Question: What were the Criteria the judges used in your selection?

Answer: "Not beauty for sure. There weren't any specific judges — all the guys voted for us. I guess it was mainly personality — they find out what you are really like."

Question: Do you feel this tradition is degrading to the image of women?

Answer: "I don't think so. Most people joke about it. But they are laughing at you. Femininity is one of the greatest qualities of women."

Question: Do you see any similarity between a cattle show where the emphasis is on display and the selection of campus queens?

Answer: "There is no similarity. But it was like a show at the rink."

Question: Would you object to the running of males for kings?

Answer: "A male candidate would have to emphasize masculinity just as the queens emphasize femininity."

4. Mary Sedgewick Engineering Queen:

Question: Why do you think there should be queens of faculties?

Answer: "Every faculty has



there week. Its up to them to decide. Its traditional."

Question: What were the Criteria used in your selection?

Answer: "There were no judges — the students voted. We were met at social affairs, we gave prepared talks. It doesn't come down to beauty or popularity — its everything."

Question: Do you feel this tradition is degrading to the image of women?

Answer: "No I think it is an honor."

Question: Do you see any similarity between a cattle show where the emphasis is on display and the selection of campus queens?

Answer: "No, there is no relation one to the other."

Question: Would you object to the running of males for kings?

Answer: "The main value is esprit de corps. The queens sort of tie the university together. There is more to university than just studying and learning."

5. Cherrie Shea Law Queen: Question: Why do you think there should be queens of faculties?

Answer: "It promotes a lot of spirit for Carnival. Its a way each faculty can identify with

the whole thing."

Question: What were the Criteria the judges used in your selection?

Answer: "It wasn't beauty — perhaps a combination of poise, personality, intelligence, etc."

Question: Do you feel this tradition is degrading to the image of women?

Answer: No, you are not debasing anyone. It would be if you were in a bikini or something."

Question: Would you object to the running of males for kings?

Answer: "No."

6. Peggy Swanton Science Queen:

Question: Why do you think there should be queens of faculties?

Answer: "The main value is esprit de corps. The queens sort of tie the university together. There is more to university than just studying and learning."

Question: What were the Criteria the judges used in your selection?

Answer: "Each of the four clubs with the Science faculty picked a candidate. You don't know what people vote on the basis of — personality, looks or whatever."

Question: Do you feel this tradition is degrading to the image of women?

Answer: "No, I can't see why it would be. Possibly not so much emphasis should be put on looks which are superficial."

Question: Do you see any similarity between a cattle

show where the emphasis is on display and the selection of campus queens?

Answer: "No, that is a bit too strong, as a comparison. It is just a tradition, sort of light hearted. When it comes to the final judging they know your personality."

Question: Would you object to the running of males for kings?

Answer: "No, but I think the boys would object. It is the accepted thing for girls to be look conscious."