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Circulation: June Snelgrove, Sally Ross.

Photography: Dave Thomas.

Cartoonist: John Chambers.

The Fairest of Them All

With Munro Day fast approaching, the air is buzzing with one question: Who will be the next Campus Queen? The position, a coveted one, is the highest award Dalhousie students can bestow on one of the members of their fairer sex.

At this time some consideration of the qualifications for and the need of such a position is necessary. The Campus Queen is chosen, by a board of judges, from among the queens of the ten faculties and schools and are chosen on the basis of personality, scholarship, participation in extra-curricular activities and looks.

These have been the norm for choosing the Campus Queen, but have the various faculties and schools always considered them when choosing their own queens? We think not. Too often in the past have girls been chosen only for their looks or their participation in activities or because they are members of their particular faculties. The Council can easily see that these exceptions are ruled out by writing the faculties and schools at the beginning of each year to remind them of the qualifications.

With the qualifications laid down more specifically, there remains a still more important question to consider. What is to be the function of the Campus Queen? Now her only duties are: To be crowned on Munro Day and to crown the next Queen on the following Munro Day. Should this be all?

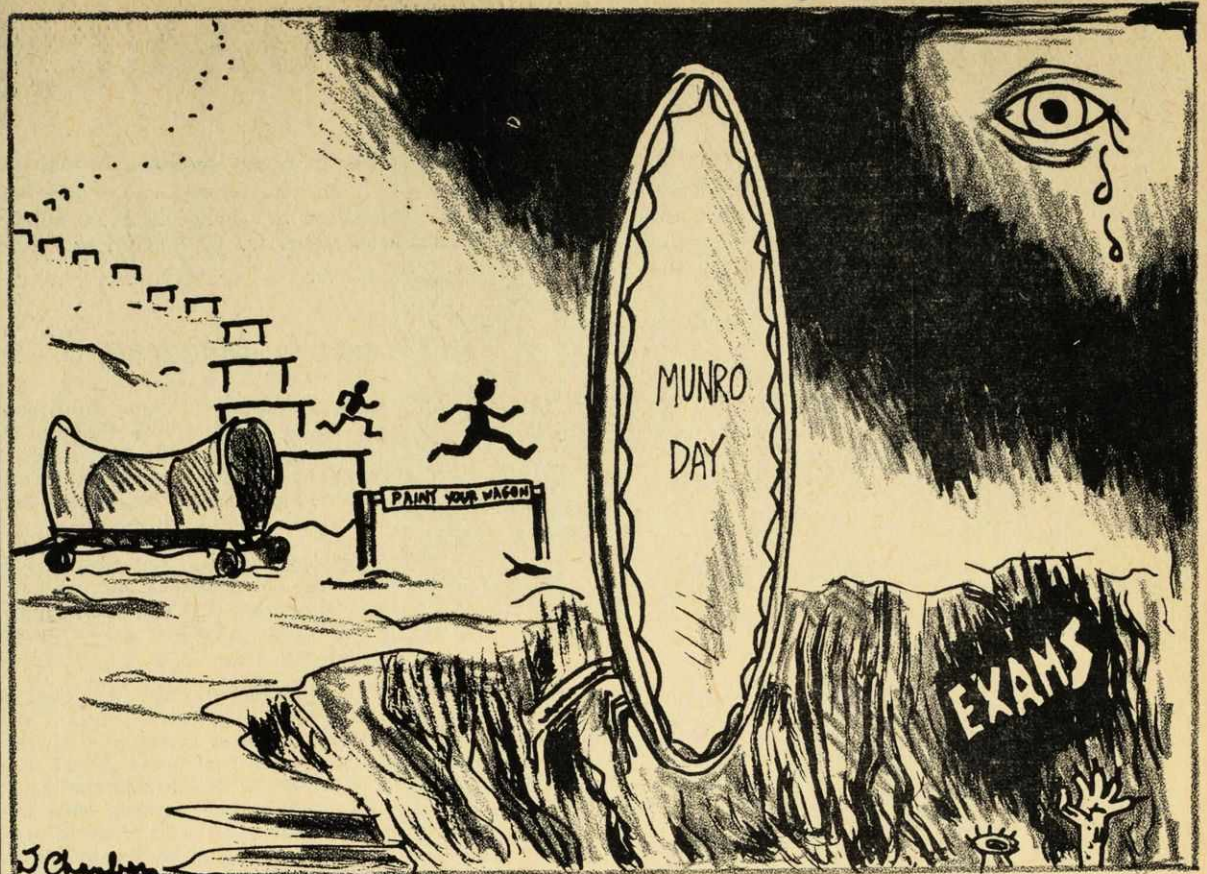
There are two aspects which present themselves. The honour can mean to some girl who is graduating "a job well done". In this case the girl should be a senior. Or it can become a useful position to the campus. The girl chosen, being in her junior year or at least planning to return to Dal the following year, could perform many worthwhile functions. She could welcome the freshman at the beginning of the year and interest new girls in various activities on the campus. During football season, since we have no football queen, she could appear at games, both at home and away, taking the place of a football queen. During the Blood Drive she could be instrumental in publicising the drive and getting students to participate. In fact, she could participate in stirring up interest in all campus projects. She could also attend teas and receptions for visiting dignitaries and act as the female head of the campus. This latter suggestion comes to mind at this time because neither of the two highest positions on the Council are held by a girl, but nevertheless, if implemented, it would still apply if one position were held by a girl.

