

# Fall Festival Falls Flat

By Don Grant



Sheila Brand  
Fall Festival Queen

"Not that many people (came), too bad there weren't more "Sheila Brand summerized her inauguration as Queen of Fall Festival"... TOO BAD THERE WERENT MORE!"

Her Highness seems to have grasped the essence of the festival, the Concert Series, and a hundred other functions of the Dalhousie Student Union. For the Commerce Society, a study in bankruptcy, for every one else a study in student indifference spelled gross apathy.

It is admittable that one could sit back and comment on the Publicity Department as the "nemesis" of the SUB's functions or on the SUB technical crew and their sub-technical ability but is that the real problem? The fact remains that unless SUB functions begin to show in the black, things like Fall Festival and the concert series will be a financial impossibility.

One does not have to generalize to reach the root of the problem. One

of the SUB's greatest feats of financial folly occurred last weekend.

Friday night FALL FESTIVAL opened their weekend of fun and enjoyment with the Party. At nine the doors opened to allow the masses to rush into the McInnes Room. Unfortunately the people who had volunteered to take tickets at the door forgot to come. As it turned out Dave Jones, organizer of the weekend, ended up doing it himself.

This seems to be quite typical of any functions. People have been criticized for working in their own bureaucratic style. The question is: is there any other way?

Once the administrative problems ended, another type began. Much to Mr. Jone's dismay, a total of fifty people payed their way through the door. The budget for Fall Festival had been for a profit of \$280. That was quickly waved good-bye by all concerned. No matter what the success of the following functions, the

loss could not be made up. The complaint of the apathetic masses, if they took the trouble to complain, and very few did, was that the price was too high, a reasonable point. Maybe if anyone had taken those thoughts to someone in a position to do something about it.

The only well organized and well advertised events of the festivity were granted an attendance factor worth mentioning. Both the football game and the October fest packed in the student body. The Octoberfest was especially well attended, not only by the students but also, as an added attraction, by a number of inspectors from the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission. The Victory Dance was best summed up by a student who was overheard saying, "I've seen more people here when we lose".

And so died Fall Festival, murdered by administration, poor publicity, but, most of all, by student indifference.

# Minstrels Great

By Neil Harrison

If it weren't such a lucrative practice, I'd recommend that the New Christy Minstrels give up recording and stick to making people happy.

They are showmen who know how to warm up an audience and send them away feeling good. The songs they sing are simple, happy, mildly inspiring - songs that make for dull, banal records - but of the type that people can remember with pleasure, to sing to themselves or with friends, songs that everyone knows and likes.

Somehow trite, overworked songs become fresh again when handled by this talented folk chorus.

Each of the six guys and two girls in the group is an individual talent. This was surprising. Usually, a solid group sound is built on several reliable but less than stellar performers who combine in a complimentary way. When you find eight singers who get a good group sound by combining their fine individual talents, you have a tough act to follow.

