

MUGWUMP JOURNAL

Hogtown plays host to Miss Canada pageant again

By EDISON STEWART

How many of you lucky people out there in TV land had the good fortune to look in on the Miss Canada pageant Monday? Too many, I suppose. But for the sake of tradition (you faithful readers from last year should remember this) I'd like to offer some observations on the contest.

First, I must admit that I missed the first fifteen minutes of the extravaganza, and my words here are based on the one hour and 15 minutes of nauseous (and hilarious) television that I did manage to see.

The host, Jim Perry, could have easily used a new suit, as the one he was wearing was terribly wrinkled. Also on the "wrinkled" list was the former Miss Canada from God knows when. (It must have been 1929 — didn't they have a depression then??) She was the one dressed in white (for those of us with only black and white sets) and provided fill-in comment from above the audience while the girls were changing clothes or the host was picking his nose.

The dress she selected for the evening showed far too much cleavage for the little

she had to advertize, and to top it all off, she wore what looked like a terribly furry boa constrictor around her neck.

It's too bad it didn't strangle her.

After all 28 girls were introduced, the judges magically cut their number to eight for the semi-finals. This was where we really had fun. Each of the eight had to answer a question (from one of five they had written down before the show) and both the questions and answers made for some good chuckles.

The girl from Victoria said she wanted to become bilingual so she could go to France or Quebec and speak to the people in their own tongue. Fine. But since when did we annex France? The way she spoke it sounded like Mr. Pompidou and Freres would soon be taking their seats in the House of Commons.

These questions were a great deal of interest, I'm sure. I was on the edge of my seat, just wondering what great earth-shaking words these girls would come up with in all of 30 seconds. Rather than lead you on any more, I think I should say here that they didn't say much worth while.

One girl, wearing a coat hanger for gums, I'm sure, said she wanted to see nationalism in Canada increase to the level it was increasing to. She lost. Of course, we all got to see Miss Canada 1973, a replay of the exciting moment when she assumed the position of Miss Canada. She got all choked up, thanking all those wonderful people who made this possible. There was even a scene where she went glass blowing in Sweden (I'll let that pass).

All in all it was quite a show. But to me it would have been more exciting if Jim Perry didn't have to cross the stage (with the drums rolling) to get "the envelope, please." It would have added a bit of Canadian charm, I think, if one of the judges had yelled out the winner, instead of playing around with "the envelope."

For a moment, I was afraid Miss Hull (who looks like a boat, believe me) was going to become Miss Canada. Chauvinistically, I had hoped for the best (and that, to me, was Miss Victoria.) The girl who did win looks more like Consweila (on Marcus Welby) than any all-Canadian girl I've ever seen.

But it's over for another year. I suppose

these people will never learn.

The SRC didn't mention it, but they had a party with some of your money Monday (right after their council meeting.) The \$100 or so was used to buy wine and cheese for the so-called social gathering. (They refused to call it a party.) The money for the party was passed two weeks ago, with only three people voting against it. Oddly enough, the SRC's statement of financial policy (an all-encompassing document used as a guide to giving clubs money) prohibits the use of student funds for parties. Sounds like one law for them and another law for us, don't you think?

By the way, student services will not be losing \$40,000 on their budget next year, as I falsely reported last week. The information came to me from what looked like an authentic photo copy, but it was sadly out of date. Every other figure used in the column was 100 percent correct. Believe me, I regret the error.

POLITICS

The issue of Maritime political union is dead

By CYCLOPS

Last week Premier Richard Hatfield once again reiterated his support for Maritime political union. That makes him the only serious politician in the country who continues to chase this rainbow.

Maritime governments have chased many rainbows in the hopes of removing our economic disparity with the rest of Canada; they have built railways; winter ports; heavy-water plants; chemical complexes; industrial parks; and shamelessly wasted tens of millions of dollars on a myriad of "pie-in-the-sky" industrial schemes. Notwithstanding this, they have never been duped into believing that a political union of the provincial governments would solve any serious problems.

Five years ago one of the briefs opposing Maritime political union stated the attitude of many Maritimers. Here are some excerpts from the brief:

"Let us examine some of the benefits claimed by the proponents of Union.

"Probably the most common advantage cited is that millions of dollars of government money could be saved simply by the elimination of thousands of civil

service jobs. This simply would not happen. The Canadian Union of Public Employees and the Civil Service Associations would not tolerate such a proposal and the vast majority of politicians would not dare support it. Indeed, one of the first assurances that would have to be given to effect Union, would be that every civil servant's job would be protected.

