

# Brunswickan

**Editor-in-Chief:** Allan B. Pressman  
**Managing Editor:** Bernard M. Rosenblatt  
**Business Manager:** Charlie Khoury  
**Sports Editor:** Yogi Beyeler  
**News Editor:** Jay Baxter  
**Photographer:** Trevor Games  
**Contributors:** Harry Holman, Gloria Bobbit, Bill Bancroft, Pete Harding, Marg Lewis, Howie Kaplan, Joan Dickson, Fiona Lamont, Jimmy Castronovo, Ansar Qureshi, Scott Rudolph, Scott Wade and others.  
**Typists:** Kathy Steiner, Kini Savage  
**Quisling:** Steve MacFarlane

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## THE PETITION

Last week a petition for our removal from office was circulated. It will be discussed at the next meeting of the SRC.

We do not criticize the petitioners, nor do we protest their actions. But we do object to their methods.

Not once did any of the perpetrators of the petition offer to work for the *Brunswickan* in any capacity. Not once did any of them come to discuss problems, or suggest ideas for improvement. Not once did they show a genuine concern for the future of their newspaper.

But at the Council meeting things were different . . .

Any student would have been heartened by the general performance of Council this past week. They refused to be bullied or misled by the euphemisms of procedure into burying an issue as important as the *Brunswickan* in a closed committee administered by a chairman whose profound bias was roundly exposed at that same Council meeting.

It was the body of Council, not the Executive, and a vocal informed contingent of student observers who insisted that the entire question be deferred until the next meeting on November 30 and that the *Brunswickan* be placed on the regular agenda and not concealed as "New Business" at the end of the meeting.

All those who felt moved to sign the petition are obliged to come to the meeting and air their hopefully constructive views. And if amidst the apathy there is any concern for the integrity of a campus newspaper and the freedom of the editorial board from the gerrymandering of either Council or Administration, those persons are urged to attend.

## A Thing Called Trust

The point of a university education really is learning to assume responsibility.

We are given the freedom to choose courses, choose our future, choose our leaders, and we are even given a voice in the internal affairs of the University.

University students have overwhelmingly proven that when they are trusted they respect that trust.

The disturbances that do occasionally happen arise when students aren't treated as adults but children to be halted in mustn't touch rules that don't prepare you for life, only say that you are incapable of it yet.

The student-senate committee dealing with the open rooms question has completed their deliberations and drafted a report.

It is hoped when the report is brought to the attention of Senate members at their next meeting, they will remember that students are adults.

YES VIRGINIA,  
THERE IS A  
BRUNSWICKAN

## Letters to the Editor UNB Still The Same

**Editor:**

Recent developments on the campus have revealed that little has changed since this writer left UNB in 1965. Your competence as a newspaper editor is presently in question, and a group of students have taken it upon themselves to circulate a petition which I understand advocates your removal from office. I would be the last to deny the right of any student or group of students to circulate a petition of any kind, but it is about time that someone put these recent events in context.

The *Brunswickan* reached its low ebb on this campus during the 1963-64 academic year. At this time the paper was a drab, uninteresting bulletin board where organizations such as the "Red and Black", and the Drama Society could depend on free advertising passed off as news features. Although the *Brunswickan* was not a newspaper in any sense of the word, there were never any words of criticism from the 'power elite': that is, the SRC, so-called, 'executives' of the various clubs, and various make-believe campus politicians. Why? The answer is very simple. The *Brunswickan* was not making waves. Still the paper at this time was one of the worst in Canada. (For those doubters who need this verified, see critiques prepared by professional journalists in the CUP annual report 1964).

So there you go, Mr. Editor; never on the UNB campus has public criticism ever come forth when the newspaper was notoriously bad. But the facts are more amazing than this. While the 1964-65 paper was not particularly good, no one in their right mind could say that it was worse than the previous year. During this year, however, the newspaper was subject to more criticism than in any prior year. The reason is obvious; the newspaper staff was trying to put out a paper, not a bulletin board. (Those who want to contest this can measure the difference in column inches of news in the two years.) The whole point here is that the paper was no longer at everyone's beck and call. This upset the power structure. The president of the Drama Society could no longer demand two pages for the fall production and the SRC could no longer depend on a steady diet of praise.

This brings us to last year's newspaper. The *Brunswickan* finally won a national award, a Maritime first. What happened? Some deranged SRC member wrote a letter to the *Brunswickan* saying in so many words, 'the *Brunswickan* was a much better newspaper when it was a combination bulletin board-gossip column. MacLeans magazine described us as reactionary and conservative. Wonder why?

This short history brings us to date. I don't think that this year's *Brunswickan* is an award winner, but that is not the point. If you capitulate to these do-gooders which are really the bulletin board and gossip column artists all over again, you yourself know what the end will be. Nothing is so certain that we will be back to something that could never be described as a newspaper. (I am not in any way implying that the *Brunswickan* is all good; in fact, I take great exception to some of the irresponsible statements in your paper. Then why is it that only the *Brunswickan* is not permitted to make mistakes?

To those who would proceed with this plan of removing the present editor, I would say this: You will be living up to your image of being backward and reactionary.

If I were still a student I would imagine that this whole episode would upset me a great deal, but how that I am a grad and through with campus intrigue I am only filled with a sense of disappointment in that UNB hasn't really changed. I'm a graduate of a second rate college regardless of the latest research done or building built. All these accomplishments seem to be made in spite of students, rather than because of them.

But let me get back to this petition business and all that it implies. I believe that the events of the past years prove conclusively that the complainers have never wanted a good newspaper. (They can't even recognize these qualities in the first place.) What concerns me more is not the group who are involved in the actual campaign (at least they know what they want), but the type of cancelled mind who must have signed this petition actually thinking that the perpetrators of same were interested in improving the paper - the only legitimate motive for circulating the petition. Can anybody really be so naive?

Another disturbing factor is that these groups have come up with no alternative proposals for running the paper. This necessarily means that their work is nothing but destructive. What's worse, I doubt that they could come up with any reasonable plan for producing anything even remotely resembling a newspaper.

In any event, let us hope that someone can see what the real issues are and stop this foolishness. It would be a shame to see one of UNB's worthwhile organizations turned into nothing more than the all too familiar bulletin board.

Your truly,  
CONCERNED