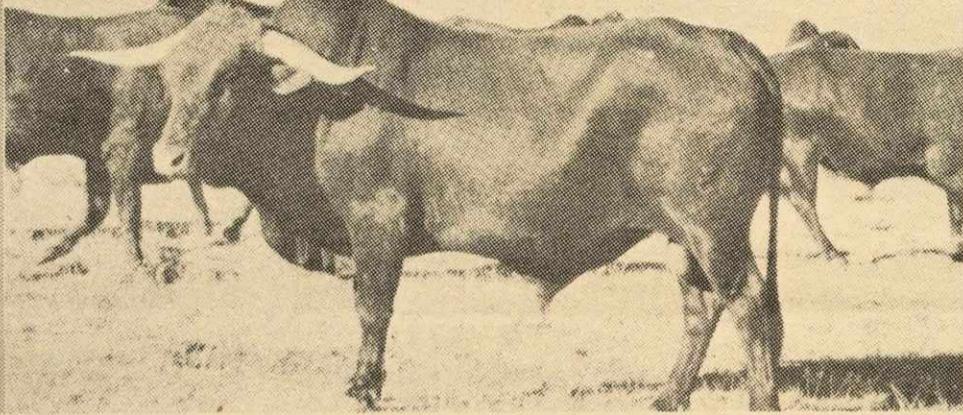


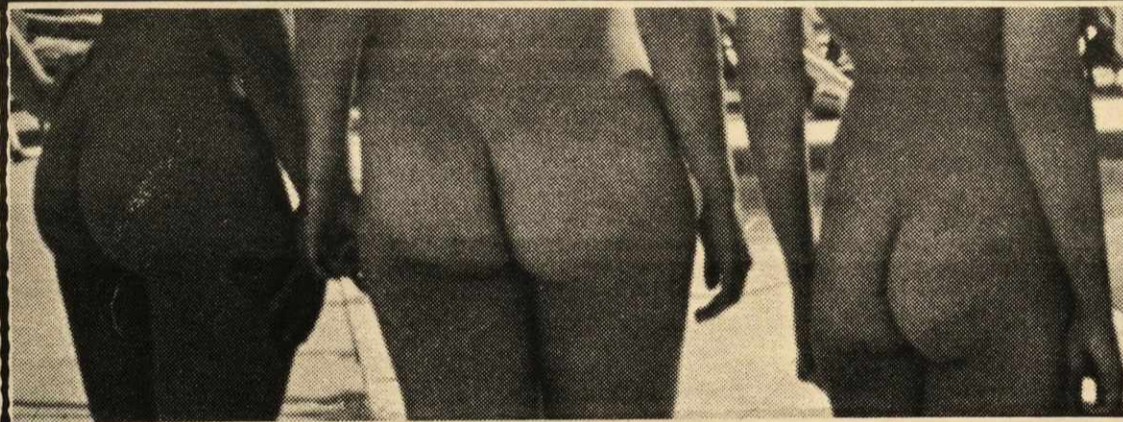
Cows, Queens Objectification



At the latest Student Council meeting, Council learned that the Executive had decided to send Sheila Brand, Fall Festival Queen to the College Bowl Contest and to pay other travel expenses from Union funds and to send Susan Longmire, the presiding Carnival Queen to the Waterloo Winter Carnival beauty pageant.

Some of the women on Council objected to these decisions. One reason for our objections was the failure of the Executive to consult Council. But the main reason for our protest is the feeling that contests of this nature represent the objectification of women as sexual entities. An objection can be raised on the same grounds to male virility contests.

At the same time it must be remembered that university-run contests of this nature are not nearly as objectionable as some of the more burlesque public marathons. It also must be noted that no insult is intended to the students who have participated in the past in such events. The winners are generally quite worthy of their crown within the rules of the contests. But the principle behind the university pageants is the same despite the fact that they are run in a slightly different manner. We merely wish people to begin thinking about the principle.



by Elizabeth Cusack

Today women are becoming increasingly more aware of their potential as thinking humans, possessing equal artistic, political, scientific, and professional capabilities as men, but unable because of social conditioning and the conventions within certain institutions to develop and utilize their inherent talents. There are, of course, still many women who are either unaware of, or unwilling to acknowledge the presence of these gifts along with the coincidental responsibility to society

of attempting to develop and utilize them.

Manifestations of the traditional attitude include the desire of most women to cultivate bodies, feelings, and actions as objects of male desires — desires which are often not inherent in the male personality, but which are also conditioned, as each generation grooms its children into sexual roles as aggressive dominant and passive subordinates, subjects and objects. The public manifestation of the cultivation of woman as object is the beauty pageant. The Queen, chosen mainly on the basis

of the analysis of stares (scrutiny) is the supreme object worthy of such aggressively expressed desires. She is beautiful, has a feminine personality (something that has no real definition), possesses all the domestic virtues, and is capable of engaging in the various types of social activities which satisfy a gentleman's desires of his lady.