"Another advantage frequently cited is that we would have one premier speaking for us in Ottawa instead of three. It can be argued that this would weaken our present political strength which will be so necessary if we are to deal effectively with Ottawa. Is it not better to have three premiers out of ten in Canada stating a common case for the region than to have only one out of eight doing so?

"Another argument for political union is that Maritimers, politicians and civil servants included, would share a common identity that they do not presently have and that this would somehow lead to more co-operation. It must be remembered that Maritimers have always felt this common identity and have created a myriad of

organizations for the purposes of co-operating in those areas where co-operation seemed important.

"Without suggesting that the effectiveness of many of these bodies cannot be greatly improved there is a case to be made that our greatest opportunities for future co-operation lie in working through such organizations and any new ones that may be necessary.

"Another argument for political union is that it is a prerequisite to economic planning for the region. This seems to imply that the task of economic planning will fall upon the new provincial government. This would place the task on the wrong shoulders. Any meaningful and effective economic plan for the region must be sponsored by the Federal Government and we would be doing a disservice to the region to suggest otherwise.

"Obviously the populations of the three Maritime Provinces have honest and substantial differences of opinion regarding the policies provincial governments should pursue in many of these areas. In this sense the existing provincial political structures are playing one of their

intended roles.

"The conclusion, I would like to make the following points:

"The fact that we are three provinces instead of one has nothing whatsoever to do with our economic plight which is the principal issue in the region.

"It is misleading to suggest that the mere manipulation or re-organization of our provincial political structures will contribute anything significant to the solution of the very deep-rooted economic problems of the region.

"The very magnitude of the task of effecting Political Union would result in its becoming a priority which would be out of all proportion to its merits. It would have the effect of relegating to second place at best, the implementation of a serious and effective economic development program sponsored by the federal government. Our provincial government leaders must direct their attentions to making such a program the priority in the immediate years ahead."

Premier Hatfield has enough problems requiring his attention without spending his time on the fantasy of Maritime Union.

ALONG THE TRACKS

'Dearest Stanley — I long to meet you' says fan

By STANLEY JUDD

(Stanley Judd is the pen-name of a Canadian freelance writer who for reasons of popularity prefers to remain anonymous.)

My columns over the past five weeks have caused quite a flurry of public response (as do most words printed in The Brunswickan). This response is usually in the form of letters which are sent to me, care of Mr. Edison Stewart, Room 35, SUB. Mr. Stewart gives them to Mr. Gary Cameron who, in turn, places them in the trunk of an old and decaying elm tree in the woods just behind the Harriet Irving Discotheque. This is done because Mr. Stewart has ordered that I (or my dog) never set foot (or paw) in the offices of The Brunswickan again. I won't mention what my dog did on our first (and only) visit there, but it was somewhat demeaning to

many of the staff. I still don't know why he did it, unless, of course, he mistook Miss Manzer, Managing Editor, for a fire hydrant. However, I don't mind Mr. Stewart's order to stay away. Newspaper people frighten me terribly. It has something to do with the pen's relationship to the sword.

Anyway, these letters have proved most interesting to me and I thought I should pass some of the ideas expressed in them along to you.

Sally Fieldenstream of UNB's biology department writes that "I long to meet you". She requests that I "be at tie number 154 (counting west from Regent Street) so that we can get back to nature." She postscrips — "Please bring your dog unless you think three's a crowd; personally, I believe in the more the merrier." I'm sorry Sally, but neither my

dog nor I will be able to make it. 3:00 a.m. is just too early in the morning for both of us.

From the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa, a Mr. Ming Wong offers "Coach Jim Born assistance in planning the rebirth of the UNB Red Bombers." He mentions that "my country has unlimited resources and we must help each others in times of trouble. Perhaps I could attend your next rally and appraise the power of your Red heads and bombers, too." The letter was written in Chinese. Since my grasp of the Chinese language is not complete, the above cannot be considered a literal translation.

Some people seem to disapprove, or at least, to question the validity, of my column. One woman from Moncton writes "I think you are absurd. If you don't resign, I'll cancel my subscription to the

paper. I hope your dog bites off your head. If I read one more piece of your nonsense, I will have my son deal directly with you and you will regret that." She did not sign her name. A gentleman named Zeke simply asks "Hey, man, are you for real?"

A director of the SPCA writes requesting information as to Xaviera Hollander's telephone number. Seems she is being considered for some "Kindness to Animals Award". He requests that I send the number to him personally. I'm sorry, sir, but the SRC informs me that her number already is personal and quite confidential.

The President of the Committee for the Enlargement and Enlightenment of New Brunswick (CEENB) states that "we would like to enlist the services of the League of Visionary English Underminers for use in certain areas close to New

Continued to page 10