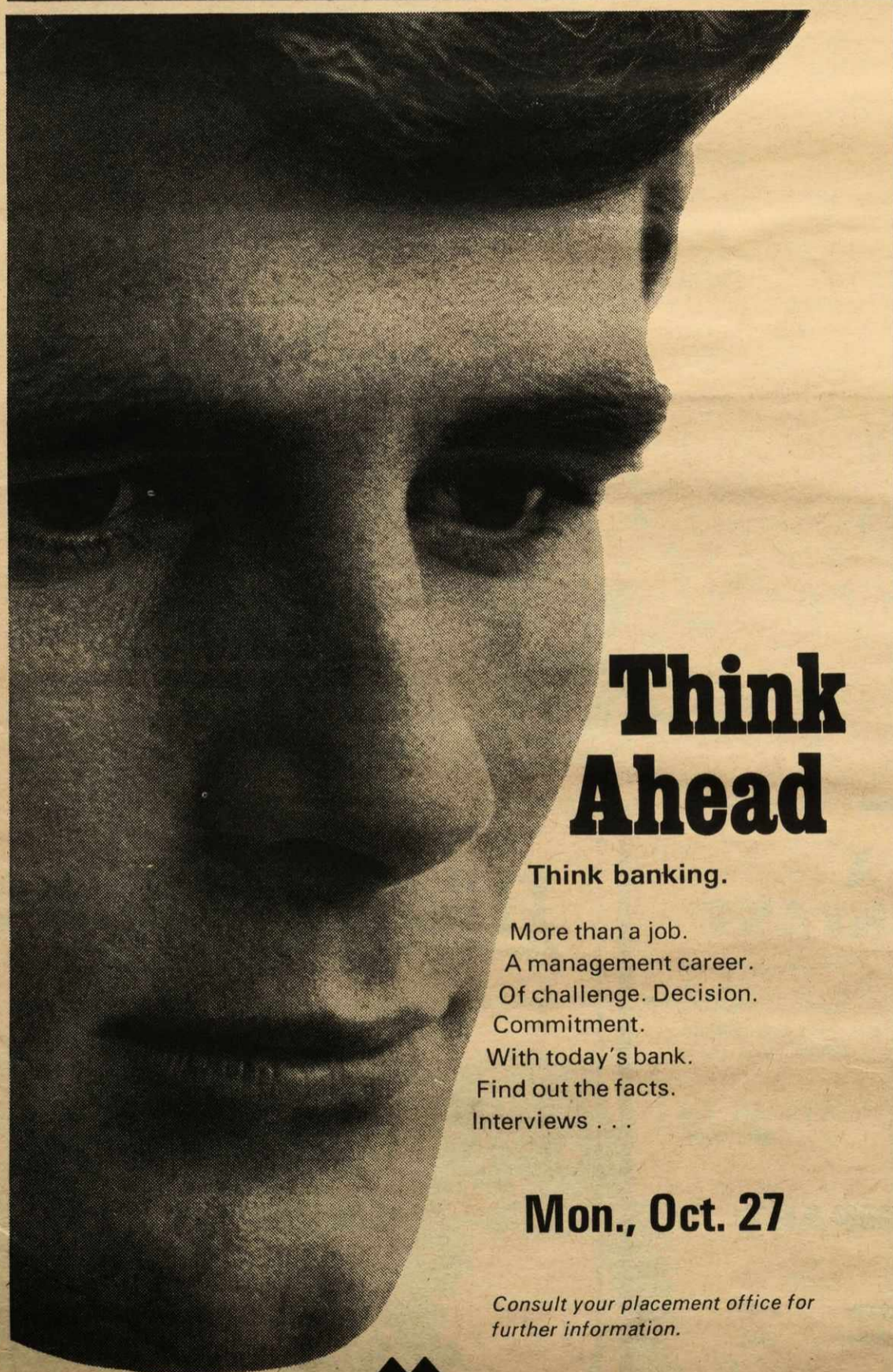
The program of the New Christy Minstrels features each as a soloist at some time or other, and its hard not to be impressed by each artist's own skill.

The content of the show was generally acceptable. There was variety - the old stand bys like "Green Green", "Saturday Night" and "This Land is Your Land", the mellow sweetness of "Today" and "Until It's Time For You to Go" and the good-time fun of "Alice's Restaurant". Throw in a few skits, some good dirt and the inane patter of the group clown and you have a happy show.

So much for the review... it was the best show to hit Dal in a long time.



Minstrels Swing !



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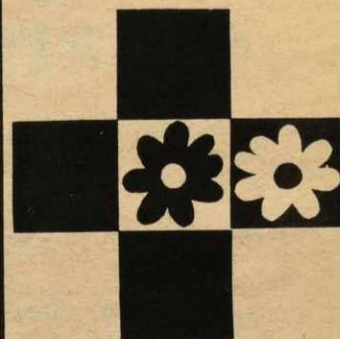
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