The question is a difficult one, one for the Council to decide. We only present the alternative. The Campus Queen contest can be one for seniors only, the queen being the one who best fulfils the qualities for the honor. Or the Campus Queen contest can be for juniors, returning to the campus the following year, who will perform a useful function. We urge the Council to make the decision now.

Only One Complaint

Congratulations to DGDS for "Paint Your Wagon". We have only one complaint. The position of students seats was terrible and reserved seats were too costly for students. Our suggestion is to push Wednesday and Thursday nights as student nights. Give Dalhousians the best seats at student prices. Then Friday and Saturday nights can still reap the profits from reserved seats. The students will have had their chance.

"All the World's a Stage"



EDITORIAL COMMENT

NUS concerns YOU

Today, March 5, is National Student Day, sponsored by the National Federation of Canadian University Students. All over Canada newspapers, radio and television are publicising student life and students' needs, and in Ottawa, Morty Bistrisky, national president of NFCUS, is meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss the brief NFCUS presented to the government last year. The brief outlined the need for financial aid for students and the necessity of ensuring that all students with ability can attend university.

The idea behind this day and the meeting with Mr. Diefenbaker is good. We hope, however, that it accomplishes its purpose. Last year the Prime Minister patted the students presenting the brief on the back complimented them on the fine job they had done in preparing it and apparently took no action. The public also, is apathetic. We wish Morty every success this year and add our small voice to the thousands of others by pledging our full support to him. The situation is critical and we must demand immediate action.

We're sick and Tired

We're sick and tired of talking about that poor, worn out word APATHY, just as sick of it as you must be reading about it. The problem is, its popularity is unquestionable. Everyone's talking about it and so must we. Why? The answer is simple. Apathy is the most widespread, contagious disease from which we all suffer.

One of the latest outbreaks of the epidemic was experienced during the recent campaign for campus elections. At the student forum, where the candidates present their platforms and are barraged with questions, only a few more than 200 students appeared. These filed in as quiet as mice, took their seats, clapped respectfully when the unheralded candidates presented themselves, asked only a few uninspiring questions and filed meekly out again. Not only the students but also the candidates are to blame. Where were the bands or student noise-makers, as the bands might better be termed, the parades, and the waving placards which add excitement? Once the students are attracted and excited, controversial issues are bound to arise and be thrashed out between the candidates, leaving the student more capable of deciding where to make their "X".

When it comes to election day, however, the students are entirely at fault. The figures are shocking. Of a student population of 1683 only 873 voted, or a little more than 50 percent. In a case as bad as this, we are forced to write again about this dread disease, apathy. It must be cured, stamped out, for the health of the campus is at stake. Perhaps the Council should set up a booth where we may all go to be vaccinated in order to save our lives. The worst problem is that the disease has taken such a hold that probably only 50 percent of the students would turn up to be scratched and the rest would die. We might almost say good riddance . . . yes, we might at that.

Corruption!

On a more serious note, but on the same theme, we were shocked, during the last election campaign, to see candidates bribing voters by passing out food and cigarettes to them. According to the Election Act, this is definitely illegal. Yet no one commented. And the president of the Council permitted this disgraceful practice! Our only beef is that they didn't come in and pass them out personally to us so that we'd give them better coverage in the Gazette. A gross oversight! Reminder—don't dare forget us next year!

The firing squad

Four college newspapers across Canada this year have experienced the administrative firing squad. In fact, so heavy has the mortality rate been this year, that we, who have been preserved, can only be greatly relieved and thankful.

The first episode was the firing of the editors of the now famous LA ROTONDE, the paper at the University of Ottawa. Here it seems the administration was wrong, that it was exercising undue control over the students.

Another case arose at the University of Laval shortly before Christmas. Norman Lacharite, one of the deposed editors of LA ROTONDE the year before, wrote an article attacking the U of O about the firing of this year's editors. The heavy hand of the Laval administration fell quickly. Which side was actually more wrong has not been determined satisfactorily, and indeed, it seems as if it lay on both sides.

The third head fell in our own dear region. At Acadia, following the publication of a seemingly blasphemous article, the author was banished from the university by the administration and the editor of the ATHE-NEUM was fired by the Council. Again the guilt was on both sides. An editor is responsible for everything printed in his paper, and therefore, the editor was rightly disciplined for his action. There is no law, however, which says that a man may not write what he wants and submit it to an editor for publication. In kicking the author of the article out, then, the administration erred.

The fourth axe fell just recently at the University of British Columbia. There, sometime in the fall, two of the editors of the UBYSSEY stole pictures from the Student Union Building to prove how easy it would be to remove the pictures. Their problem was that when they tried to return them they found the place so tied up with the RCMP that they couldn't accomplish their return. The editors resigned immediately and the matter was left to the Student Court, whose judgment they are now awaiting.

The question arises: Are student journalists more irresponsible this year or are the administrations stricter? It seems to us that in all these cases if the editors had used some little measure of discretion and the Councils and administrations more patience and understanding, none of the unpleasantness would have occurred. Co-operation between them would have avoided all the mistakes which have been made. All sides have erred. After this year of crisis, we hope that all will run smoothly. DISCRETION—that's the word.