On the other hand women who enjoy such contests tend in a peculiar and perhaps subconscious manner to glorify their sexual characteristics as objects worthy of demi-godry. Men tend to do the same thing in Mr. Universe, he-man-type contests. But men also indulge in a variety of other means of testing and glorifying certain human perfections, such as debating, academic competition, political contest, sporting activities, etc. Women tend to avoid all but the latter, as male, purely male domaine. Society still makes it unbecoming for a man to match his wits publicly against a woman, when the possibility exists that he might lose to one who is automatically regarded as his inferior. The only other activities which women compete in are for the positions of grand champion cake, pie, or doily maker, or winner of the local bridge tournament. No disparagement is meant against these particular activities but their narrow range indicates a serious lack of cultural elevation or accomplishment on the part of women.

Surely there is much more involved in the running of beauty contests than the crowning of the queen. Think about it. Then ask yourself why Nietzsche chose the word cow (referring to female) to indicate those whom he considered the most unfit for human existence. Amen

Operation Crossroads



"I had no idea what it would be like. I don't think anybody could know until they're actually plunked in the place where they will be living."

Operation Crossroads Africa is an organization designed to promote international understanding and co-operation by sending Canadian and American university students to Africa to work for the summer. Last year 75 Canadians

twenty kilometers to a little village by the name of Yebu.

"There we worked on a water system under the instruction of a Peace Corps volunteer for about six weeks: putting in trenches, attaching pipe, digging a storage tank and connecting three springs to it. Then we ran water down into the village to give them running water, a community well and so on. It is on the verge of completion now.

"Then we took a bus and toured all around Ethiopia. We took a plane from Addis Ababa to Nairobi, where we met our fellow East Africans, and we spread out from there. Our group went to Tanzania and Kenya and Uganda. It was mainly getting to know the rest of East Africa which is entirely different from Ethiopia."

She said she wouldn't do it again that way. "I think it's something you do once. I might

by Sandy Lyth

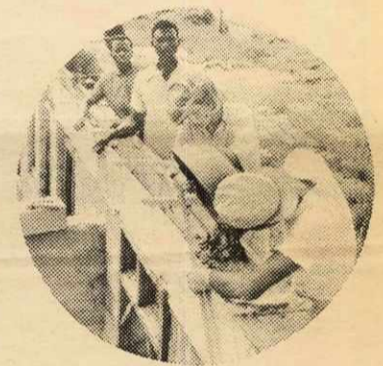
from across the country went to work with the people in those countries on self help and educational programs. And it is growing; more students will be sent this year.

Debbie Thompson is one of the students on this campus who was in Africa last summer. She went through the rigours of application and essay writing and interviews and was finally accepted.

"We had to put up \$500 and Crossroads paid the rest. We then had to agree to speak to 50 organizations when we came back although this is not a hard and fast sort of thing."

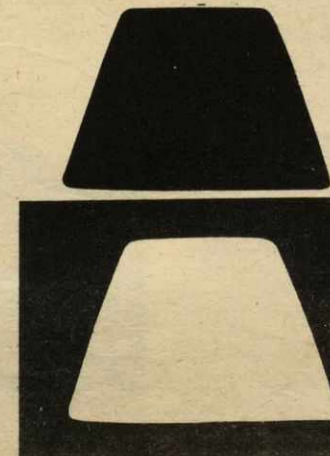
The other \$1,800 paid by Crossroads is the amount needed to feed and house the students for the time they are in Africa, although in most areas housing is rather minimal. The United Church and Miles for Millions are two sources of funds for Crossroads, and the students often find it financially easier to ask organizations and clubs in the community to sponsor them for their share.

"Canadian orientation was held in New Westminster College, a part of the University of Western Ontario in London. Then we went to Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey for the American orientation. It was for all the people going to East Africa. We flew from New York to Paris, then to Cairo, to Nairobi, the group went to Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. We took a bus from Addis Ababa to a small town by the name of Jimma and then we took another bus about



go into something like CUSO. It's a very very worthwhile experience and I think it's an excellent education. Over in Africa without any ties . . . you learn more about yourself than anything else probably."

Crossroads are already organizing their trips for next summer. More information can be obtained from Debbie Thompson or one of several other people on campus involved with the Operation Crossroads Africa. Their phone numbers are available through the Gazette Office. The deadline for applications is Nov. 28 or very shortly thereafter.



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