

Cultural Exchange Weekend, Feb. 9-11

Carnival Bacchanal

In Trinidad, the land of Calypso, there is a yearly celebration of Carnival or "mas" (mask) for three days prior to Ash Wednesday. Five months before, one can hear the sound and talk and can sense the atmosphere and aura of lavish preparation everywhere. It is a celebration unrivaled anywhere in the world.

It is initiated by the children's carnival on Sunday (Dimanche Gras). The young ones wear costumes, a rainbow of designs which lean heavily on history, legend, current events, films (cowboys and indians) and pure unbridled imagination, only as a preview of the following two days.

Sunday night is the biggest night. Among the many entertainments of folk song and dance, are the Calypso King contest, the presentation of the road march tune and last but not least, the crowning of the Carnival Queen, a lady chosen on merit of the originality of costume, personality, poise, intelligence and obviously "natural beauty".

This is only the beginning, so before you have had a good "shut-eye", you are heralded with Carnival Jump-up ushered in by Jour Ouvert (Mardi Gras) at 5 a.m. There are several steel-bands leading crowds, wildly dressed in flour and rice bags, ragged clothing and even unkempt ladies in their evening dresses worn on the night before. Society knows no barrier when it comes to jumping-up. Everyone does the "twist" (jump-up) in time to the latest steel-band music.

Bacchanal Bands

This lasts until 8 a.m., when all gives way for the more dignified and colourful, high-spirited bands on this day of Carnival bacchanal. All is lost in frenzied hilarity in which gyrating and contorting the body is the most wierd fashion like Salamanders, our Vertebrate family.

It is a colourful sight. Each band depicts their inimitable character as befits their imagination, historic (the Vikings), legendary (Ali Baba and the forty thieves, current (Lumumba and Nkruma), theatrical (Dimetrius and the Gladiators), with sailor bards, cowboys and wild Indians, Seabee bands (dressed in blue jeans) and others. In the past years, spectacular giant head pieces (6 feet by 20 feet) representing life-sized biblical characters, primitive-looking totems, and satellites were a feature. Costumes are original of the time depicted. They are very expensive, ranging from \$100 to \$500 per costume.

Carnival Frenzy

All inhibitions go overboard, imagination runs riot and the streets

gyrate with a flowing stream of humanity. There is merriment, gaiety and excitement everywhere. Everyone has a jump-up some during the two days, be he tailor, doctor, lawyer, judge; police and thief, the sick nurse, the expectant mother, the Bajan cook, and even the tourists.

The Queen's Park Savannah and the streets in Port-of-Spain are packed "like sardines" with spectators who too are gaily "decked" in bright rainbow colours and whose faces are painted (a mask of make-up). The bands parade the streets. The anxious youngsters, the aged, and even the "twisting tourists", all bursting with rhythm and energy, follow the bands.

Then too there are floats of different films with the Carnival Queen or Princesses and their attendants. In the not too far distant future we, the West Indian students of Dalhousie, hope to have a band, "The Alumni of Dalhousie". Why don't you come and join us?

Competition is keen, very keen, because Carnival has become part of Trinidad and Tobago's social and economic life. Foreigners may wonder why people put so much money on costume and the sort, but this is simply the way of life to the high-spirited, rhythmical "salamander-like" West Indians.

The Last Lap

Too soon comes Ash Wednesday — the "last lap" jump-up finishing at 12 p.m. Tuesday. Everyone is tired but wishes it could be prolonged. But home they go, and in bed they stay. Some awake early on Wednesday morning to attend the Ash Wednesday service.

From now on, resolutions are made. Forty days of serenity follow — no dances, no steel band and not even the humming of a calypso on the Isle of the Hummingbird and Calypso. Such is the end of the "Carnival Bacchanal" until another year.

host seminar Carleton will

OTTAWA (CUP) — Carleton University will be host for the Fifth Annual Seminar of the National Federation of Canadian University Students.

The seminar will have as its theme "The University in Canadian Life."

Walter McLean, NFCUS president, said he hoped that as many students as possible would apply for the seminar, a gathering which he described as "unique in Canadian student affairs."

The week-long gathering of students will hear speakers from the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

The September 1-8 seminar will be available from local NFCU Committees. Deadline for applications is February 28.

All students are urged to attend the following ISA-WUSC activities this week-end.

Friday: Opening of WUSC Seminar, 7:30 p.m. Memorial Room, Arts Building.

West Indian Carnival, 9 p.m., gym.

Saturday: WUSC Seminar all day, Memorial Room, Arts Building.

ISA activities Room 21, Arts Building, evening.

Sunday: ISA Church service, St. Andrew's Church.



The Trinidad Mardi Gras parade gives full play to West Indian imagination. Exotic and expensive costumes are the order of the day. Here, several revellers sport the Byzantine costumes they wore in the parade.

Goodwill flows -- ISA flourishes

This weekend, Feb. 9-11, the International Students' Association is sponsoring a 'cultural exchange' amongst students of various cultural and ethnic backgrounds on campus. The ISA has enlisted the support of WUSC, West Indian Society, Chinese Students' Society and various other groups and individuals in this project.

Among the many activities are cultural displays, films, and exhibitions of song and dance. Everyone is invited to attend the festivities. Everyone attending the West Indian Carnival in the gym Friday night is urged to wear costume.

ISA members are planning to attend Church en masse at St. Andrew's Church Sunday evening, followed by a 'friendly hour' in the Church hall.

More than ten per cent of all students attending Dalhousie are from outside Canada. It has been said Dalhousie students are apathetic towards the way in which overseas students are received into our society.

We of the ISA believe this is nothing more than the Dalhousie students' much-heralded apathy to the world at large. Yet this year, because we feel there is so much Canadian students can gain through con-

tact with overseas students and vice-versa, we have challenged this apathy. We like to think the activity and size of the ISA speaks for the way in which Dalhousie students accept the challenge.

Snow Sculptures

The lack of snow at press time was threatening the future of the ISA snow sculpturing contest, but officials are still hopeful that it will take place.

The contest, which, it is hoped, will become an annual event, is being held in conjunction with the ISA Cultural Exchange Weekend, Feb. 9 - 11. All entries should be submitted in writing to John Akabuta in the Dal Men's Residence by Feb. 9.



Cupid rides high as the festivities are ushered in with the carnival Jump-Up. Cupid is pictured above in one of the more exotic but less expensive costumes to be seen during the celebrations.

University Ser-
vice and the
Students' Assoc-
iation.

Educational Needs

The opening session of the seminar on Friday evening will be on the question: "How can Canada best help to meet the educational needs of other countries?" Canon H. L. Puxley of King's College will chair a panel including Professor H. O. Beach of Dal, Professor Herbert Lewis of Acadia, Dr. Anwar Ansari, a Dalhousie research fellow from Pakistan, and Peter Gacii, a Dal student from Kenya.

Saturday morning the conference will consider Canada's immigration policies as they affect overseas students. Jim Hurley will chair a panel including Professor D. J. Heasman, R. M. Casselman of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, and Ram Rai, an Indian student at Dal.

Difficulties

On Saturday afternoon, the delegates will discuss difficulties encountered by overseas students, e.g., accommodation, contact with Canadians, racial discrimination, etc.

The panel discussions will be followed by general discussions with all delegates participating.

All the sessions of the conference will be held in the Memorial Room (chapel) in the Arts Bldg. All Dalhousie and King's students are welcome to attend.

Cultural exhibit on Saturday

A jade quan yum, exotic oriental paintings and ivory balls, ceremonial costume from Ghana — These are only a few of the many articles which will be on display in the Arts building, Room 21, on Saturday, Feb. 10 from 8:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. as a feature of the ISA Cultural Exchange Week-end.

Indonesian and Scottish dancers will be battling for attention. Propaganda slides and films, covering something of the splendor, the mystery and intrigue of many lands, will be shown. Highlight of the evening will be the presentation of a trophy to the winner of the Snow Statue Contest. Chinese, Africans, Canadians, Greeks, Pakistanis, Indians, English, Indonesians and Americans will be displaying their native talents.

All is part of a campaign to foster understanding among nations. Handicrafts, books, posters and paintings are only a part of the ammunition. Warfare will be waged at a cultural level. Everyone is invited to attend. Admission is Free.